Description: Psychology Honours Project 1

<table>
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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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<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>4001</td>
<td>10515</td>
<td>1, 2002</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>TW MBA</td>
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Academic Group: FOSCI
Academic Org: FOS005
HECS Band: 1
ASCED Code: 090701

STAFFING
Examiner: Nola Passmore
Moderator: Tony Machin

RATIONALE
Psychologists in professional practice or research must be able to conduct a substantial empirical scientific study concerning the application of psychological knowledge and techniques and then write a report of sufficient academic rigour to be published and distributed such that they are worthy of the consideration of their professional colleagues.

SYNOPSIS
This is the first of three courses that contribute towards the Psychology Honours Project. The overall project will involve an individual piece of research in a selected area of psychology in which information concerning an approved research topic is gathered, organised, analysed and discussed in a critical and evaluative manner. The study requires advanced knowledge of statistics and research methodology. In this first course, students are required to decide on a topic in conjunction with their supervisor, submit a brief research proposal and an application for ethical clearance, and begin the initial stages of the research project.

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

- formulate a research question and/or hypotheses based on previous literature in the chosen field;
- choose an appropriate methodology that will address the particular research question and/or hypotheses;
- obtain and/or develop any materials necessary for the conduct of the project (e.g., questionnaires, software, psychological tests);
• understand potential practical problems that may eventuate in the conduct of the project, and be able to develop contingency plans to deal with these potential problems;
• understand ethical issues inherent in the chosen project, and be able to address ethical issues in a manner that is consistent with Australian Psychological Society guidelines;
• write a brief research proposal that outlines the rationale for the study, the proposed methodology, budget considerations, and other practical concerns;
• complete an application for ethics clearance of a research project that uses human or animal participants.

TOPICS

Description Weighting (%)  
1. To be determined by the student in consultation with his/her supervisor. 100.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.


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.

Reference materials will depend on the particular topic under investigation. While different types of materials may be consulted, depending on the nature of the topic, it is envisaged that psychology journal articles will make up the bulk of the reference materials.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>13</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<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>RESEARCH PROPOSAL</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<td>ETHICS PROPOSAL</td>
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<td>PROGRESS REPORT</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
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NOTES:
1. Further details about the due dates are detailed in the assessment section of the Course Specifications.
2. Further details about the due dates are detailed in the assessment section of the Course Specifications.
3. Further details about the due dates are detailed in the assessment section of the Course Specifications.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Lists of available supervisors and projects/topics will be available at the start of the semester. Students should discuss potential topics with suitable staff members as soon as possible. In some cases, supervisors may be willing to supervise a different topic of the student's choice, though staff are under no obligation to do so.
2. Students are strongly advised to maintain regular contact with their supervisor. Students should carefully read the information pertaining to the supervisor-student relationship contained in the 2002 Psychology 4th Year Handbook.
3. Detailed instructions regarding the Research Proposal and Ethics Application are given in the 2002 Psychology 4th Year Handbook. Students must familiarise themselves with these instructions and ensure that their proposal and ethics application meet all guidelines.
4. Students are not allowed to begin data collection until their research proposal and ethics application have been approved in writing.
5. While all students must submit a research proposal and ethics application, the other research tasks that will be accomplished during the semester will depend on the nature and time line of the particular project. Early in the semester, the student and his/her supervisor must decide on specific objectives for the course. These objectives should be put in writing and a copy kept by the student and the supervisor. Tasks may involve such things as writing a first draft of the literature review, developing materials, collecting data, or other research activities specified by the supervisor. When preparing drafts, please consult the 2002 Psychology 4th Year Handbook for details of requirements. At the end of the semester, the student and supervisor will review the student's progress in meeting objectives and will complete a Progress Report to be submitted to the examiner in Week 14. A blank copy of this Progress Report is contained in the 2002 Psychology 4th Year Handbook.
Although not directly assessed, students are strongly advised to attend all workshops pertaining to the Psychology Honours Project and to regularly check messages on the course newsgroup. Details regarding workshops and the newsgroup will be given to students at the start of semester.

Extensions for the Research Proposal and Ethics Application will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Applications for extensions must be endorsed by the supervisor, and submitted in writing to the examiner. See the 2002 4th Year Psychology Handbook for more information. The supervisor and student may negotiate extensions for other work not related to the Research Proposal and Ethics Application. However, such extensions would usually only be given if there were extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. If extenuating circumstances are likely to severely disrupt the student's progress, the student and supervisor should inform the examiner as soon as possible so that suitable options can be discussed.

If the research proposal and ethics application are approved and the student's progress report is deemed satisfactory by the student's supervisor and the course examiner, the student will be awarded an interim grade of SP, indicating satisfactory performance in the course. Please note that the mark of 1 awarded for each of these pieces of assessment is just a nominal mark to indicate that the assessment piece has been received and is deemed to be satisfactory. When the Psychology Research Project has been assessed in its entirety, the grade of SP will be changed to the final grade. For example, if the student receives an HD for his/her dissertation at the completion of Psychology Honours Project 3, then the grade of SP for Psychology Honours Project 1 would be changed to an HD.