Description: Research Design

Subject    Cat-nbr    Class    Term      Mode      Units      Campus
CMS        4005      41108    1, 2005   ONC       1.00       Toowoomba

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

STAFFING
Examiner: Julianne Stewart
Moderator: Karey Harrison

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in the following Program: BAHN

RATIONALE
Honours level students currently undertaking communication and humanities dissertations and research projects require knowledge of a range of techniques for researching and writing the dissertation. The student needs to be able to survey a field of literature, identify a research problem, decide on research objectives and select appropriate method/s to carry out the research. Students also need to ensure epistemological consistency between their aims, methodologies, data collection and analysis of results.

SYNOPSIS
This course examines different methods of approaching a review of literature relevant to a research topic, culminating in the identification and refinement of research questions or hypotheses. It looks at how to select appropriate methods for answering the research question or testing hypotheses. Finally it discusses different approaches to presenting research data.

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

1. define their chosen dissertation topic
2. present a thorough review of existing literature related to their chosen dissertation topic
3. present and defend a methodology of research appropriate to their chosen dissertation topic
4. evaluate the epistemological consistency of their proposed methodology, data collection and analysis of results with their research aims
5. provide a substantial outline of their proposed dissertation, including timelines
6. demonstrate an understanding of the use of a range of electronic databases and/or a range of primary sources 
7. demonstrate an understanding of appropriate use of informed consent and ethical clearance documentation 
8. critique existing research reports from a range of critical perspectives 
9. demonstrate an understanding of how academic dissertations are presented 
10. demonstrate an awareness of at least one accepted referencing system 

TOPIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reviewing the literature</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The craft of History or Research in Mass Communication</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Refining a topic</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<td>4. Selecting a methodology, including (where appropriate) historical methods (recent approaches)</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<td>5. Arguing your case - or the sources of history</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Presenting the dissertation</td>
<td>15.00</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.


**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>139.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorials or Workshops</td>
<td>26.00</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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRITICAL ESSAY</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>20 May 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT REVIEW &amp; METHODOLOGY</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>17 Jun 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFLECTION ON PROCESS</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>17 Jun 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
   Since the objectives will be equally taught by private study and by face-to-face sessions, it is strongly advised that students attend all seminars for this course. It is also the students' 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 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 despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested 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).