STAFFING
Examiner: Julianne Stewart
Moderator: Karey Harrison

SYNOPSIS
This 2 unit course enables students enrolled in the Master of Professional Communication degree to complete their dissertation under supervision. The dissertation shall consist of a 12,000-15,000 word assignment on a topic which was chosen by the student during the course CMS8001. This course continues on from the work commenced in CMS8001. Successful completion of this course normally leads to the award of Master of Professional Communication.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:
- continue to undertake independent research on the topic commenced in CMS8002;
- collect, present and analyse data relevant to the research topic;
- write, edit and present in publishable form a completed dissertation of 12,000 to 15,000 words ready for submission to dissertation examiners.

TOPICS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Data collection/selection</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Data presentation, analysis and discussion</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Summarising, drawing conclusions, making recommendations</td>
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STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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<td>Supervisor</td>
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<td>Consultation</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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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 50% of the marks available 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 a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative
   assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in
   relation to the objectives of the course by obtaining at least 50% of the total
   weighted marks for all summative assessment.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate
   of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in
   the course.

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 Assessment of the dissertation shall be carried out by two persons, one of whom may be a qualified member of staff of the University of Southern Queensland who is not the student's supervisor and one of whom must be a suitably qualified person who is external to the University of Southern Queensland and who is not the student's supervisor. Where the examiners differ on the grade to be awarded the final award shall be determined by the Chair of the Honours and Postgraduate Committee of the Department of Mass Communication.

2 The dissertation shall be typed and bound and shall conform with the Faculty of Arts style guide for the presentation of theses and dissertations.

3 A public seminar presentation may be required at the time of the submission of the dissertation for assessment.

4 Students should consult regularly with their supervisor.
Where work for this course requires surveys or interviews to be conducted, the course examiner must be satisfied that the methods used reflect University Research Ethics requirements.