



The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Issues Management and Strategic Planning

Subject	Cat-Nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
PRL	2001	25102	2, 2003	EXT	1.00	TWMBBA

Academic Group:	FOART
Academic Org:	FOA004
HECS Band:	2
ASCED Code:	080509

STAFFING

Examiner: Chris Galloway

Moderator: Alison Feldman

SYNOPSIS

This course assumes the management perspective that when organizations are faced with an issue either accidental or intentional that significantly disrupts normal operations, effective communication is essential. Students will be made aware of potential issues affecting the public and private sectors and required to develop their individual skills in planning and implementing communication management strategies which reflect their ability to adapt to specific workplace needs. In their efforts to minimise risks and to deal with them students will examine risk identification, advance preparation, environmental surveillance, crisis management planning, and evaluation. At all times students will be encouraged to develop a commitment to ethical and responsible practices as part of the on-going development of effective issues management strategies and to develop appropriate communication policies used to facilitate issues management plans.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

- clarify the purposes of an issues management program and understand the importance of proper and legitimate planning
- establish mechanisms and develop standards for issues management scanning that alert of potential crisis and immediate means to deal with such situations
- formalise an issues management structure
- develop offensive activities that enable the co-ordination, control, analysis and reporting of strategic management procedures
- know how to develop positive relationships with key publics

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Planning and Investigation - Developing Survival Strategies	5.00
2. Concepts of Communication	10.00
3. How and When to Communicate	10.00
4. Understanding Public Policy	10.00
5. Taking Control - the Scanning Process	10.00
6. The Role of Communication and Strategic Planning	10.00
7. Confronting a Crisis	10.00
8. The Crisis Response Mechanism	15.00
9. Elements of the Crisis Management Plan	10.00
10. Evaluation and Policy Design	5.00
11. Principles of Effective Crisis Management	5.00

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.

Heath, R.L. 1997, *Strategic Issues Management - Organizations and Public Policy Challenges*, Sage, California.

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 advised

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	30
Directed Study	80
Private Study	55

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks Out of	Wtg(%)	Required	Due Date
CONCEPT/PROPOSAL	15.00	15.00	Y	29 Aug 2003
ISSUE ANALYSIS	35.00	35.00	Y	17 Oct 2003
EXAMINATION 3 HOURS	50.00	50.00	Y	END S2

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this external course. However, it is the student's responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval, then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each of the first FIVE working days late, after which a zero mark will be given.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course by: (i) satisfactorily completing the examination and assignments; and (ii) obtaining at least 50% of the total weighted marks for all summative assessment items.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
The exam for this course is a CLOSED EXAMINATION, and candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any deferred or supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/> or in the printed version of the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (e) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).