The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Visual Research Methods

<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIS</td>
<td>3015</td>
<td>30806</td>
<td>1, 2004</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>TW MBA</td>
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Academic group: FOART
Academic org: FOA007
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 100300

STAFFING
Examiner: Robyn Stewart
Moderator: Alexis Tacey

SYNOPSIS
The notion of research in the visual arts is a contemporary cultural issue which deserves serious attention. Yet many artists claim that research involves problem solving which is the essence of practice in the visual arts. Therefore, they argue, visual arts is research. However, the visual arts are being challenged to justify and demonstrate this nexus. This course develops and explores research methodologies and processes which are relevant to visual arts theory and studio practice. It is designed to introduce and identify appropriate processes for research in visual arts theory and practice which are to do with discovery, and which can be used to elicit data to do with personal ideas, observations and interpretations. In visual research this data might bear on practical issues or underlying theories, on matters of intention (like the imaginative concepts that lie behind the work), ways of assessing what is done, or the processes of actually handling materials and techniques. Its methods of collection may be quantitative and qualitative.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will:

- Identify a variety of visual research methods currently used by researchers in the visual arts and relevant fields of interest.
- Describe and discuss major principles and methods used in visual arts research.
- Describe and discuss characteristics of research using qualitative and quantitative data.
- Demonstrate an ability to conceptualise and plan a range of visual research tasks according to appropriate theoretical frameworks.
### TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction to visual arts research.</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Dimensions of research.</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<td>3. Theory and contemporary issues in visual research.</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<td>4. Meanings of methodologies and applications for practice.</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<td>5. Establishing a research design.</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<td>6. Documentation.</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Evaluation of research.</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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</table>

### 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.

### 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.

(306 CRI)

(Online via the Library catalogue)

(142.7 HAM)

(300.72 KEL)

(305.42 LAT)
(300.72 MAR)

(708.13 CON)

(707.2 POL)

(936.26 TIL)

(370.78 VAN)

(300.723 WHY)

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>67.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Work</td>
<td>56.00</td>
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<td>Tutorial</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>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHORT ESSAY</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>26 Mar 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROJ PROPOSAL</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>26 Mar 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAFT LITERATURE REVIEW</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>07 May 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>14 Jun 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISUAL JOURNAL</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>22 Jun 2004</td>
</tr>
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**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
   It is the student's responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) 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 each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at
least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval, then a
penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each
of the first FIVE working days late, after which a zero mark will be given.

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 obtaining at least 50% of the total
weighted marks for all summative assessment.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
Grades will normally be awarded according to Faculty guidelines and based on the
cumulative total of marks for the various assessment items.

6 Examination information:
There is no exam for this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course.
However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted
by a date set by the examiner.

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 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must lodge the
assignment at the USQ. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for
assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner.
(c) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation
5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an
assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) Students
who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have
failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally
prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM Incomplete-Makeup). 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. (e) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or
employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an
examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course.
Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).