The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Project and Dissertation

<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>ENG</td>
<td>8002</td>
<td>24741</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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Academic Group: FOENS
Academic Org: FOENSV
HECS Band: 2
ASCED Code: 039999

STAFFING
Examiner: John Grant-Thomson
Moderator: Nigel Hancock

PRE-REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: ENG8001

OTHER-REQUISITES
Prerequisites 79992

RATIONALE
It is essential that graduates of Masters degree programmes in engineering should not only possess a comprehensive knowledge of their subject areas but should also be able to apply that knowledge to the solution of problems. The Project and Dissertation course builds on the work undertaken in "ENG8001 Engineering and Surveying Research Methodology" and develops further the students' skills in research and the development of a solution to an engineering problem. At this level, students are expected to be able to plan effectively, to adhere to prescribed timelines and to display initiative.

SYNOPSIS
This course provides a vehicle for students to apply their formal knowledge to the solution of an engineering problem. With appropriate supervision, students will define and analyse the problem, and then develop and evaluate possible solutions. Where possible, the solution to the problem will be trialed using appropriate hardware. Students are expected to produce an accurate and detailed written account of their work.

OBJECTIVES
On completion of this course, students should be able to:
• define and investigate engineering problems;
• develop and evaluate possible solutions to engineering problems;
• identify and plan the activities necessary to implement a solution to an engineering problem;
• undertake a complex task over a period of time with minimal guidance and supervision;
• present an accurate, written account of an extensive and complicated body of work.

TOPICS

Description Weighting (%)

1. Students will undertake an individual, generally open ended project which will encompass a range of engineering skills appropriate to the student’s major study. Activities may include: planning and management; investigation; feasibility assessment; experimental work and trialing; fieldwork; data analysis; design; prototype construction and testing; simulation and modelling; financial analysis. The work will be undertaken with the guidance of a supervisor or supervisors, normally appointed from the academic staff of the Faculty. Sponsors and supervisors external to the Faculty may also be involved. On conclusion of the project, students will be required to present a dissertation on their work.

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.

The project will require full use of the resources of the Library eg literature searches, research papers, journals and trade literature files.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Work</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report Writing</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Tutorial</td>
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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>DISSERTATION &amp; DEMONSTRATIONS</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>21 Nov 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEMINAR</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
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NOTES:

Students must present their seminar before the due date. To do this they must negotiate the date for their seminar with the course examiner.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   (a) 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. (b) Students must attend and complete the requirements of the Workplace Health and Safety training program for this course before they are able to undertake any practical work in the laboratories.

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:
   Students who do not submit the completed project by the due date will normally be graded F in this course.

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 satisfactorily completing all summative assessment items (seminar and dissertation), as stated in 2 above.

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 examination in this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Not applicable.

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 SEMINARS (a) The student shall present a seminar which must be of a satisfactory standard. (b) A student whose seminar is not of a satisfactory standard shall present further seminar(s) until a satisfactory standard is achieved.

2 SUBMISSION (a) Students may submit a single copy of their dissertation for assessment purposes. This copy must be bound to at least comb, spiral or equivalent standard. (b) Amendments suggested by the examiners must be made to the satisfaction of the supervisor before hardback copies of the dissertation are submitted. Before a passing grade is awarded three copies of the amended dissertation must be submitted in the required format as specified in the course materials. (c) A dissertation that is not in the required format will not be assessed.

3 ASSESSMENT (a) Assessment of the project and dissertation shall be with respect to the final version of the individual project specification and will take into account the degree of difficulty of the work. (b) Project assessment may also involve demonstration of hardware constructed, software written and/or inspection of fieldwork as appropriate. (c) At least two members of academic staff shall perform the assessment, one of whom will normally be the supervisor. In the case of any dispute that cannot be resolved by the assistant examiners or examiner, the Dean's decision shall be final.

4 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.

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

6 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. A deadline other than the normal one stated in the Assessment Details above may be agreed with the examiner and supervisor at the commencement of the project. With the agreement of both the examiner and project supervisor, the deadline may be varied during the course of the project provided application is made to the examiner in writing or by email in advance of the deadline in force.

7 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media.

8 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.

9 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).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 TOPICS AND SUPERVISORS (a) Both project topics and supervisors will be allocated by the examiner on the advice of one of the assistant examiners depending on the student's major study, staff availability for supervision and, where practicable, student preferences. (b) The student shall communicate with the supervisor at regular intervals, normally weekly, or as indicated by the supervisor and keep whatever records of progress the supervisor may require (eg a log book).

2 PROJECT SPECIFICATION (a) An individual project specification will be developed and written by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor for each project endorsed by the student and lodged with the examiner. Normally this specification will be based on the proposal developed in "ENG8001 Research in Engineering". (b) A revised project specification may be written during the course of the project if the work diverges significantly from the original project conception. (c) The project specification will be used for management and assessment purposes throughout the duration of the project.

3 LIMITATIONS ON USE OF PROJECT WORK (a) The Council of the University of Southern Queensland, its Faculty of Engineering and Surveying, and the staff of the University of Southern Queensland, do not accept any responsibility for the material associated with or contained in this project. (b) Persons using all or any part of the project do so at their own risk, and not at the risk of the Council of the University of Southern Queensland, its Faculty of Engineering and Surveying or the staff of the University of Southern Queensland. The sole purpose of the course entitled "Project and Dissertation" is to contribute to the overall education process which may assist the graduate enter the workforce at a level appropriate to the award. (c) The dissertation is the end of an educational exercise and the body of the report, associated hardware, drawings, and other appendices or parts of the project should not be used for any other purpose and, if used, are used at the risk of the user.