The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Research Methods in Education

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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
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<th>Mode</th>
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Academic group: FOEDU
Academic org: FOE003
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 070303

STAFFING
Examiner: Andrew Sturman
Moderator: Barry Fields

RATIONALE
The expectation that educators should be able to apply the findings of recent valid research studies to the formation of educational policy and practice requires that such professionals should have a sound understanding of the principles and practices of research design and methodology. Further, those who are to be involved in any of the various approaches to research in education must be cognisant of appropriate procedures for effective and valid research programs. This course is intended to provide those involved in education with the basic competencies to generate, analyse, and evaluate research programs through the development of an understanding of the characteristics and components of educational research.

SYNOPSIS
This course will expose students to the basic philosophy and practice of educational research. It is intended as an introductory course in research methods in education with particular attention given to developing an understanding of the major approaches to research in education, basic research design and procedures, and research evaluation.

OBJECTIVES
Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand the principles underlying educational research;
- describe appropriate steps in conducting educational research;
- choose and/or develop a research method appropriate to a particular problem;
- select appropriate techniques for data collection;
- identify appropriate procedures for the analysis and treatment of data;
- critically evaluate research reports;
• design acceptable research activities.

**TOPICS**

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<tr>
<td>1. Principles of Educational Research</td>
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<td>2. Steps in Conducting Research</td>
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<td>3. Types of Research Methods</td>
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<td>4. Data Collection Techniques</td>
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<td>5. Data Analysis</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).


**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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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   (a) 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 chances of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. (b) This web course contains a number of discussion forums designed to assist students in successfully completing the course. Students are not obliged to participate in the forums, but they are advised to do so.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the three weighted assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain a grade of at least 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. Students wishing to apply for an extension beyond two weeks must contact the course examiner before the expiry of the two weeks automatic extension for that assignment and must provide reasons for the request; students must be aware that extensions beyond two weeks are at the discretion of the course examiner.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   (a) To be assured of a passing grade in this course (Grade C or better), students must submit all of the summative (weighted) assessment items, successfully pass (Grade C- or better) the 'Research Proposal' and successfully pass (Grade C- or better) both Part A and Part B of the 'Take-home examination'. (b) Students who do not qualify for a Passing grade may, at the discretion of the examiner, be assigned additional work to demonstrate to the examiner that they have achieved the required standard. It is expected that such students will have been assessed as close to a grade of C- on any summative assessment item that was failed.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grade for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the grades obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
There is no examination in this course, although the final assessment item (the 'Take-home examination') is an examination that students are allowed to do at home with access to all study material.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   There is no formal examination 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 Letter grades will be used for summative assessment items in this course.

2 Marking criteria for the first two assignments are provided in the course material. The 'Take-home examination' is treated like an examination.

3 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced if required by the examiner.

4 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.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 The Research Proposal necessitates a literature review that will require students to be able to access libraries or online articles/books.