The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Science Masters Project 5						
Subject	Cat-Nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
SCI	9105	10359	1, 2002	ONC	2.00	TWMBA

Academic Group: FOSCI
Academic Org: FOS002
HECS Band: 2
ASCED Code: 019999

STAFFING

Examiner: Grant Daggard
Moderator: Michael Kotiw

RATIONALE

This course is part of a supervised research project which provides opportunities for motivated and highly qualified students to undertake advanced study and to produce a research-based dissertation. Students develop the appropriate research skills and specialist knowledge which will enhance their career prospects or allow them to undertake further studies. The emphasis of the programme is on developing the appropriate knowledge and skills to undertake independent research and professional practice.

SYNOPSIS

This course and other courses with the course numbers in the range of SCI9101 to SCI9108 comprise the research component of the Master of Science. On completion of all of the courses students will have prepared and undertaken a supervised research project and prepared a dissertation for examination. Students will present at least one seminar annually as part of the requirements. The enrolment pattern in courses SCI9101 to SCI9108 will need to be established for each student on enrolment. Activities to be undertaken in each of the courses will be determined on an individual student basis by the student's supervisor.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of the courses SCI9101 to SCI9108 students will have:

- identified their research topic;
- demonstrated their ability to proceed with the research topic;
- if appropriate, gained ethical clearance for their project;
- prepared their research proposal to their supervisor's satisfaction;
- demonstrated their ability to think analytically, critically and creatively about a chosen research topic and related issues within the area of specialisation chosen;

- demonstrated competence in each component of empirical research procedures, viz; identification and analysis of research problems, formulation of hypotheses, operationalised research procedures, collected relevant data, carried out appropriate analysis of data, interpreted results obtained, and drawn appropriate conclusions;
- competently written a dissertation based on the research project to communicate all aspects of the project to professional peers;
- presented one seminar per year to the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences, outlining the project aims and progress.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. To be determined by the supervisor in consultation with the student.	100.00

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.

To be determined by the student's supervisor.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	13
Private Study	300
Seminars	2
Supervisor Consultation	13

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks Out of	Wtg(%)	Required	Due Date
SEMINAR	1.00	50.00	Y	04 Mar 2002 (see note 1)
SUPERVISOR'S REPORT	1.00	50.00	Y	04 Mar 2002 (see note 2)

NOTES:

1. Examiner to advise date of Seminar
2. Examiner to advise date for Supervisor's Report

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 The course will be graded as SP (Satisfactory Progress) or F(Fail). A grade of SP is required to allow progress to the next course in the sequence SCI9101 to SCI9108. To be awarded the grade of SP, a student must be assessed by their Supervisor as having made satisfactory progress against a set of objectives provided by the Supervisor and have presented, at a satisfactory standard, one seminar reporting on the scope and progress of the project work to the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences.

2 In accordance with the University's Policy on Assignments (Regulation 5.6.1), the Examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. This policy may be found in the USQ Handbook, the Distance Education Study Guide and the Faculty of Sciences' Orientation Handbook for new on-campus students. All students are advised to study and follow the guidelines associated with this policy.
