Course specification

Description: Masters Project II

<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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FET</td>
<td>8661</td>
<td>30716</td>
<td>1, 2004</td>
<td>WEB</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>TWMBA</td>
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Academic group: FOEDU
Academic org: FOE003
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 070303

STAFFING
Moderator: Peter Cronk

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: FET8801 or FET8602 (or negotiated equivalent)

RATIONALE
An important outcome of study at the Masters level is that learners should be able to plan and execute independent projects which consolidate and build upon and apply the capabilities developed through their program of study. A 'capstone' project undertaken at, or towards, the end of the program is a suitable venue for demonstrating these capabilities. This course enables students to synthesise the knowledge and skills developed in earlier courses of their program, and into an approved professional project focused on a key aspect of their areas of interest/specialisations.

SYNOPSIS
Learners will, with guidance from a member of Faculty staff, plan and execute an independent project which is clearly related to their overall program of study. This two-unit project is intended to meet the needs of learners who wish to include a research or evaluation component in their Masters program by providing a venue in which a research or evaluation project can be undertaken to apply and/or extend knowledge developed in their program of study. The project should lead to the preparation of a substantial written report presented at an appropriately scholarly standard. This report may be presented in the format of a research-based paper for publication in an approved academic or professional journal. Project reports must reflect mastery of the content of current literature and of knowledge and skills developed by the learner in his/her prior program. This course will operate on the basis of frequent individual consultation and feedback between the student and the staff member nominated as the study supervisor. Before enrolling the course, students are advised to discuss the nature, processes and anticipated outcomes of the proposed study topic or
activity with a Faculty member who might act as study supervisor. NOTE: Before enrolling
in the course, learners should have successfully completed a course in methods for research
and/or evaluation or be able to demonstrate to the course examiner that they have otherwise
acquired such knowledge and skills. Where possible, students should have discussed the
proposed project with the Faculty member who would act as supervisor, PRIOR to submitting
their project proposal for this course.

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

• demonstrate the ability to plan and implement an in-depth, independent academic
  investigation, research/evaluation project or other such scholarly activity focused
  on a research question, issue or topic of significance to the student's field of study
  in his/her Masters program;
• demonstrate the ability to report the outcomes of that investigation in the form of
  either a formal report or paper for publication, which reflects appropriate academic
  standards of scholarship and presentation.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The topic of the project will be developed in collaboration with an academic supervisor approved and appointed by the course examiner.</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

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).

Depending on the nature of the study to be completed students may be required to purchase reference material.

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.

Supervisors will assist learners in developing a reference list.
STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study or Negotiation with Supervisor</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>280.00</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT PROPOSAL</td>
<td>999.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>09 Apr 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT</td>
<td>999.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>11 Jun 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT REPORT</td>
<td>999.00</td>
<td>98.00</td>
<td>11 Jun 2004</td>
</tr>
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</table>

NOTES:
1. The project proposal is an unassessed requirement, designed to provide early feedback to ensure students have an appropriate project for this 2 unit course.
2. Due dates for assessment items are to be negotiated individually with the course examiner.
3. Letter grades will be used in this course and will be displayed in the Online gradebook.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the student's responsibility to communicate regularly with the nominated supervisor at agreed intervals, to complete all tasks agreed as required for satisfactory completion of the study 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 (or at least a grade of C-) for each assessment item.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   The Department of Further Education and Training has an extension policy which enables students to be within two weeks of the due date for assignments before they need to contact the course examiner. If more than two weeks late with submission of assignments, students must contact the course examiner to negotiate a further extension.

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 a grade of C- for assessment item 3.
5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The course examiner is responsible for the awarding of the final grade for this
course. Final project reports/papers developed for FET8661 will be examined
initially by the student's supervisor. The supervisor will make a recommendation
of a grade to the course examiner who will normally accept the recommended grade
once all the requirements for the course are completed. Where the course examiner
has any doubts about the appropriateness of the grade recommended by the
supervisor, and these doubts cannot be resolved through negotiation with the
supervisor, the project will be assessed by a second assessor nominated by the
course examiner in consultation with the supervisor. The course examiner will then
decide the grade, taking into account both assessments.

6 Examination information:
There is no formal examination in this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

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

2 Student workload requirements are as required for the completion of the study and
as negotiated between student and supervisor in the early weeks of the course.

3 Marking criteria will depend upon the nature of individual projects.

4 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed
or printed on paper-based media, except for WEB courses.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Students will require access to e-mail and Internet access to USQConnect for this
course.

2 Students will require reliable, ongoing access to email and to the internet to be able
to complete the requirements of this course.