



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

### Description: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
NUR	5522	44998	2, 2005	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOSCI
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOS004
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	National Priority Nursing
<b>ASCED code:</b>	060399

### STAFFING

### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCNP or GDON or GDMH or MANP or MHEA or MMID or MMPO or MNUR or MNRS or MNRH or PCNP or PDON or PDMH or PDEV or SING or CRPG

### RATIONALE

Some sections of the Indigenous population have been described as 'the poorest, sickest, worst housed and most locked up' of Australia's population (Dobson 1995). The role of the rural and remote health professional in ameliorating this situation is to ensure that they are knowledgeable about and empathetic with an Indigenous perspective on issues that affect the health status of Indigenous people. This means that the health professional must interact with their Indigenous clients, individually and collectively, in a culturally safe manner.

### SYNOPSIS

This course is designed to increase the students' understanding of their role as health professionals in relation to individual and collective Indigenous clients. It will examine aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and identity and critically evaluate factors, past and present, that impact on their health status. An examination of aspects of the politics of Indigenous health will be followed by a critical analysis of the concept of cultural safety and ways to implement this philosophy into their professional practice.

### OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. critically evaluate commonly held myths about Australia's Indigenous people;
2. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, culture, society and health both from a history of 40,000 years and a contemporary perspective;
3. demonstrate a respect for and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's lifestyles and attitudes;

4. relate the effects of colonisation on Indigenous culture and health to the current situation in Australia;
5. identify the factors which impact on the health of other Indigenous populations and compare and contrast these with the health status of Australia's Indigenous peoples;
6. critically analyse the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in comparison with mainstream Australia and the factors impacting on their health status;
7. critically evaluate the importance of land rights and the reconciliation process on the health of our Nation;
8. demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of Government health policies and implementation practices in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
9. contribute to the enhancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' desire for access to, and participation in, health service delivery at all levels which does not deny their heritage;
10. demonstrate an understanding of the concept of cultural safety and examine its implications with regard to Indigenous social and emotional well-being;
11. develop strategies and techniques to ensure respectful and responsible cross-cultural communication in a professional setting;
12. demonstrate an understanding of and critically assess the role of the Guidelines on Ethical Matters in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research; and
13. critically discuss strategies that will enhance access to, and participation in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Section 1- Race, Culture, Identity, Health	20.00
2.	Section 2 - Impact of Colonisation on the Health of Indigenous Australians	25.00
3.	Section 3 - The Politics of Indigenous Health	25.00
4.	Section 4 - Cultural Safety	30.00

## 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).

Thomson, N (ed) 2003, *The Health of Indigenous Australians*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

## 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.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Evaluation Committee 1994, *National Aboriginal Health Strategy: An Evaluation*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

(December)

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission 1997, National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, *Bringing Them Home*, Sydney.

Kidd, R 1997, *The Way We Civilise*, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane.

National Aboriginal Health Strategy Working Party 1989, 'National Aboriginal Health Strategy' (Available: <http://www.health.gov.au/oatsih/pubs/index.htm>) .

Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner 1996, *Indigenous Deaths in Custody 1989-1996*, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Canberra.

Saggers, S & Gray, D 1991, *Aboriginal Health and Society: The Traditional and Contemporary Aboriginal Struggle for Better Health*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	20.00
Directed Study	110.00
Private Study	30.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
CASE STUDY	100.00	50.00	02 Sep 2005
REPORT	100.00	50.00	21 Oct 2005

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:  
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' 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 assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assignment.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:  
If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 5% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:  
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the summative assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for those 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 obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

- 6 Examination information:  
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:  
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.
- 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 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.
- 10 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. If requested, students will be required to provide a copy of assignments submitted for assessment purposes. Such copies should be despatched to USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request being made.
- 11 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
- 12 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.
- 13 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). 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.