

## Course Outline

**Code: CMN235**

### **Title: News Writing and Reporting**

**School:** Creative Industries  
**Teaching Session:** Semester 2  
**Year:** 2020  
**Course Coordinator:** Dr Peter English, penglish@usc.edu.au  
**Course Moderator:** Dr Jane Stephens, efynes@usc.edu.au

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

#### **1. What is this course about?**

##### **1.1 Description**

This course builds on CMN130 Introduction to Journalism. It examines the foundations of journalism including its history, social and political relevance, and ethics. There is emphasis on continuing to develop your writing in accord with journalistic style. You will develop skills and understandings in news gathering, interviewing, and note taking. You will also be encouraged to become multi-skilled so that you can report effectively across print, online, and broadcast platforms. While examining how and why news is reported you will also be encouraged to develop a lasting interest in current affairs.

##### **1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation**

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

#### **2. What level is this course?**

200 level Developing – Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and skills to new contexts. May require pre-requisites and introductory level knowledge/skills. Normally undertaken in the 2nd or 3rd year of an undergraduate program.

#### **3. What is the unit value of this course?**

12 units

#### **4. How does this course contribute to my learning?**

Specific Learning Outcomes	Assessment tasks	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Identify news values and apply them to news writing	2 and 3	Knowledgeable. Empowered.
Independently plan, source and write an original news story of publishable standard.	2 and 3	Engaged.

<b>Specific Learning Outcomes</b> On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	<b>Assessment tasks</b> You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	<b>Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping</b> Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Apply ethical philosophies and scholarly information to analyse an ethical scenario.	1	Ethical.

## 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

### 5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Nil

### 5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

### 5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

### 5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

### 5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Principles and concepts of news writing at an introductory level, including reporting and editing proficiency.

## 6. How am I going to be assessed?

### 6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

### 6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Formative feedback on your academic progress will be provided in tutorials throughout the semester, commencing in week 2.

### 6.3 Assessment tasks

<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Assessment Product</b>	<b>Individual or Group</b>	<b>Weighting %</b>	<b>What is the duration / length?</b>	<b>When should I submit?</b>	<b>Where should I submit it?</b>
1	Essay	Individual	25%	1,000 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
2	Written Piece	Individual	45%	Print: 400 words Radio: 60 sec plus reader intros	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check

3	Written Piece	Individual	30%	500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
			100%			

**Assessment 1: Essay**

<b>Goal:</b>	In this task you will independently analyse an ethical writing and reporting scenario.
<b>Product:</b>	Essay
<b>Format:</b>	Academic format. You will write an academic essay on an ethical scenario of your own choosing. You will choose an ethical scenario that journalists had to deal with from a timeframe of the past 6 months. Applying your understanding of ethical philosophies and the scholarly literature on journalistic ethics, you will explain the issues that are at stake, and how the situation would ideally be solved.
<b>Criteria:</b>	The following criteria will be given equal weighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evidence of research</li> <li>• evaluation of literature</li> <li>• critical analysis</li> <li>• communication</li> </ul>

**Assessment Task 2: Written piece. Press conference multimedia stories**

<b>Goal:</b>	You will attend a press conference and independently plan, research and write high-quality journalism.
<b>Product:</b>	Written Piece
<b>Format:</b>	Professional/Industry format. You will write separate news stories for publication in a newspaper and for radio, based on the press conference conducted in Week 7.
<b>Criteria:</b>	Marks will be awarded as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriateness of angle</li> <li>• proper use of house style and punctuation</li> <li>• effectiveness of writing style</li> </ul>

**Assessment Task 3: Written Piece. News article**

<b>Goal:</b>	Independently plan, research and write high-quality journalism. You will write an article for publication on the Suncoast Times website <a href="http://www.suncoasttimes.com.au">http://www.suncoasttimes.com.au</a>
<b>Product:</b>	Written Piece
<b>Format:</b>	Professional/Industry format. You will write an article with a Sunshine Coast angle, based on at least two separate interviews with relevant people. The story must follow news style. You may submit photographs to support your article but this is not compulsory.
<b>Criteria:</b>	Marks will be awarded as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriateness of angle and of interviews</li> <li>• effectiveness of writing style</li> <li>• proper use of house style and punctuation</li> </ul>

## 7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. A 12 unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

Location:	Directed study hours for location*:
USC Sunshine Coast	Lecture: 1 hour Tutorial: 2 hours

*\*This course will be delivered via technology-enabled learning and teaching. All lectures will remain in this mode for Semester 2 2020. When government guidelines allow, students that elected on-campus study via the class selection process will be advised when on campus tutorials and practical sessions will resume.*

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

### 8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Nil

### 8.2 Specific requirements

Nil

## 9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

## 10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

### 10.1 Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text

comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

## 10.2 Assessment: Additional requirements

### Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

## 10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

## 10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)

## 10.5 Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or [accessability@usc.edu.au](mailto:accessability@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226

## 10.6 Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

## 10.7 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** – Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)