The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Communication and Environment

<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>3010</td>
<td>25094</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>TWMBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Group: FOART
Academic Org: FOA004
HECS Band: 1
ASCED Code: 100700

STAFFING
Examiner: Karey Harrison
Moderator: Bruce Horsfield

SYNOPSIS
Concern about environmental issues is fuelling vigorous policy debates. These debates raise questions concerning the social and ethical limits of technology, the role of science in decision-making, and the development of a just and sustainable world. From a communication perspective, the environment question can be viewed in terms of how the knowledge, values and opinions underlying current debates are socially constructed. What changes in social values are manifest in the environment debates? What forums and institutions provide the communicative conditions for information and discussion to take place? This course will address these questions.

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

- identify the ideological factors which naturalise and legitimate environmentally negative practices.
- analyse the ways these ideological factors constrain the terms in which environmental issues are debated.
- identify rhetorical strategies with the potential to transform the terms in which environmental disputes are cast.
- critically examine their own ideological heritage with respect to its environmental impact.
TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The social construction of knowledge: disciplinary discourses and social</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>values.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A communications perspective on the representational structuring of</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ideology in language and the media.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Values, institutional practices, and environmental impact.</td>
<td>45.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOURNAL 1</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>22 Aug 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT PROPOSAL</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>12 Sep 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOURNAL 2</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>31 Oct 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA ANALYSES</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>31 Oct 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECISION ANALYSES</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>31 Oct 2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this external course. However, it is the
   students’ responsibility 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 complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at
   least a grade of C- for each assessment item.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval, then a
   penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each
   of the first FIVE working days late, after which a zero mark will be given.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the
   summative assessment items and achieve at least a C- for each item.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be calculated by aggregating the weighted result
   for each summative assessment item.

6 Examination information:
   There is no exam for this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course.
   However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted
   by a date set by the examiner.

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/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the
   current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch
   the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the
despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of
   each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if
   required by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University’s Assignment Extension
   Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the
due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented
   ill-health. (d) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in
   the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course
   within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM
   (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of
the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (e) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Students may need to interview the people involved in the decision they choose for their Decision analysis. The interview techniques must meet University ethical requirements and the examiner must be satisfied that these are met.