



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course Specification

### Description: Independent Study in Child and Family Services

Subject	Cat-Nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
ECE	3003	20799	1, 2003	ONC	1.00	TWMBA

<b>Academic Group:</b>	FOEDU
<b>Academic Org:</b>	FOE004
<b>HECS Band:</b>	1
<b>ASCED Code:</b>	070101

### STAFFING

Examiner: Kari Winer  
Moderator: Lyn Bower

### RATIONALE

It is recognised that many students need the opportunity to explore or investigate a topic of their own choosing in order to more closely link their professional interests or needs to their course of studies. This early childhood independent studies course is designed to provide such an opportunity within a guiding framework.

### SYNOPSIS

Students will pursue an in-depth study of a topic relevant to the field of early education, and in particular to the student's own context. This context may be an international context. The study may be a literature review, case study, or action research project, and should include a substantial investigating component leading to the submission of a written report. The study will address policies and practices. Topics will be selected from five focused content areas including: child and family care services in local, state and national domains for children birth - 15 years, ethical dilemmas, professionalism and leadership in child care services, antibias in early childhood.

### OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to plan, conduct, and report on an investigation focused on an issue or topic of significance in the field of early education
- demonstrate awareness of professional and ethical issues related to research in education
- demonstrate ability to critically analyse information from a variety of sources
- demonstrate understanding of the social, environmental and cultural context of the chosen topic of research

- undertake independent learning
- demonstrate competence in the use of appropriate technology.

## TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Anti-bias education in early childhood	15.00
2. Child and Family Services (birth-15 years)	15.00
3. Ethical dilemmas in early childhood services	15.00
4. Professionalism and leadership in child care services	15.00
5. Research methods and proposal writing	20.00
6. Data collection and report writing	20.00

## TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> by entering the author or title of the text.

Book of selected readings pertaining to research methods.

Bell, J. *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First Time Researchers in Education and Social Science*, 3rd edition, Open University Press, Buckingham.

## 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.

Reference lists will be attached to the content area selected by the student.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	55
Directed Study	50
Private Study	60

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks Out of	Wtg(%)	Required	Due Date
PROJECT REPORT	100.00	10.00	Y	21 Mar 2003
FIRST REPORT	100.00	25.00	Y	17 Apr 2003
FINAL REPORT	100.00	65.00	Y	13 Jun 2003

## **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- 1 Summative assessment items will be given a numerical score.
  - 2 Course Grades will be calculated by aggregating the weighted result or numerical score for each summative assessment item. Any ungraded assessment requirement will receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.
  - 3 All assessment items must be submitted. Assessment items must be passed.
  - 4 If assignments are submitted after the due date without an approved extension of time, University penalties may be applied. Assignment Extension Requests must be completed and submitted for approval.
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