The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Psychology Applied to Current Issues

<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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>4040</td>
<td>35201</td>
<td>2, 2004</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Academic group: FOSCI
Academic org: FOS005
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 090701

STAFFING
Examiner: Tony Machin
Moderator: Grace Pretty

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: BSCH or MAPS

RATIONALE
Psychological knowledge and theories can inform the way we understand and respond to current issues that involve human behaviour in a variety of settings. Psychologists working as researchers and practitioners can assist individuals, groups, organisations and communities to better understand and achieve lasting change by the application of psychological theory and scientific principles within a context of culturally sensitive communication and consultation.

SYNOPSIS
The main aim of this course is to provide an opportunity for students to apply their psychological knowledge to a particular issue in their home, community or workplace. The course will involve students working collaboratively on group projects that aim to define an issue from the perspective of a suitable psychological theory, and describe a suitable strategy for creating a lasting improvement in individual, group, organisational or community well-being. Students will develop a plan for the implementation of their strategy that considers all relevant factors that could impact on the effectiveness of their strategy, especially ethnicity, gender, physical/intellectual capabilities, and religious practices. Each group will present their work to the other students at the second workshop.

OBJECTIVES
On completion of this course students will be able to:
1. identify a specific issue that is affecting individual, group, organisational or community well-being;
2. identify and critically apply a specific psychological theory to understand the psychosocial nature of the issue, including its antecedents, possible consequences, and potential impact at various systemic or community levels;
3. develop a strategy that addresses the issue by reducing/modifying the antecedents, assisting to alleviate some of the possible consequences, or limiting the potential impact;
4. implement strategies in ways that are culturally sensitive;
5. present the strategy to the other students in the course and demonstrating cultural sensitivity;
6. contribute to the group process in ways that assist the group to achieve its goal;
7. demonstrate self-awareness of their own competence in working effectively in group activities.

**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No specific topics can be listed as the content of the course may vary depending on which staff are assigned to teach into this course. By the end of the third week of semester, the student will provide to the Examiner:</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1. an outline of the issue that is the focus of the study</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2. the students who are part of that group</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3. any other requirements deemed necessary by the Examiner of the Faculty</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).

To be advised by the Examiner.

**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.

To be advised by the Examiner.
STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Incident Diary and Reflection</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>80.00</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>SEMINAR PRESENTATION</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>20 Sep 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 1</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>11 Oct 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>GROUP PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>25 Oct 2004</td>
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IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   Attendance at the on-campus workshop is compulsory. It is the student’s responsibility 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 assignment satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for the assignment. If students obtain less than 50%, they may be required to resubmit the assignment to include the recommended changes.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 20% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of a pass in this course, students must obtain an overall mark of at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

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

6. Examination information:
   There are no examinations 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. 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.

10. Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours of receipt of a request from the Examiner.

11. Participation in the electronic discussion list is an essential component of the course. Students will be assessed on the contributions that they make. A final summary of each student's contributions must be submitted at the end of the course with the student's reflections and comments about how involvement in the course has assisted them in developing competency in applying psychological knowledge to a current issue and the group process that was experienced.