The University of Southern Queensland
Course Specification

Description: Decision Support Systems

<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>
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<tr>
<td>MGT</td>
<td>3102</td>
<td>24176</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Academic Group: FOBUS
Academic Org: FOB002
HECS Band: 2
ASCED Code: 020307

STAFFING
Examiner: Latif Al-Hakim
Moderator: Mehryar Nooriafshar

PRE-REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: STA2300

RATIONALE
Increasingly, decision makers complain that they are ‘data rich but information poor’. Decision making is one of the key activities supported by an organization's information system. The aim of this course is to provide students with the framework for the definition and development of decision support systems. The course comprises course work and assignment work where DSS software is applied to realistic business problems. Students will be expected to have continuous access to an IBM/PC or compatible, running Windows as an operating system.

SYNOPSIS
This course introduces the concepts involved in combining Information Systems technology with managerial decision processes, working towards supporting decision making throughout organizations. The course comprises course work relating to the nature of decision making, the analysis and design of decision support systems and construction of a DSS using a suitable software package. Access to electronic information services through the USQconnect system is assumed.

OBJECTIVES
Completion of this course students will enable students to:

- Describe decision support systems and their potential contribution to management;
  This encompasses Decision Support System (DSS), Group Support System (GSS),
Enterprise Decision Support System (EDSS), Executive Information System (EIS) and Export System (ES);

- demonstrate understanding of the development and implementation of computer-based support systems;
- understand the way in which information systems and associated technologies can be applied within an organisation; and
- evaluate the application of a decision support system in a specific area and its implications for management.

**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Information and decision-making - computer support for managers</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Use of models in decision-making</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Decision support systems - definition and structure</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Collaboration, communication, enterprise decision support systems, and knowledge management</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. DSS and intelligent systems</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Implementation, integration and future directions</td>
<td>15.00</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.

Software: Students must purchase a copy of the student version of DSS by Corporate Modelling Systems, Perth, from the University Bookshop. See Introductory Book for details.


(revised edition)


**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Work</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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSS REPORT</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19 Sep 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITERATURE REVIEW/REPORT</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>24 Oct 2003</td>
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<td>3 HOUR EXAMINATION</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>50.00</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 the assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for the assignments in aggregate. To complete the examination satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for the examination.

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 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 attempt all of the summative assessment items, achieve an aggregated mark of at least 50% in the total marks allocated for the assignments, 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 closed examination. Candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination.

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/title663.html 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. Students may apply for an assignment extension by contacting the Distance Education Centre before the due date or by including application with the submitted assignment after the due date. Such applications should be in writing and include supporting documentary evidence. The authority for granting extensions rests with the relevant Examiner.

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.