STAFFING
Examiner: Kymberlee Simpson
Moderator: Boyd Scheuber

RATIONALE
Superannuation plays a major role in Government's retirement income policy. The ageing of the Australian population, increasing life spans, earlier retirement patterns and community expectations of higher living standards in retirement have all contributed to the strain on the provision of the old age pensions issued by the Government. The Government is now keen to encourage greater provision for retirement, and superannuation is seen as a suitable vehicle for these savings. The Government aims to increase retirement savings by offering tax assistance to superannuation savings, with compulsory superannuation savings in the form of the Superannuation Guarantee Charge and with tax rebates on Superannuation contributions.

SYNOPSIS
Superannuation legislation has played a major role in the development of financial planning. This course provides a comprehensive review of the superannuation and social security industry in Australia. This course is aimed at helping you devise strategies to use in both the accumulation phase and the retirement phase in order to maximise benefits.

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

- gain an overview of the Australian superannuation industry, including trends in the industry, the importance of the growth in superannuation and the policy drivers behind such growth;
- explain the industry structure with regards to types of benefits and types of fund arrangements, as well as the main participants and their roles in the superannuation industry;
• detail the main elements of the regulation of the superannuation industry, also looking at disclosure and compliance regulations, and the role of different government agencies in the superannuation industry;
• outline the various ways in which individuals and employers can contribute to superannuation;
• look at the various investment strategies of superannuation funds and the decision-making process of individuals making their own choice of investment strategy;
• identify situations where tax deductions and rebates are available to individuals and employers as a result of contributing to superannuation, and calculate the relevant amounts;
• outline various ways in which payments can be made from superannuation funds, and the features attached to all of these methods, and recognise the circumstances in which certain superannuation and retirement income types are suitable for particular investors;
• apply the basic tax assessment rules to retirement income categories;
• assess the effects of Social Security treatment of retirement income streams;
• outline requirements and strategies included in establishing a self managed superannuation fund;
• discuss special issues involved in superannuation such as divorce and death.

TOPICS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. The Superannuation Environment</td>
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<td>2. Superannuation: The Regulatory Environment</td>
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<td>3. Contributions to Superannuation</td>
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<td>4. Investment Basics and Taxation of Superannuation Funds</td>
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<td>5. Withdrawal of Benefits from Superannuation</td>
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<td>6. Retirement Incomes</td>
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<td>7. Social Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Retirement Strategies</td>
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<td>9. Self-Managed Superannuation</td>
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<td>10. Special Issues in Superannuation</td>
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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

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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<td>Directed Study</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<th>Due Date</th>
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<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
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<td>EXAMINATION (3 HOURS)</td>
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<td>60.00</td>
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NOTES:
The examination is scheduled to be held in the end-of-semester examination period. Students will be advised of the official examination date after the timetable has been finalised.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   If you are an International student in Australia it is a requirement of your student visa that you attend all classes at your campus. For all other students, 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 assignments satisfactorily, students must attempt all questions. To complete the examination satisfactorily, students must obtain a passing grade.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval by the Examiner, a penalty of 20% of the total marks gained by the student 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 receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the summative assessment items, achieve at least 50% in the examination and at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

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:
This is a restricted examination. Candidates are allowed access to specific materials during the examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the restricted examination for this course are: writing materials (non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination); calculators which cannot hold textual information (students must indicate on their examination paper the make and model of any calculator(s) they use during the examination). Students are not permitted to take mobile telephones, pagers or other electronic means of communication into the examination room.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.

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. Students should also read The Guide to Policies and Procedures of the Faculty which can be found at the URL: http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/2003/business/polproc/index.htm or in the printed version of the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 Assignments: (i) 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. (ii) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner. (iii) The Examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. All applications for extensions must be accompanied by supporting documentation. In all circumstances no assignments will be accepted two calendar weeks after the due date. The Examiner shall consider the statement accompanying a late assignment and decide on the outcome. (iv) The Examiner will not accept submission of assignments by facsimile. (v) Assignments are to be submitted in the appropriate assignment folders.

2 Course Weightings: Course weightings of topics should not be interpreted as applying to the number of marks allocated to questions testing those topics in an examination paper. The examination may test material already tested in assignments.

3 Dishonest Actions: (i) Any student who is alleged to have performed a dishonest action relating to any assessment in the course will have a course of action taken
against him/her as outlined in the Academic Regulations. (ii) Pieces of assessment should be the work of individual students. Joint pieces of assessment are not permitted unless written approval has been obtained from the Examiner. (iii) Dishonest action in relation to assessment includes: copying or attempting to copy the work of others; use of or attempting to use information prohibited from use in that form of assessment; submitting the work of another as your own; consciously committing acts of plagiarism, ie taking and using another's thoughts or writings as one's own with intent to deceive, which occurs when paragraphs, sentences, a single sentence or significant parts of a sentence which are copied directly, are not enclosed in quotation marks and appropriately footnoted or referenced in the text; direct quotations are not used, but text is paraphrased or summarised, and the source of the material is not acknowledged by footnoting or other reference in the text.

4 Deferred Examinations: (i) Deferred examinations will be granted based on non-attendance for medical reasons, family/personal reasons, or employment-related reasons. Deferred examinations must be recommended by the Faculty Assessment Coordinator and approved by the Examiner or Moderator or Dean's Nominee. If a deferred examination is granted, students shall sit the deferred examination in the next semester examination period. If, for whatever reason, this deferred examination is not taken then the student will be graded 'F'. (ii) To be eligible for consideration for a deferred examination, students must have submitted a genuine attempt at all mandatory assessment items. (iii) Deferral of an examination CANNOT be granted on an existing deferral in that course. (iv) Requests must be in writing to the Faculty Assessment Coordinator clearly stating student name, student number, current address, course alpha-numeric identifier and name for the examination not attended. (v) Requests MUST BE supported by original or suitably authenticated documentation. (vi) Requests and documentation must be submitted to the Faculty Assessment Coordinator within ten (10) calendar days of the missed examination date. (vii) Requests based on medical reasons must be supported by medical evidence on the appropriate University of Southern Queensland medical certificate or doctor's certificate. A medical certificate must be dated with the same date as the period of illness for which the absence from examination is being sought and clearly indicate the student's name and, if possible, student number (retrospective medical certificates will not be accepted for either assignment work or examinations). Only original or authenticated medical certificates will be accepted. A student's medical condition must be stated clearly (IN ENGLISH). (Certificates stating a student has a 'medical condition' may not be sufficient grounds for deferment of examination). Medical evidence must cover the student for the day(s) of the missed examination(s). (viii) Requests based on family/personal reasons must be supported by a clear statement (IN ENGLISH) from a medical practitioner, counsellor or independent member of the community. (ix) Requests based on employment-related reasons must be supported by a clear statement (IN ENGLISH) from the student's employer. (x) Students who have a medical condition or genuine compassionate or employment-related problems on the day of the examination are advised to obtain the relevant documentary evidence and NOT attempt the examination. If a student makes an attempt at the examination, the assessment item will be marked and a grade awarded. In these cases, a student cannot, after receiving a 'fail' grade, request a deferred examination or special consideration. (xi) Students who have been granted deferred examinations will not be granted a waiver of
prerequisites, without the permission of the Head of Department, in subsequent semesters (if they do not have a passing grade).