Course specification

Description: Dissertation (Honours)

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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>LIN</td>
<td>9010</td>
<td>34056</td>
<td>2, 2004</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>TW MBA</td>
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**Academic group:** OPACS  
**Academic org:** OPACSP  
**Student contribution band:** 1  
**ASCED code:** 070115

**STAFFING**
Examiner: Francis Mangubhai  
Moderator: Ann Dashwood  
Team members: Jeong-Bae Son, Aniko Hatoss, Aniko Hatoss.

**REQUISITES**
Pre-requisite: LIN5000 and LIN5002 and LIN8001 and FET8801 plus 4 electives

**RATIONALE**
The Master of Applied Linguistics (Honours) course is viewed generally as a preparatory program for leaders in the field of second language education. The expectation exists that graduates of such a course would be competent in reading and critically analysing research reports as well as capable of conducting their own research.

**SYNOPSIS**
This course is available only to students enrolled in the Master of Applied Linguistics (Hons) (US 12). The dissertation is a major piece of original and independent research related to the student's area of specialisation in Master of Applied Linguistics (Hons). Research is interpreted here in its broadest sense and can involve quantitative or qualitative methodologies or other investigatory strategies aimed at addressing significant language education problems or needs, and/or gaps in knowledge or understanding of applied linguistics issues. In all cases, the dissertation must involve a depth of treatment, analysis, discussion and reporting worthy of submission and consideration for publication as a monograph or in a major national or international professional journal. While the research study itself may be focused and quite specific in its coverage, it is expected in the course of preparing for conducting and reporting the study, the student will demonstrate a high level of understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of the wider language education context in which the specific research topic is embedded. Such an understanding would be
demonstrated in the student's review of the literature, the interpretation, analysis, and discussion of findings, in the implications drawn from the findings about the topic and recommendations for future research on the topic and/or related topics. Specific details and procedures pertaining to the dissertation are contained in the document, 33 Self-Directed and Thesis Units: A Study Guide, and in the University's document, {Guidelines and Advice for Higher Education Research Candidates.}

**OBJECTIVES**

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

1. demonstrate the ability to plan a research project
2. conduct and report upon a major research project which is self-initiated and indicative of a high level of original thought and analytical ability

**TOPICS**

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<td>1. The topic for the dissertation will be developed in collaboration with an academic supervisor and approved by the Head of the Centre for Language Learning and Teaching and the Dean of the Faculty of Education.</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).

Students will be required to obtain a broad selection of library resources relevant to their research topic. LINSG Self Directed and Thesis Courses study package available from USQ bookshop.

**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.


Hult, CA 1996, *Researching and Writing in the Social Sciences*, Allyn & Bacon, Boston, MA.


**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
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<td>DISSERTATION</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20 Jul 2004</td>
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**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1. If human subjects are used in a study, an ethical clearance will need to be obtained. Forms for such clearance are at http://www.usq.edu.au/research/ethics/PSYCHOLO6.0.doc
2. Student Workload Requirements are as required for the completion of the dissertation and as negotiated between student and supervisor.
3. Assessment Details - The M.App.Ling( Hons) Dissertation is examined by two academics. The dissertation is assessed as PASS or FAIL only, but the examiners may commend a dissertation as showing distinction.