



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Masters Project 1

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
FET	8660	74819	1, 2008	WEB	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOEDU
Academic org:	FOE003
Student contribution band:	National Priority Teaching
ASCED code:	070303

STAFFING

Examiner: Henriette van Rensburg
Moderator: Kaye Cleary

REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: FET8801 or FET8602 (or negotiated equivalent) and 4 units of Study.

OTHER REQUISITES

State law in Queensland (Australia) requires that all adults working/undertaking professional experience/researching with children under the age of 18, in the state of Queensland are required to possess a current suitability card (Blue Card). (See "Other Requirements" for further information.)
Also see: <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html>.

RATIONALE

An important outcome of study at the Masters level is for students to be able to plan and execute independent projects which consolidate and build upon and/or apply the capabilities developed through their programs of study. A 'capstone' project undertaken at, or towards, the end of the program is a suitable venue for demonstrating these capabilities. This course enables students to synthesise the knowledge and skills developed in earlier courses of their programs, into an approved professional project or academic paper focused on a key aspect of their areas of interest/specialisation.

SYNOPSIS

Learners will, with guidance from a member of academic staff, plan and execute an independent project which is clearly related to their overall program of study, especially to their area of major study. It is envisaged that normally this one-unit project will not involve formal research but it should include an investigative or developmental/evaluative component with clear evidence of application of the knowledge developed in the student's masters program. The project should lead to the preparation of a substantial written report presented at an appropriately scholarly standard. This report may be presented in the format of a paper for publication in an approved academic or professional journal. Project reports must reflect mastery of the content of current literature and

of knowledge and skills developed by the learner in his/her program of study. This course will operate on the basis of frequent individual consultation and feedback between the student and the staff member nominated as the study supervisor. Before enrolling in the course students are advised to discuss the nature, processes and anticipated outcomes of the proposed study topic or activity with a faculty member who might act as their study supervisor. Project proposals and on-going implementation will be critically reviewed through learner-supervisor ongoing interaction and negotiation. NOTES: 1. This course (FET8660) is available through INTERNET DELIVERY ONLY. There are NO print materials for this course. 2. For details of the technical requirements and accessing Internet study materials, please consult the following URL:
<http://usqconnect.usq.edu.au>.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item(s) that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective are shown in parenthesis. On successful completion of this course students will have:

1. demonstrated the ability to plan and implement an in-depth, independent investigation or other such scholarly activity focused on an issue or topic of significance to the student's field of study in his or her masters program (All assessment items)
2. demonstrated the ability to report the outcomes of that investigation in the form of either a formal report or paper for publication which reflects appropriate academic standards of scholarship and presentation (All assessment items).
3. Demonstrate competence in and appropriate use of language and literacy, including spelling, grammar, punctuation and bibliographic referencing (Project Report)

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. The topic of the project will be developed in collaboration with an academic supervisor approved and appointed by the course examiner.	100.00

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).

There are no prescribed texts in this course.

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.

In most studies supervisors provide students with a reference list and assist them in developing their own lists.

Whether you are on, or off campus, the USQ Library is an excellent source of information <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/>. The gateway to education resources is here: <http://use.edu.au/library/faculties/education/default.htm>

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	20.00
Private Study	145.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
PROJECT PROPOSAL	15.00	15.00	21 Mar 2008 (see note 1)
PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT	5.00	5.00	24 Apr 2008
PROJECT REPORT	80.00	80.00	30 May 2008

NOTES

1. The project proposal is designed to provide early feedback to ensure students have an appropriate project for this course.

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 satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item 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 of the examiner then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded. No assignments will be accepted after model answers have been posted.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted 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:
As there are no examinations in this course, there will be no deferred or supplementary examinations.
- 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>.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 Students may be required to provide a copy of assignments submitted for assessment purposes. Such copies should be dispatched to the USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request to do so.
- 2 Student workload requirements are as required for the completion of the study and as negotiated between student and supervisor in the early weeks of the course.
- 3 Marking criteria will depend upon the nature of individual projects.
- 4 In accordance with University Policy, the Examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students will require access to e-mail and Internet access to USQConnect for this course.
 - 2 Students enrolling in WEB courses MUST have ongoing convenient and reliable access to the Internet in order to access course materials and participate in activities that will affect assessment. The levels of equipment required may change from time to time, with the most recent specification listed at <http://www.usq.edu.au/currentstudents/computingstandards/default.htm>. You can check whether your computer system meets these requirements from USQAssist (<http://usqassist.usq.edu.au/>).
 - 3 **IMPORTANT NOTE: Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the state of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc..) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT 'BLUE CARD'. For further information:** <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html>. *If you are undertaking practical experience outside the state of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.
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