



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: Special Study in Science

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
SCI	4403	90182	2, 2009	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOSCI
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOS002
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	6
<b>ASCED code:</b>	019999

### STAFFING

Examiner: John Dearnaley  
Moderator: Andrew Le Brocque

### RATIONALE

This course will allow the student to choose a topic from within any science sub-discipline he/she has studied as an undergraduate and obtain advanced knowledge by private study. The topic chosen should complement the specific research project the student is simultaneously undertaking. Placements in this course depend on availability of a supervisor in the chosen area.

### SYNOPSIS

The subject matter studied by students taking this course will vary, in order to complement the student's research projects. The student will be expected to gain knowledge in a selected field by private study consulting appropriate literature available through the library or provided by the supervisor. The special study in science area chosen will be assigned after consultation with the examiner and the appropriate Program Coordinator. Students may be directed to a certain science study, or they may be asked to nominate an appropriate study. To fulfil entry requirements, students must provide the course examiner a satisfactory study plan, endorsed by the appropriate Program Coordinator/Supervisor, by the end of week 1 of the semester in which they are taking the course. 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.

### OBJECTIVES

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

1. demonstrate an understanding of a major area of science at a level beyond that normally covered in undergraduate programs (Approved Assessment Program);
2. complement with advanced background knowledge the Science Project (Honours: SCI4401 and SCI4402; Postgrad. Dip.: BIO5501 and BIO5502) which each student is undertaking (Approved Assessment Program).

## TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. No detailed teaching contents can be specified for this course. Students will be expected to read broadly and extensively within their chosen area of interest. Areas of study will be chosen in consultation with the Examiner and the Project Supervisor. Where appropriate, students will be permitted to study material from senior undergraduate courses, up to a value of one unit.	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).

Nil

## 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.

The supervisor may provide a few key references as a starting point for the student's literature search.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Private Study	160.00
Supervisor Consultation	10.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
APP'D ASSESSMENT PROGRAM	100.00	100.00	20 Jul 2009 (see note 1)

### NOTES

1. Refer to Honours/Grad Dip Guidelines for information about assignment due dates.

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:  
The special study in science area chosen will be assigned after consultation with the examiner and the appropriate Program Coordinator. Students may be directed to a certain

science study, or they may be asked to nominate an appropriate study. 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 be advised when the student's Special Study in Science is determined.
- 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:  
To be advised when the student's Special Study in Science is determined.
- 6 Examination information:  
To be determined when the student's Special Study in Science is determined.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:  
To be determined when the student's Special Study in Science is determined.
- 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 supervisor will advise the student and the examiner of the details of the study and assessment program in writing by the end of week 3 of the semester as in TOPICS above.
- 10 Assessment for the course will vary according to the nature of the study undertaken by each student. By the end of the third week of semester, the supervisor will provide the examiner, for approval by the Honours Committee: (i) an outline of the study; (ii) the objectives of the study; (iii) the format, timing and weighting of the assessment items for the study; (iv) a statement about attendance requirements; (v) requirements of students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily; (vi) penalties for late submission of required work; (vii) requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course; (viii) the method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade; (ix) examination information; (x) examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held; (xi) any other requirements deemed necessary by the Examiner.