Description: Mass Communication Dissertation B

<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>CMS</td>
<td>4004</td>
<td>4485</td>
<td>2, 2005</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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</table>

**Academic group:** FOART

**Academic org:** FOA004

**Student contribution band:** 1

**ASCED code:** 100700

**STAFFING**
Examiner: Julianne Stewart
Moderator: Karey Harrison

**REQUISITES**
Pre-requisite: CMS4003

**SYNOPSIS**
This 2 unit course enables students enrolled in the Honours Programme to complete their dissertation under supervision. This course is a continuation of the work commenced in CMS4003. The dissertation shall be 12,000-15,000 words in length. Where non print material or feature article material is submitted for assessment, it must be accompanied by a dissertation theorizing and contextualising the production at a level appropriate to the award of BA degree at honours level. In such cases the length of the dissertation may be reduced to 10,000 words.

**OBJECTIVES**
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:
1. research and report autonomously in written form on a sustained topic in the field of Mass Communication;
2. devise, develop and sustain lengthy but sound argument;
3. edit and present in publishable printed form a completed dissertation ready for submission to the dissertation examiners.

**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Data collection/selection</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Data presentation, analysis and discussion</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Summarising, drawing conclusions, making recommendations</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
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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).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>315.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</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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<tr>
<td>1ST DRAFT COMPLETE DISSTATION</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>30 Sep 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORAL PRESENTATION FINDINGS</td>
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<td>03 Oct 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL DRAFT</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>28 Oct 2005</td>
</tr>
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NOTES

1. FINAL DRAFT DISSERTATION (AND PROJECT, WHERE APPLICABLE).

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' 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:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate
of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the
course.

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).

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1 Assessment of this dissertation normally shall be carried out by two qualified examiners,
at least one of whom is external to the University of Southern Queensland, and neither
of whom is supervising the student for this dissertation. The dissertation shall be typed
and three copies should be spiral bound and submitted to the supervisor.

2 Grades shall be awarded by the Honours and Postgraduate Committee of the Department
of Mass Communication, following receipt of the completed examiners' reports.

3 Students must consult regularly with their supervisors.
Where work for this course requires surveys or interviews to be conducted, the dissertation supervisor must be satisfied that the methods used reflect University Research Ethics requirements.

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.