The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Research Methodology

<table>
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<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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<td>MGT</td>
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<td>24267</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</td>
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Academic Group: FOBUS
Academic Org: FOBUSN
HECS Band: 2
ASCED Code: 080399

STAFFING
Examiner: Julie Cotter

RATIONALE
The course provides students with the ability to evaluate critically research reports including consultant's reports and journal articles in order to determine useable knowledge. In addition, the course will provide students with the principles of research to enable them to conduct research and prepare an original proposal and project in their professional area of interest.

SYNOPSIS
This course is designed to enable a student to use information systems in the research process of knowledge creation appropriate to their discipline area; select and apply various processes of knowledge creation to their discipline area; propose and justify an appropriate research design for a particular research problem; choose and apply an appropriate research methodology; judge the degree to which conclusions are supported by data; judge the logical consistency of written material and evaluate the outcome of a research project (paper) in terms of usable knowledge; and design, defend and evaluate research proposals.

OBJECTIVES
Successful completion of this course will enable a student to:

- comprehend the philosophy of knowledge creation;
- use information systems in the research processes of knowledge creation appropriate to their discipline area;
- select and apply various processes of knowledge creation to their discipline area;
- propose and justify an appropriate research design for a particular research problem;
- choose and apply an appropriate research methodology and analysis to a particular research problem;
- judge the degree to which conclusions are supported by data;
• judge the logical consistency of written material and evaluate the outcome of a research project in terms of usable knowledge; and
• design, defend and evaluate research proposals.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research in the Business Context</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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<td>2. Foundations of Research</td>
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<td>3. Problem Definition and Research Question</td>
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<td>4. Research Design</td>
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<td>5. Qualitative Research Methodologies</td>
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<td>6. Quantitative Research Methodologies</td>
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<td>7. Sampling Designs and Procedures</td>
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<td>8. Basic Data Preparation and Analysis</td>
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<td>9. Bivariate Analysis - Tests of Differences</td>
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<td>10. Bivariate Analysis - Tests of Association</td>
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<td>11. Multivariate Analysis - An Overview</td>
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<td>12. Communicating Research Results</td>
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12.1. Action Research and Process Consulting Methodology - Module 6 is an additional module for DBA students - weighting 7%

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.
(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.

Refer to other reference texts in your library and also consider academic journals in the general business area and your specific discipline area.
A list of reference texts are provided in Module 3, Appendix 3B.

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
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<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 1 - ESSAY</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<td>ASSIGNMENT 2 - CRITIQUE</td>
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<td>ASSIGNMENT 3 - RES PROPOSAL</td>
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**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 assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.

3. **Penalties for late submission of required work:**
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 20% of the total marks available for the assignment may 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 achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the research proposal and at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the other 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:**
   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. 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

9 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 24 hours if required by the Examiner. (iii) The Examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. Applications for extensions should be in writing and must include supporting documentary evidence. Extensions are only granted in unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances. The Examiner shall consider all documentary evidence (including statement from a doctor, employer, counsellor or independent member of the community as appropriate) accompanying an application for extension and decide on the outcome. Length of extensions: Up to one week's extension (five working days) may be granted if a signed statement with supporting documentation is sent with the assignment, proving that an unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstance caused the delay, for example unusual and unpredictable work or family commitments. If the signed statement and supporting documentation does not show that unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances were present for the days claimed, then the normal reduction in marks for a late assignment of 20% per working day will apply. Extensions beyond one week are not allowed unless express permission is obtained from the Examiner. Extensions beyond one week are only granted in extreme circumstance because model answers may be distributed after this time. If you are likely to require an extension for a longer period than one week, you must contact the Examiner for advice. In most cases, you will be required to complete an alternative make-up assignment. However, make-up assignments are only granted if you have passed all other pieces of assessment for the course. Medical extensions: In the case of an application for extension for medical reasons, the documentation should include a statement from a doctor stating: the date the medical condition began or changed; how the condition affected the student's ability to study; when it became apparent that the student could not submit the assignment. As a rule, you will be granted an extension for the number of working days covered on a medical certificate. In the case of a medical extension, you do not need to contact the Examiner unless you require an extension of longer than one week. Extensions for family/personal reasons: In the case of an application for extension for family/personal reasons, the documentation should include a statement from a
doctors, counsellors or independent members of the community stating: the date the
student's personal circumstances began or changed; how the circumstances affected
the student's ability to complete the assignment; when it became apparent that the
student could not complete the assignment. In the case of an extension for
family/personal reasons you must contact the Examiner before the due date to
discuss the reason for the extension and to negotiate the length of an extension if
granted. Extensions for employment-related reasons: In the case of an application
for extension for employment-related reasons, the documentation should include
a statement from the student's employer stating: the date the student's employment
began or the conditions of employment changed; how this prevents the student
from completing the assignment. In the case of an extension for employment-related
reasons you must contact the Examiner before the due date to discuss the reason
for the extension and to negotiate the length of an extension if granted.

10 Text Books: Please note that it is the responsibility of the student to acquire a copy
of the textbook as soon as their enrolment in the course has been confirmed.
Extensions will not be granted on the basis of the student not having a copy of the
text, if the text is available from the USQ bookshop.

11 Word Count in Assignments: Students must put the 'word count' for their assignment
on the front page of the assignment. The word count is the number of words in the
body of the assignment report and does not include the title, executive summary,
list of references or appendices. To grade an assignment a marker does not need
to read more words than the word limit of the assignment.