Description: Psychology Doctorate Project D

<table>
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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>8604</td>
<td>18156</td>
<td>3, 2002</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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Academic Group: FOSCI  
Academic Org: FOS005  
HECS Band: 1  
ASCED Code: 090701

STAFFING

Examiner: Peter Terry  
Moderator: Grace Pretty

PRE-REQUISITES

Co-requisite: PSY 8603

RATIONALE

The scholar-practitioner model of training in psychology has broad consensual acceptance within the applied profession. The professional doctorate therefore requires the student to be proficient in applied research skills to conduct a substantial program of research concerning a meaningful problem within the practice of psychology. This course gives the student the opportunity to develop skills in reporting on and critically examining the findings from the program of research conducted in Psychology Doctorate Project B and Project C.

SYNOPSIS

This is the fourth of four project courses that contribute to the professional doctorate. This course involves the completion of the research component as outlined in the proposal submitted in Project A and conducted in the studies in Project B and Project C. The student will be expected to exhibit competence in using the appropriate analytical procedures to examine the hypotheses guiding the research program, reporting and integrating the results of the studies completed, critically examining the findings in terms of theoretical underpinnings of the research, previous findings, methodological issues, and directions for future study. When required, it is also expected that the student will use qualitative and quantitative techniques to triangulate sources of evidence and substantiate the thesis arguments. A written report (up to 30,000 words) will be submitted for examination and an oral presentation of findings will be required. The quality of the dissertation will meet the standard of a good refereed journal in its field.
OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate competencies in critically reviewing literature and competently conducting research projects to address theoretical and practical questions and issues in the field as identified in the Australian Psychological Society Competencies for Psychologists (1996) and the following research competencies identified for the related Colleges of Community, Health and Sport Psychology:

- demonstrate analytical, critical and creative thinking in postulating research hypotheses and problems;
- operationalise research procedures; triangulate sources of evidence; report and critically examine findings;
- postulate new directions of research and new unsolved problems;
- suggest new paradigms and methods of investigation and;
- present findings and ideas for future research in a professional and scientific manner.

TOPICS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. To be determined by the supervisor after consultation with the student.</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>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>130</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<th>Wtg(%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>DISSERTATION</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<td>07 Feb 2003</td>
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OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. It is the student's responsibility to attend recommended classes and workshops 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.

2. This course will be completed over two consecutive semesters. Students will be given an IDM grade at the end of the first semester of their enrolment in the course.

3. The Dissertation 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.

4. The Dissertation (up to 30,000 words) will be sent to two external markers. According to their evaluation, the outcome will be: that the dissertation be accepted as satisfactory for the award of the degree; that the dissertation be accepted as satisfactory for the award of the degree subject to the completion of specified minor revisions to the satisfaction of the University of Southern Queensland; (These revisions might involve minor editorial changes, improvement of expression, better presentation of data, etc. In some cases, where English is the candidate's second language, there might be the need for considerable editing); that one or more sections of the dissertation be rewritten prior to the resubmission of the dissertation for re-examination; (These revisions might include structural changes to the dissertation and/or revisions on the basis of conceptual, methodological or analytical discussion of the data); that the dissertation be rejected and the degree not be awarded.

5. If revisions are required, the student will revise the dissertation accordingly and will resubmit it to his/her principal supervisor with a letter indicating the changes that have been made. The supervisor will inform the Departmental Research & Higher Degrees Committee about the progress and quality of the revisions made. The Departmental Research & Higher Degrees Committee will then decide to Pass or Fail the student.

6. 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 period will not last beyond the end of the fourth week after the end of the examination period of the semester.