Description: Public Affairs Reporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>JRN</td>
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<td>31189</td>
<td>1, 2004</td>
<td>EXT</td>
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Academic group: FOART
Academic org: FOA004
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 100703

STAFFING
Examiner: Dianne Jones
Moderator: Craig Burgess

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: JRN2000

SYNOPSIS
Public Affairs Reporting is an advanced reporting course stressing the watchdog role of the press and utilising investigative techniques, including computer-assisted reporting, Internet and other on-line searching. Students undertake in-depth practical assignments. Topics will include local, state, national and international government and politics, defence, immigration and multiculturalism, health, education and welfare, the environment, science, industrial issues, economics and finance.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the theories behind the watchdog role of the press in western society;
- demonstrate an understanding of public affairs, including local, state, national and international government and politics, defence, immigration and multiculturalism, health, education and welfare, the environment, science, industrial issues, economics and finance;
- demonstrate an ability to report public affairs at local, state and national levels; and
- apply computer-assisted reporting techniques to journalistic research.
TOPICS

<table>
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<tr>
<td>1. Theories of the role of the press in society</td>
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<td>2. Journalism research techniques</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Using computer-assisted reporting for public affairs</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<td>4. Reporting local, state, national and international politics</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Reporting other social institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Issues in public affairs</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).


REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<td>Directed Study</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tr>
<td>REPORT 1</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>26 Mar 2004</td>
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<td>REPORT 2</td>
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<td>REPORT 4</td>
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<td>40.00</td>
<td>11 Jun 2004</td>
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IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   It is the student’s responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities
   (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them,
   and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to
   maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed
   of course-related activities and administration.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To be assured of completing each assessment item satisfactorily a student must
   submit all of the items of summative assessment by the due date and achieve on
   each the minimum specified standards outlined in 4 (Requirements for a pass in
   the course).

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   DEADLINES - EXTENSIONS WILL NOT BE GRANTED ON ANY GROUNDS.
   In fully documented cases of extreme medical disability, other production
   assignments of equivalent value will be set, ON CONDITION THAT the student
   fully informs the Examiner of such a need at the earliest convenient time.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative
   assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in
   relation to the objectives of the course by obtaining at least 50% of the total
   weighted marks for all summative assessment.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate
   of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in
   the course.

6 Examination information:
   There is no exam for this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course.
   However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted
   by a date set by the examiner.

8 University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10
   Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might
contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

9  (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University’s Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (e) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1  Correct English is essential in Journalism. Errors of spelling, grammar and punctuation will be penalised when assignments are marked. Severe deficiencies could mean failure in the course.