



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

<b>Description: Visual Research Methods</b>						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
VIS	3015	50659	1, 2006	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOART
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOA007
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	1
<b>ASCED code:</b>	100300

### STAFFING

Examiner: Robyn Stewart

Moderator: Alexis Tacey

### SYNOPSIS

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. Throughout the course students will develop a research report which reflects upon, theorizes and describes the studio-based research.

### OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will:

1. identify a variety of visual research methods currently used by researchers in the visual arts and relevant fields of interest (Assessment item 3 refers);
2. describe and discuss major principles and methods used in visual arts research (Assessment item 1 refers);
3. describe and discuss characteristics of research using qualitative and quantitative data (Assessment items 1, 2, 4 refer);
4. demonstrate an ability to conceptualise and plan a range of visual research tasks according to appropriate theoretical frameworks (Assessment items 3-5 refer).

### 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
Tutorials	14.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
SHORT ESSAY	10.00	10.00	24 Mar 2006 (see note 1)
RESEARCH PROJ PROPOSAL	20.00	20.00	27 Mar 2006
DRAFT LITERATURE REVIEW	20.00	20.00	19 May 2006
RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT	40.00	40.00	19 Jun 2006
VISUAL JOURNAL	10.00	10.00	19 Jun 2006

### NOTES

1. NB: NEW ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: All Faculty of Arts written assignments must be lodged in the Faculty Assessment Area on the Ground Floor of Q Block no later than 12 noon on the due date.

## 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 satisfactorily complete an assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. Students do not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to be awarded a passing grade in this course. Refer to Statement 4 below for the requirements to receive a passing grade in this course.
- 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).