

Course Outline

Code: CMN330 Title: Newsroom

School:	Communication & Creative Industries
Teaching Session:	Semester 1
Year:	2019
Course Coordinator:	Dr Jane Fynes-Clinton, efynes@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator:	Dr Peter English, penglish@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 is production-focused and designed to prepare you to work in a modern online newsroom. You will work to strict editorial deadlines and meet specified editorial standards and expectations to produce editions of an online news outlet. You will work in a team as well as individually, reflecting practises in the media industry, to produce editions of an online publication.

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

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

2. What level is this course?

300 level Graduate - Independent application of graduate knowledge and skills. Meets AQF and professional requirements. May require pre-requisites and developing level knowledge/skills. Normally taken in the 3rd or 4th 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 On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Demonstrate production efficiency	1 and 2	Creative and critical thinkers.
Produce material for publication that is created ethically and professionally	1, 2 and 3	Ethical.
Work effectively in a team	1, 2 and 3	Creative and critical thinkers.
Connect with the regional community to generate content for publication	1 and 2	Sustainability-focussed.
Produce news and features that are of a publishable standard	1 and 2	Creative and critical thinkers.

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)

Not applicable

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

Students will be provided with early feedback that reviews their relevant knowledge and gives them an indication of what to expect and at what standard they are expected to work in this course.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Quiz/zes	Individual	Formative	N/A	Week 3	Quiz (Online Test)
2	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	50%	4-8 relevant articles, vision and/or related pictorial content as decided and determined in production meeting	As designated on Blackboard	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
3	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	50%	Various according to designated role	As designated on Blackboard	In Class
			100%			

Assessment 1: Online law, ethics and editing quiz

Goal:	For you to achieve an acceptable result in a quiz in journalism ethics, law and editing
Product:	Quiz/zes
Format:	Academic format Online quiz on Blackboard
Criteria:	A result of 80% or better in the Blackboard quiz. Multiple attempts are allowed.

Assessment Task 2: Features (non-news content)

Goal:	For you to produce publishable features material to a designated deadline
Product:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece
Format:	Professional/industry format Working as an individual within a team, you will help bring an edition of the online publication to life by contributing story ideas, conducting interviews, researching, photographing and writing according to a strict editorial schedule.
Criteria:	Quality of journalism; online/audience suitability of stories; ability to meet deadlines; production efficiency; spelling, grammar, style, punctuation, teamwork.

Assessment Task 3: News day

Goal:	For you to participate fully and produce required material in the day-long news day
Product:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece
Format:	Professional/Industry format You will take part in producing the news content for the online publication, working with others, generating ideas, encouraging team members, and ensuring published work is of a high standard in accordance with strict editorial deadlines.
Criteria:	Ability to meet deadlines; production efficiency; news sense/article suitability; consideration of journalistic merit; quality of product; teamwork.

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:
Sippy Downs	Computer workshop: 2 hours Workshop (News day): 9 hours

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

Demonstrated basic understanding of media law; demonstrated news gathering and news writing skills; understanding and application of journalism ethics; familiarity with interviewing; familiarity with components of news production

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

10.5 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>

10.6 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **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