



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: Science Honours Project A

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
SCI	4401	86185	1, 2009	ONC	3.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOSCI
Academic org:	FOS002
Student contribution band:	6
ASCED code:	019999

STAFFING

Examiner: John Dearnaley
Moderator: Andrew Le Brocque

RATIONALE

A substantial programme of research will be performed by the student, the prime purpose being to give the student experience in carrying out scientific research.

SYNOPSIS

This course involves students in a research project which will be supervised by a member of staff with appropriate expertise. It may consist of pure or developmental research in an important area of science and be based on experimental work conducted either within the University or elsewhere in conjunction with a government or private organisation. This course will require the student to undertake an extensive literature review and deliver several seminars on their research topic, in addition to conducting their research program. Science Honours Project A and B need to be undertaken in consecutive semesters, overall Honours grades being determined in accordance with Department of Biological and Physical Sciences Honours program guidelines.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate competence in the performance of original scientific research and work in a research environment (Dissertation);
2. demonstrate an understanding of real-world practical problems and the limitations these place on scientific advances (Dissertation);
3. demonstrate expertise in critically reviewing scientific literature (Literature Review);
4. demonstrate expertise in scientific communication through preparing a literature review and through the delivery of research seminars (Honours Seminar).

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Design and presentation of a research project in consultation with supervisor. Projects will require approval of the Department of Biological & Physical Sciences Research & Higher Degrees Committee (DR&HDC).	10.00
2. Preparation of a Literature Review on current knowledge relevant to the Project.	50.00
3. Preparation and presentation of introductory and final seminars describing the student's research.	40.00

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).

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.

Such journals, monographs and other printed materials appropriate for the research topic chosen.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	400.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
LITERATURE REVIEW	100.00	33.00	02 Mar 2009 (see note 1)
HONOURS SEMINARS	100.00	42.00	02 Mar 2009 (see note 2)
DISSERTATION	100.00	25.00	02 Mar 2009 (see note 3)

NOTES

1. Examiner to advise of the due date for Literature Review
2. Examiner to advise the date of the Honours Seminars.
3. Examiner to advise the date of the Dissertation.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
It is the students' 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 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment will apply for each working day late.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
Students will be awarded the grade of IIP (Incomplete - in progress) at the end of this course provided they have gained at least 50% of the marks available for their literature review and introductory Honours seminar.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
When the Science Honours Project has been assessed in its entirety, the interim grade of IIP will be changed to the appropriate final grade.
- 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 Seminars - Students will be required to deliver two seminars to the Department during the course of their project. Details of the content of each seminar are available from the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences Honours Co-ordinator.
- 10 Literature Review - Students must undertake a comprehensive literature survey in their area of research and submit three copies of a written literature review (4000-5000 words, excluding references). Details of assessment criteria of the literature review and submission date will be provided by the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences Honours Co-ordinator.