The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Specialist Counselling Topics

<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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<tr>
<td>COU</td>
<td>8250</td>
<td>24543</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>TWMBA</td>
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Academic Group: FOSCI
Academic Org: FOS005
HECS Band: 1
ASCED Code: 090513

STAFFING
Examiner: Nola Passmore
Moderator: Paul Bramston

RATIONALE
The Master of Counselling course is designed specifically for students who wish to pursue a career in counselling. This course gives them the opportunity to explore a specific area of counselling in-depth and provides a thorough background for those who wish to specialise in a particular area.

SYNOPSIS
This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to explore an area of interest via the conduct of a community project. There is some flexibility as to what the project will look like for each student but it is expected that students will have to conduct some research into the community agency they are working with, research into the project they wish to implement, liaise with community workers and clients, implement their project and formally evaluate their work and experience.

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

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the organisational and other external factors that may impact upon the counselling services provided by that organisation.

TOPICS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. (Weeks One and Two) Students will be required to read the study material and reflect upon what they consider to be the key elements to the counselling</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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process. They will take time to consider the external factors, particularly organisational factors that impact upon the counselling process. Students will be presented with a case example of counselling services provided, and the organisational structure within which this counselling service operates.

2. (Weeks Three and Four) Students are expected to conduct an online discussion regarding the organisational factors within the case study that impact upon the counselling services they provide. They will be expected to compare and contrast the two examples. During this time students are required to form pairs with another student and together consider an example of a counselling service (and the organisational structure within which it exists) from their local community that they are particularly interested in.

3. (Weeks Five and Six) Students are to consider a local example and submit a proposal (individually) to their lecturer regarding the service they wish to examine, the organisation within which it exists and the key questions they are trying to answer in their examination. A formal proposal, including a signed consent form from the person within the organisation each student wishes to interview is to be submitted to the University by the end of week six.

4. (Weeks Seven and Eight) Students are to be working on their close examination of the organisation they have chosen. They are expected to do a literature search to see what has been written about similar counselling services and organisations. They are also required to conduct their professional interview during this time.

5. (Week Nine) Students are to work with their partner, discussing the information each of them received in the professional interviews with two different people from within the same organisation.

6. (Weeks Ten to Twelve) Students are to write up their report (individually), conducting further research where appropriate. The final project is to be submitted by the conclusion of week twelve.

7. (Week Thirteen) Students will explore what they have learned and how their learning can be extrapolated and applied to other contexts.

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>60</td>
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</table>
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>DISCUSSION GROUP PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT PROP</td>
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<td>30.00</td>
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<td>WRITTEN PROJECT</td>
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<td>50.00</td>
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<td>24 Oct 2003</td>
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NOTES:
1. Including signed consent form.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   International students must attend all activities scheduled for them and ensure that their attendance is registered with the staff member in charge of the activity.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   Students need to gain at least 50% of the marks available for an assessment item to be deemed to have performed satisfactorily on that assessment item. Students must also participate on the discussion list on a weekly basis to be deemed to have performed satisfactorily on the discussion group satisfactorily.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 5% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of a passing grade in this course, students must perform satisfactorily on each assessment item and attend the Residential School in Singapore and obtain an overall mark of at least 60%.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   Final grades for students will be determined by the addition of the marks obtained in each assessment item, weighted as in the Assessment Details.

6. Examination information:
   There is no examination in this course.

7. Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

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  The proposal requires students to thoroughly outline the counselling project they wish to undertake. A rationale for their project must be provided and the approval of the person(s) they wish to interview must be included. The key stakeholders and the process to be followed must be detailed.

10 The written assignment must include an outline of the actual process. The requirements of the evaluation will be covered in the course material.

11 Students will require access to email and internet access to USQConnect for this course. A discussion group will be set up on the WWW and students are expected to participate on a weekly basis and in particular in weeks three and four. This is to provide students with an opportunity to share their experiences, raise concerns and share information. The discussion list submissions will be approximately 300 words. Each person must submit at least 5 entries to receive the marks for these contributions. Students will not be awarded a passing grade if they do not participate on the discussion list on a weekly basis.

12 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.

13 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner.