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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG</td>
<td>8002</td>
<td>30616</td>
<td>1, 2004</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>TW MBA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Academic group:** FOENS

**Academic org:** FOENSV

**Student contribution band:** 2

**ASCED code:** 039999

**STAFFING**

Examiner: David Buttsworth
Moderator: Nigel Hancock

**REQUISITES**

Pre-requisite: ENG8001

**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 executes and concludes the project proposed 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 presecribed timelines, display initiative and report appropriately in an academic dissertation.

**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 (as commenced in course ENG 8001 Engineering and Surveying Research Methodology), 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 as an academic dissertation.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Students will undertake an individual, generally open ended project which will encompass a range of engineering skills appropriate to the student's major of 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.</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 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.</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. On conclusion of the project, students will be required to present a dissertation.</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Preparation and delivery of a technical seminar.</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED orAccessed:

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Work</td>
<td>430.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report Writing</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISSERTATION &amp; DEMONSTRATIONS</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>11 Jun 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMINAR</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>11 Jun 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES:
1. Refer to Assessment Notes 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the Assessment Notes of this Course Specification.
2. Refer to Assessment Note 5 in the Assessment Notes of this Course Specification.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   Students must attend only introductory session/s organised by the Examiner and must attend project supervision meetings (normally weekly) as negotiated with or directed by their nominated supervisor/s.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   Students must (i) meet the requirements as set out in the Faculty of Engineering Dissertation Handbook; (ii) provide satisfactory demonstration/s (as appropriate to the individual project topic) and (iii) give a satisfactory seminar.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   Students who do not submit EITHER the completed project OR a satisfactory statement of progress 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 that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course by satisfactorily completing all summative assessment items, as stated in 2 above.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   Grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate project dissertation, demonstrations and seminar.

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/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 DEADLINES (a) Students who have not completed their project by the Due Date must submit a statement of progress which, if judged satisfactory, will result in the award of the temporary grade of IDM. (b) Students graded IDM must complete their projects within twelve (12) months of the Due Date. (c) Project work not completed within twelve (12) months of the Due Date will normally be graded F (Fail).

2 INITIAL SUBMISSION (a) Students will 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 required by the examiners must be made to the satisfaction of the supervisor before hardback copies of the dissertation are submitted. (c) A dissertation that is not in the required format as specified in the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying Dissertation Handbook 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. (d) The recommended grade will not be confirmed until the Final Submission (item 4 below) is received and judged satisfactory.

4 FINAL SUBMISSION (a) At least three (3) copies of the amended dissertation must normally be submitted within a period of three (3) months from the date of initial assessment. (b) The final format, including hard cover binding must be as specified in the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying Dissertation Handbook.

5 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. (c) The seminar may be either on campus as negotiated with the course Examiners; or off campus at an event or venue to the satisfaction of the Examiner. (d) Where the seminar presentation is off campus the student will provide both a video tape or CD recording of the presentation during its delivery to the audience at the agreed event or venue; AND a copy of audio visual aids used during the presentation. (e) The seminar must normally be presented within twelve (12) months of the Due Date.
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.