

CMN130 News and Reporting

School: School of Business and Creative Industries

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

Please go to usc.edu.au 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 introduces basic journalism skills employed in the dynamic world of news. It examines different types of journalism and the different professional roles journalists occupy. You will consider what makes news, and why. You will also learn how news reports are prepared for radio, the web and print products, along with essential skills for capturing images for journalistic storytelling. You will encounter interviewing, consider the importance of professional ethics, and learn how to write in journalistic style. Accurate spelling, grammar, punctuation and house style will be reinforced.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Self-directed online pre-workshop asynchronous learning materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus scheduled face-to-face workshop	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Self-directed online pre-workshop asynchronous learning materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Interactive scheduled online workshop (recorded)	2hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

What is journalism and news?

Ethics in journalism

Finding stories and sources

Interviewing for journalism

Writing news for the web, radio and television

Photojournalism

Pitching for success

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

*Adult themes that MAY be covered depend on the news of the day.

1.4. Mature Content

Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study 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?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES		GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Identify news values and apply them to news writing.	Knowledgeable Empowered Engaged
2	Apply news writing theory to construct a news story.	Empowered Engaged
3	Independently plan and write a news story of publishable standard.	Ethical Engaged
4	Create engaging and newsworthy, visual components.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical
5	Understand and apply journalistic ethics in newswriting.	Ethical

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

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

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

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

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Formative feedback relating to Assessment Task 1 will be provided through tutorial activities in Weeks 3 and 4. Assessment Task 2 provides an opportunity to undertake journalistic writing and explore news value theory under authentic conditions. Significant written feedback is provided on all assessment.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Written Piece	Individual	20%	Up to 500 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	35%	500 words	Week 9	In Class
All	3	Artefact - Professional, and Written Piece	Individual	45%	300 words + pic, 25 seconds	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Story Pitch

GOAL:	Demonstrate an understanding of what makes an effective news story and how to find appropriate sources for interview.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	Professional format. Details and exemplar will be provided in Canvas.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	News values - quality and newsworthiness of the story idea	1 4
	2	Interviews - appropriateness of sources and interview suggestions	1 3
	3	Organisation - the pitch itself and the information included	1 4
	4	Content - the pitch covers the required elements and includes quality ideas for stories and visual components	1 4
	5	Adherence to house style, spelling, punctuation and grammar	3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Organisation		

All - Assessment Task 2: Breaking News Story

GOAL:	Demonstrate the ability to write news under industry conditions. This task has been designed to replicate the pressures of working in a newsroom while requiring students to produce a news story.	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	Students will be required to write a developing, breaking news story using information provided in class or online in Week 9. Students must be present IN PERSON during workshops (on campus or online) to submit this component of the task.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Demonstrated understanding of news values	1 2
	2 Quality of introduction and headline	1 2
	3 Demonstrated understanding of the online medium	2
	4 Quality of writing and structure	2
	5 Adherence to house style, spelling, punctuation and grammar	2
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving	

All - Assessment Task 3: Multi-platform news story

GOAL:	Demonstrate student's ability to produce a multi-media news story for online platforms and radio using professional standards of story construction; appropriate writing styles; and production and selection of images. Journalism ethics must be followed.	
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Professional, and Written Piece	
FORMAT:	Multi-platform news story and photograph	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Demonstrated understanding of news values and angles	1
	2 Quality of interviews and sources as evidenced through direct and indirect quotes	1 3 5
	3 Effectiveness of news writing style - overall quality of story	3 4
	4 Effectiveness of photograph production - content, composition and quality	1 4
	5 Demonstrated application of the conventions of radio news writing	3
	6 Adherence to house style, spelling, punctuation and grammar	3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy	

7. Directed study hours

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. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

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

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

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

This course requires some commercial software or hardware which is provided at USC campuses for student use. If you elect to do this course online, you may either: attend a campus at which it is available, discuss alternative open source solutions with your course coordinator that would enable you to demonstrate the learning outcomes, or if you prefer, you may acquire this software and/or hardware at your own expense.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and a low level of health and safety risk exists. Some risks concerns may include working in an unknown environment as well as slip and trip hazards. It is your responsibility 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 and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training 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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

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%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. 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
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

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

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au