



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: Visual Research Methods

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
VIS	3015	74524	1, 2008	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOART
Academic org:	FOA005
Student contribution band:	1
ASCED code:	100300

STAFFING

Moderator: Stephen Spurrier

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;
2. describe and discuss major principles and methods used in visual arts research;
3. describe and discuss characteristics of research using qualitative and quantitative data;
4. 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 2006, *Designing qualitative research*, 4th 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	21 Mar 2008 (see note 1)
RESEARCH PROJ PROPOSAL	20.00	20.00	24 Mar 2008 (see note 2)
DRAFT LITERATURE REVIEW	20.00	20.00	16 May 2008 (see note 3)
RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT	40.00	40.00	16 Jun 2008 (see note 4)
VISUAL JOURNAL	10.00	10.00	16 Jun 2008 (see note 5)

NOTES

1. This assignment is aligned with Objectives 2 and 3.
2. This assignment is aligned with Objective 2.
3. This assignment is aligned with Objectives 1 and 4.
4. This assignment is aligned with Objectives 3 and 4.
5. This assignment is aligned with Objective 4.

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. For this course, normal class attendance consists of one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:

To successfully complete an individual assessment item, a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. This statement must be read in conjunction with Statement 4 below.

- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without extenuating circumstances and without prior approval, then a penalty of a maximum of 5% of the assigned mark may apply for each working day late, up to a maximum of 10 working days, at which time a mark of zero can be recorded for that assignment.
- 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 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>

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) All Faculty of Arts assignments must be lodged in the Faculty Assessment Centre on the Ground Floor of Q Block no later than 12 noon on the due date. (c) 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. (d). Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested by the Examiner. (e) 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. (f) 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. (g) 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).