Description: Psychology Masters Project A

Subject | Cat-nbr | Class | Term | Mode | Units | Campus
--------|--------|-------|------|------|-------|--------
PSY 8160 | 30475 | 1, 2004 | ONC | 1.00 | TWMBA

Academic group: FOSCI
Academic org: FOS005
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 090701

STAFFING
Examiner: Paul Bramston
Moderator: Grace Pretty

RATIONALE
The scientist-practitioner model of professional practice in psychology has broad consensual acceptance within the profession. It follows that students must be able to design a substantial empirical project concerned with the application of theory in a selected area. This course gives them the opportunity to do so in a supervised, learning environment.

SYNOPSIS
This is the first of two courses that contribute towards the Psychology Masters Project. The student will prepare to undertake a supervised research project by completing a literature review and determining a methodology, and obtaining the required ethical approval for the project.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate competencies in critically reviewing literature and competently designing research projects to address theoretical and practical questions and issues in the field, as identified in the APS Competencies for Psychologists (1996) and the research competencies identified for the related Colleges of Community, Health and Sport Psychology. That is they will be able to:

- critically evaluate current theoretical and empirical literature pertaining to a topic appropriate to the student's area of speciality;
- formulate objectives and hypotheses for further research based on the critical review;
- develop an appropriate model to guide the research project method and analyses;
- develop and apply appropriate methods for addressing the hypotheses or meeting the research objectives;
- address practical issues related to the project;
- prepare a research proposal to the specifications of the criteria described below;
- prepare and submit an Ethics Approval Application.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.

Articles and books recommended by the supervisor.


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>110.00</td>
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<td>Supervisor</td>
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<td>Consultation</td>
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<td>Tutorial</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROPOSAL</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>02 Mar 2004</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>(see note 1)</td>
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NOTES:
1. Refer to the Examiner for information about these due dates.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities
   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. International
   students must attend all activities scheduled for them and ensure that their attendance
   is registered with the staff member in charge of the activity.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete the research proposal satisfactorily, students must obtain a pass from
   the supervisor and one other marker in the Department. Any disagreement amongst
   markers will be arbitrated by the Program Co-ordinator.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit the assignment after the due date without prior approval from
   the Program Co-ordinator then a fail grade will be awarded.

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 item, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation
   to the objectives of the course by satisfactorily completing the summative
   assessment item (the assignment).

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   As P is the only passing grade available for this course, all students who are
   qualified for a passing grade will be given a grade of P. Other students will be
   given either a Failing grade or an Incomplete grade.

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

10 The examiner in consultation with the Program Co-ordinator may grant an extension
    of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
11 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media.

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

13 Students will require access to email and internet access to USQConnect for this course.

14 The research proposal shall include: (a) An overview of the theoretical and practical literature guiding the research. This is not as extensive as the literature review for the Thesis itself, but should provide the assessors with evidence that the student is knowledgeable in the theoretical models underpinning the hypotheses, the methods appropriate to investigate the subject, and the recent research findings in areas related to the thesis topic. (b) A statement of the aims of the investigation and of specific hypotheses. These should flow logically and be clearly developed from the theoretical and applied literature reviewed in the Introduction. The hypotheses should be stated such that the proposed analyses is evident. For example, participants in group x will respond with scores higher on questionnaire z than participants in groups -, -, and - . Or, participants' scores on questionnaire z will be related to scores on the -, -, and - questionnaires. (c) A detailed description of the Method to be used in the project including the participants to be selected, method of selection/recruitment, measures/assessments/testing/interview protocols to be used and procedures for administering these. Copies of recruitment letters, consent forms and interview formats, tests/questionnaires, etc are to be included in an Appendix to the Proposal. (d) A description of the model guiding the statistical analyses to be used. In the case of qualitative data, a description of the proposed coding method and content analyses should be outlined. (e) A list of all references made in the proposal (f) An Appendix with letters, measures etc. (g) In most cases the literature review, method and analyses sections will not exceed a total of 20 pages. (h) The Research Proposal should be submitted in duplicate to the Supervisor. Evaluation will be completed by the Supervisor and Program Coordinator or one other member of the Department.

15 Upon receiving notification that the Proposal is acceptable, the student may submit the Ethics Approval Form and the Resource Request Form to the Department Secretary who will forward them to the appropriate committee.