Description: Mass Communication Dissertation A

Subject        Cat-nbr   Class   Term    Mode   Units   Campus
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CMS           4003      40855  1, 2005  ONC     2.00     Toowoomba

Academic group:           FOART
Academic org:              FOA004
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code:                100700

STAFFING
Examiner: Julianne Stewart
Moderator: Dianne Jones

SYNOPSIS
This course enable students enrolled in the Honours Programme to commence their dissertation under supervision. The dissertation shall consist of a 12,000-15,000 word assignment on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the supervisor, and may be either the result of original investigation, or embody a critical appraisal or analysis of primary or secondary source material. The selected topic must relate to one of the majors in the Department of Mass Communication. Students who have completed appropriate course work may, on the recommendation of the dissertation supervisor, include a substantial production in a medium or media other than print, or a series of feature articles (journalism major students only). Where non-print or feature article material is submitted for assessment it must be accompanied by a dissertation theorising and contextualising the production/feature article at a level appropriate to the award of BA degree at honours level. In such cases the length of the dissertation may be reduced at the discretion of the Honours and Postgraduate Committee on the recommendation of the supervisor. The course will normally be followed by CMS 4004.

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

1. develop a research proposal, including defining a topic, developing a research design, incorporating an annotated bibliography and justifying a methodology;
2. undertake independent research, under supervision, on a proposed topic;
3. review the literature relevant to a selected dissertation topic;
4. develop an annotated bibliography into a full literature review;
5. apply and justify methodology appropriate to a research topic.
TOPICS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methodology</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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<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
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<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tr>
<td>PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>01 Mar 2005 (see note 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DETAILED PROPOSAL + LIT REVIEW</td>
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<td>ORAL PRESENTATION</td>
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<td>METHODOLOGY CHAPTER</td>
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NOTES

1. An initial proposal must be received and a supervisor allocated before students are confirmed into the Mass Communication Honours Course. NB: There may be additional work scheduled for theses with an audio/visual (A/V) or non-print component.
2. Students who obtain an unsatisfactory progress report at this stage may be advised against proceeding further. NB: There may be additional work scheduled for theses with an audio/visual (A/V) or non-print component.

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 supervisors) 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:
   SEE : Assessment Note 4

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval or documented medical circumstances, then a fail grade may be given, and they may be unable to continue to the second course of the dissertation (CMS4004).

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   Assessment for this course will be carried out by the student's supervisor/s, in consultation where appropriate with the Honours and Postgraduate Committee of the Department of Mass Communication of the Faculty of Arts, USQ.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade for Part 1 of a Dissertation/Project (where IIP is a possible grade) - If the research proposal and any possible ethics application are approved and the student's progress report is deemed satisfactory by the student's supervisor and the course examiner, the student will be awarded an interim grade of IIP, indicating satisfactory performance in the course. When the Dissertation/Project has been assessed in its entirety, the grade of IIP will be changed to the final grade.

6 Examination information:
   There is no set exam for this course. However the Dissertation/Project will be examined under the conditions set out for the program.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   N/A

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. If requested, students will be required to provide a copy of assignments submitted for assessment purposes. Such copies should be despatched to USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request being made. (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).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Students must consult regularly with their supervisors.
2 Where work for this course requires surveys or interviews to be conducted, the supervisor and the course examiner must be satisfied that the methods used reflect University Research Ethics requirements.
3 It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all chapter drafts, as well as the final draft of their dissertation, be written in an acceptable standard of English expression. If students’ initial work is not of an acceptable standard, students will be encouraged to use the services of a copy-editor, or to seek assistance from a competent writer of English. It is not the supervisor’s principal role to correct English spelling, expression or grammar, although appropriate advice will be given. Dissertations or drafts of chapters of dissertations that are not expressed to a standard of English expression acceptable to the supervisor will be referred back to the student for correction, and will not be submitted for examination until corrected. Students who fail to address this aspect of their dissertation risk failing the course. Any expenses incurred in having drafts checked by copy-editors will be met by the student. Please also note that while copy-editing may be carried out by someone who is not the student, all the substantial content of the dissertation must be the student's own work.