



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Visual Research Methods

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
VIS	3015	30806	1, 2004	ONC	1.00	TWMBBA

Academic group:	FOART
Academic org:	FOA007
Student contribution band:	1
ASCED code:	100300

STAFFING

Examiner: Robyn Stewart

Moderator: Alexis Tacey

SYNOPSIS

The notion of research in the visual arts is a contemporary cultural issue which deserves serious attention. Yet many artists claim that research involves problem solving which is the essence of practice in the visual arts. Therefore, they argue, visual arts is research. However, the visual arts are being challenged to justify and demonstrate this nexus. This course develops and explores research methodologies and processes which are relevant to visual arts theory and studio practice. It is designed to introduce and identify appropriate processes for research in visual arts theory and practice which are to do with discovery, and which can be used to elicit data to do with personal ideas, observations and interpretations. In visual research this data might bear on practical issues or underlying theories, on matters of intention (like the imaginative concepts that lie behind the work), ways of assessing what is done, or the processes of actually handling materials and techniques. Its methods of collection may be quantitative and qualitative.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will:

- Identify a variety of visual research methods currently used by researchers in the visual arts and relevant fields of interest.
- Describe and discuss major principles and methods used in visual arts research.
- Describe and discuss characteristics of research using qualitative and quantitative data.
- Demonstrate an ability to conceptualise and plan a range of visual research tasks according to appropriate theoretical frameworks.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Introduction to visual arts research.	14.00
2. Dimensions of research.	14.00
3. Theory and contemporary issues in visual research.	14.00
4. Meanings of methodologies and applications for practice.	14.00
5. Establishing a research design.	14.00
6. Documentation.	14.00
7. Evaluation of research.	16.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

To be advised.

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.

Easthope, A and McGowan, K 1992, *A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney.

(306 CRI)

Gray, C et al 1995, *Developing a Research Procedures Programme for Artists and Designers*, Centre for Res in Art & Design, Robert Gordon Uni, Aberdeen.

(Online via the Library catalogue)

Hammond, M 1991, *Understanding Phenomenology*, Basil Blackwell, Oxford.

(142.7 HAM)

Kellehear, A 1993, *The Unobtrusive Researcher: A Guide to Methods*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney.

(300.72 KEL)

Lather, P 1991, *Getting Smart: Feminist Research and Pedagogy with/in the Postmodern*, Routledge, New York.

(305.42 LAT)

Marshall, C and Rossman, G B 1999, *Designing Qualitative Research*, 3rd edn, Sage, Thousand Oaks, CA.

(300.72 MAR)

National Gallery of Art 1997, *Conservation Research 1996/97*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

(708.13 CON)

Pollard, E B 1986, *Visual Arts Research: A Handbook*, Greenwood, New York.

(707.2 POL)

Tilley, C 1994, *A Phenomenology of Landscape: Places, Paths and Monuments*, Berg, Oxford.

(936.26 TIL)

Van Manen, M 1990, *Researching Lived Experience: human science for an action sensitive pedagogy*, University of Western Ontario, Ontario.

(370.78 VAN)

Whyte, W F 1984, *Learning from the Field: A Guide from Experience*, Sage, Newbury Park.

(300.723 WHY)

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Lectures	26.00
Private Study	67.00
Project Work	56.00
Tutorial	14.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
SHORT ESSAY	10.00	10.00	26 Mar 2004
RESEARCH PROJ PROPOSAL	20.00	20.00	26 Mar 2004
DRAFT LITERATURE REVIEW	20.00	20.00	07 May 2004
RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT	40.00	40.00	14 Jun 2004
VISUAL JOURNAL	10.00	10.00	22 Jun 2004

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:

It is the student's responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them,

and 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 obtaining at least 50% of the total weighted marks for all summative assessment.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
Grades will normally be awarded according to Faculty guidelines and based on the cumulative total of marks for the various assessment items.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no exam for this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course. However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted by a date set by the examiner.
- 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/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must lodge the assignment at the USQ. (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).