The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Research Methods

<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>EDU</td>
<td>8603</td>
<td>24912</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>TWMBA</td>
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Academic Group: FOEDU
Academic Org: FOE002
HECS Band: 1
ASCED Code: 070303

STAFFING

Examiner: Bruce Waldrip
Moderator: Rick Churchill

PRE-REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in Program: DEDU

RATIONALE

Many advanced research methods courses have focused on the paradigm approach to research and there are varying interpretations of paradigm theory in education. Some researchers, conversely, have set out a critical argument in opposition to paradigm theory and offer a more holistic, coherent view which opens up educational problems to psychologists, ethnographers, classroom teachers, educational administrators and researchers from other disciplines. The relationship between philosophy and educational research will be addressed together with the principles and logic of inquiry as it applies to education. It is anticipated that students will have different levels of research training and experience and, therefore, the course is designed to be sufficiently flexible to incorporate these differences and varied needs. Collaborative, problem-solving research groupings comprised of students and staff will be promoted throughout the course.

SYNOPSIS

This course will provide an opportunity for doctoral students to study current ideas about educational research and to develop appropriate research skills. These skills will enable students to complete a significant thesis or folio in the final stages of the Doctor of Education. This course will comprise the nature of inquiry in education and educational research methods. The design of each student's course will be negotiated between the student and the Course Examiner. Students and staff will be grouped according to their needs in collaborative, problem-solving research groupings. Assessment will be completed in the areas of inquiry and methodology. Studies in this course of the professional doctorate will
support the research needs of each student vis-a-vis their specialisation and thesis/folio requirements.

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

- The principles and logic of inquiry into education.
- The relationship between philosophy/epistemology and educational research.
- Contemporary ideas about educational research.
- The differences between humanistic; scientific/analytical and critical research methods.
- The requirements of different research methodologies by selecting appropriate research approaches to perform required analyses.
- The methodological problems posed by the gap between research and practice in education.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The History of Educational Research; Epistemological Issues in Educational Research; Ethics in Education Research; Educational Research Methods; Measurement in Educational Research; Humanistic, Scientific/Analytical and Critical Methods; Tutorial Presentation; Critical Reviews of Published Research.</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.

Students will select readings that are appropriate for their research requirements.


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY HOURS
Assessment 140
Directed Study 100
Private Study 80

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>CRITIQUES</td>
<td>999.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<td>31 Oct 2003 (see note )</td>
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<td>CRITICAL REVIEWS</td>
<td>999.00</td>
<td>90.00</td>
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<td>31 Oct 2003</td>
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NOTES:
. Letter grades will be used in this course and will be displayed in the Notes Section.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this 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 (or 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 the course examiner may decline to mark such assignments.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   As P is the only passing grade available for this course, all students who are qualified for a passing grade as in Assessment 4 will be given a grade of P. Other students will be given either a Failing grade or an Incomplete grade.

6 Examination information:
   (e) 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

1. 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.

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

3. The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

4. The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile.

5. In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.

6. Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). 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.

7. Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a 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).

8. When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distributed patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.

9. Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.

10. All assessment items must be attempted/submitted with a pass overall gained.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Students will require access to e-mail and internet access to USQConnect for this course.