The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Master of Commerce Dissertation - Law - P/Time

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAW</td>
<td>8172</td>
<td>14262</td>
<td>2, 2002</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>TWMBA</td>
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Academic Group: FOBUS
Academic Org: FOB010
HECS Band: 3
ASCED Code: 090999

SYNOPSIS

The Master of Commerce Dissertation comprises the research and writing of a thesis. Students examine a professional or academic area of interest, usually related to their work environment and are assisted by one or more supervisors with appropriate background. Each candidate is required to submit a research proposal for approval and endorsement by the Dean prior to the commencement of research. This is the first course to be taken when undertaking the dissertation on a part-time basis.

OBJECTIVES

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

- identify research topics;
- undertake independent critical research activity using appropriate methods;
- report and publish research outcomes;
- demonstrate appropriate communication skills.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>SUBMISSION - WRITTEN DISS PROP</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>22 Jul 2002</td>
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NOTES:

1. Examiner to advise submission date.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Students who receive a Satisfactory Progress for this course will enrol in the second course LAW8173 to complete their dissertation.
2. To obtain a passing grade in the dissertation students must perform satisfactorily in all aspects of assessment. A grade of Satisfactory Progress (SP) or Fail (F) may be awarded.
Commerce Masters Dissertation Committees will be appointed by the Dean of the Faculty. Each committee will consist of at least three appropriately qualified staff members from the discipline area, drawn from the staff within the Faculty. The committees may contain supervisors of dissertations. The Commerce Masters Dissertation Committee for the relevant major shall receive the Dissertation Proposal. The committee may approve the Dissertation Proposal and advise the student that he/she may proceed with the research and dissertation, or may refer the Dissertation Proposal back to the student (with appropriate commentary and feedback) for resubmission.

ORAL PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL AND PRESENTATION AND DEFENCE OF DISSERTATION

(i) No oral presentation of the dissertation proposal is required, however students in the region are encouraged to make an oral presentation.  
(ii) No oral defence of the dissertation is required, however students in the region are encouraged to do an oral defence.

DISHONEST ACTIONS

(i) Any student who is alleged to having performed a dishonest action relating to any assessment in the course will have a course of action taken against him/her as outlined in the Academic Regulations.  
(ii) Pieces of assessment should be the work of individual students. Joint pieces of assessment are not permitted unless written approval has been obtained from the course leader.  
(iii) Dishonest action in relation to assessment includes: copying or attempting to copy the work of others; use of or attempting to use information prohibited from use in that form of assessment; submitting the work of another as your own; consciously committing acts of plagiarism, ie taking and using another's thoughts or writings as one's own with intent to deceive, which occurs when paragraphs, sentences, a single sentence or significant parts of a sentence which are copied directly, are not enclosed in quotation marks and appropriately footnoted or referenced in the text; direct quotations are not used, but text is paraphrased or summarised, and the source of the material is not acknowledged by footnoting or other reference in the text.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to communicate with the thesis supervisor at intervals and in the manner approved by the supervisor. This communication may be by way of email, telephone, or in person.

The dissertation may consist of any type of research work approved by the Faculty, for example: (i) an article suitable for publication in a refereed legal journal approved by the Faculty; or (ii) an empirical study of the operation of particular legal doctrines or legislation; or (iii) draft legislation with an appropriate commentary. Depending on its nature, the length of the dissertation may range between 15,000 and 25,000 words (including tables and figures but not including appendices). A dissertation which takes a position and marshals available legal materials in support of that position is preferred to one which simply describes the law.

The style guide used for the dissertation shall be consistent with the tradition of the discipline. Students are referred to the University Calendar Guidelines on the Preparation of Dissertations for the cover, flypage, body of dissertation and spine.

SUBMISSION OF DISSERTATION

(i) Two copies of dissertation in temporary form shall be presented by the date for submission of thesis.  
(ii) Three permanently bound copies of the typed and bound dissertation shall be presented to the Chair,
Faculty Research and Higher Degrees Committee before the award of the degree. The binding of these copies will be in red cloth with gold lettering. Students are referred to the University Calendar Guidelines on the Preparation of Research Dissertations.

10 A dissertation supervisor will be assigned by the Dean to each student in this unit prior to the date indicated for item 1 of the 'Assessment Details'.

11 The Dean will appoint two examiners (the supervisor of the dissertation may be appointed as an examiner), who will grade the typed Dissertation.

12 In the case where the two examiners are in disagreement concerning the grade to be awarded for the course, the matter will be referred to a third examiner who will make a casting decision.