Description: Psychology Honours Project 3

STAFFING
Examiner: Murray Thompson
Moderator: Nola Passmore

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: PSY4001 Co-requisite: PSY4002

OTHER-REQUISITES
Only available to students enrolled in the BSc (Hons) in Psychology major.

RATIONALE
Psychologists in professional practice or research must be able to conduct a substantial empirical scientific study concerning the application of psychological knowledge and techniques and then write a report of sufficient academic rigour to be published and distributed such that they are worthy of the consideration of their professional colleagues.

SYNOPSIS
This is the third of three courses that contribute towards the Psychology Honours Project. The overall project will involve an individual piece of research in a selected area of psychology in which information concerning an approved research topic is gathered, organised, analysed and discussed in a critical and evaluative manner. The study requires advanced knowledge of statistics and research methodology. In this third course, students will complete their research project and submit their literature review, methodology, results, and discussion in the form of a written dissertation.

OBJECTIVES
On completion of this course students will be able to:
• demonstrate analytical and critical thinking about the chosen research topic and related issues within the discipline of psychology;
• demonstrate competence in each component of scientific research procedures, namely; identifying research problems, formulating hypotheses, defining variables, collecting data, analysing data using appropriate quantitative or qualitative techniques, interpreting data, and drawing conclusions;
• competently present the literature review, methodology, results, and discussion in the format of a dissertation that follows the guidelines of the American Psychological Association.

TOPICS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. To be determined by the student in consultation with his/her supervisor.</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).


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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>6.00</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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRESS REPORT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>23 Apr 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISSERTATION</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>08 Jun 2004</td>
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IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as workshops and consultation with supervisor) scheduled for them, and 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 the Progress Report satisfactorily, students must meet the objectives set by their supervisor. A mark of 1 will be given to indicate that satisfactory progress has been made. To complete the dissertation satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   Please see the extension policy contained in the 2004 Fourth Year Handbook.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course by satisfactorily completing all summative assessment items. 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. Grades for the dissertation will be awarded as follows: HD 85%- 100%, A 75%-84%, B 65%-74%, C 50%-64%, F < 50%. Detailed marking criteria are included in the 2004 Psychology 4th year handbook.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the mark obtained for the dissertation. Further details about marking criteria and the grading process will be distributed to students early in the semester.

6 Examination information:
   There is no 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

9 While completion of the dissertation is the main goal in this course, the student and supervisor should discuss objectives and time lines for the completion of various stages of the research project early in the semester so that the student will remain on target for successful completion. Specific objectives should be put in writing, and a copy retained by both the student and the examiner. In Week 7, the student and the supervisor should review progress and submit a Progress Report to the examiner. (N.B. Students who are concurrently enrolled in Psychology Honours Project 2, only need to submit one progress report at this stage). Tasks will vary depending on the nature and time frame of the project, but students would typically aim to complete data analyses by Week 8 so as to allow sufficient time to think about the research findings and complete the dissertation. A blank copy of the Progress Report is contained in the 2004 Psychology Fourth Year Handbook.

10 Detailed instructions regarding the format and content of the thesis are included in the 2004 Psychology Fourth Year Handbook. Students must familiarise themselves with these instructions and ensure that their thesis complies with all requirements, including strict adherence to APA style as outlined in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed).

11 Instructions regarding submission of the dissertation, including number of copies and costs for binding, are included in the 2004 Psychology Fourth Year Handbook. Students must familiarise themselves with these instructions and ensure that they follow all requirements.

12 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.

13 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner.

14 Extensions for the dissertation will only be given in exceptional circumstances that are deemed to have severely affected the student's ability to complete the project on time. Requests for extensions should be submitted in writing to the examiner, and supported by appropriate documentation and a letter of endorsement from the supervisor. Please see the 2004 Psychology 4th Year Handbook for specific details regarding the extension policy.

15 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media.

16 The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile.

17 Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.

18 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.

19 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally
prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study.

20 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. The following temporary grade may be awarded IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up).

21 Students are strongly advised to maintain regular contact with their supervisor and to submit drafts of the different sections of their thesis to the supervisor for comment. Please note that supervisors will only be able to give feedback on drafts if they are submitted early. Students should carefully read the information pertaining to the supervisor-student relationship contained in the 2003 Psychology Fourth Year Handbook.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Although not directly assessed, students are strongly advised to attend all workshops pertaining to the Psychology Honours Project and to regularly check messages on the course newsgroup. Details regarding workshops and the newsgroup will be given to students at the start of semester.