The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Psychology Masters Project B

<table>
<thead>
<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>PSY</td>
<td>8170</td>
<td>18151</td>
<td>3, 2002</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>TWMBB</td>
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Academic Group: FOSCI
Academic Org: FOS005
HECS Band: 1
ASCED Code: 090701

STAFFING
Examiner: Paul Bramston
Moderator: Peter Terry

PRE-REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: PSY 8020 and PSY 8160

RATIONALE
The scientist-practitioner model of professional practice in psychology has broad consensual acceptance within the profession. It follows that students must be able to conduct a substantial empirical project concerned with the application of theory in a selected area. This course gives them the opportunity to do so in a supervised, learning environment.

SYNOPSIS
This is the second of two courses that contribute to the Psychology Masters Project. The course will consist of an individual empirical project in a selected area of psychology of relevance to the student's chosen specialisation. Under the supervision of a staff member, the student will design the study based on a review of appropriate literature, collect and analyse data and write a report normally of 9,000 to 15,000 words (but not exceeding 20,000 words). It is expected that the report of the project would be of sufficient standard to be accepted for publication in a professional journal.

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

- demonstrate the ability to think analytically, critically and creatively about a chosen research topic and related issues within the area of specialisation chosen;
- demonstrate competence in each component of empirical research procedures, viz; identify and analyse research problems, formulate hypotheses, operationalise
research procedures, collect relevant data, carry out appropriate analysis of data, interpret results obtained, and draw appropriate conclusions.

- competently write a report of a research project to communicate all aspects of the project to professional peers.

**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. To be determined by the student in consultation with his/her supervisor.</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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**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.


**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>56</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>DISSERTATION (MAX. 20,000 WORD)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1. The supervisor will approve the dissertation for examination. The dissertation will be sent to two readers (at least one will be external) for evaluation. A decision will be determined on the basis of the consensus of both of the reviewers' evaluations (pass, revisions required, failed). Students will be provided with a copy of the Psychology Department's "Preparing a Dissertation - Guidelines for successfully completing Psychology Masters Projects A & B" and will be expected to follow the procedures therein.

2. The report will conform with guidelines on the content, style and format of reports issued from time to time by either the USQ or the Psychology Department.

3. Reports will be marked by two examiners; one external to the USQ, and the other a staff member who was not the supervisor. In the event of substantial discrepancy between the markers, a second internal examiner will mark the report.
4 It is the student's responsibility to attend classes to ensure that they have the best chance to meet the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

5 The due date for assessments is the date by which a student must despatch an assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. In accordance with the University's Policy on Assignments (Regulation 5.6.1), the Examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. This policy may be found in the USQ Handbook, the Distance Education Study Guide and the Faculty of Sciences' Orientation Handbook for new on-campus students. All students are advised to study and follow the guidelines associated with this policy. An extension will be considered in extraordinary circumstances only. The extension will not be granted beyond six weeks after the end of the semester.