The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Research Methods Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>EDU</td>
<td>9601</td>
<td>40689</td>
<td>1, 2005</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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Academic group: FOEDU
Academic org: FOE002
Student contribution band: National Priority Teaching
ASCED code: 070303

STAFFING
Examiner: Patrick Danaher

RATIONALE

Many advanced research methods courses have focussed on the paradigm approach to research and there are varying interpretations of paradigm theory in education. Some researchers, conversely, have set out a critical argument in opposition to paradigm theory and offer a more holistic, coherent view which opens up educational problems to psychologists, ethnographers, classroom teachers, educational administrators and researchers from other disciplines. The relationship between philosophy and educational research will be addressed together with the principles and logic of inquiry as it applies to education. It is anticipated that students will have different levels of research training and experience and, therefore, the course is designed to be sufficiently flexible to incorporate these differences and varied needs. Collaborative, problem-solving research groupings comprised of students and staff will be promoted throughout the course.

SYNOPSIS

This course will provide an opportunity for doctoral students to study current ideas about educational research and to develop appropriate research skills. These skills will enable students to complete a significant thesis or folio in the final stages of the Doctor of Education. This course will promote and apply the skills required for proposing, conducting and reporting research in education. The design of each student's research will be negotiated between the student and the course Examiner. Students will be required to complete a pilot research study. Students and staff will be grouped according to their needs in collaborative, problem-solving research groupings. Assessment will be completed in the areas of proposing and conducting research. Studies in this course of the professional doctorate will support the research needs of each student vis-a-vis their specialisation and thesis/folio requirements. IMPORTANT NOTE: Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the state of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue
Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT ‘BLUE CARD’. For further information: http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html. *If you are undertaking practical experience outside the state of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.

**OBJECTIVES**

On successful completion of this course students will demonstrate an understanding of:

1. the principles and logic of inquiry into education
2. the relationship between philosophy/epistemology and educational research
3. contemporary ideas about educational research
4. the differences between humanistic, scientific/analytical and critical research methods
5. the requirements of different research methodologies by selecting appropriate research approaches to perform required analyses
6. the skills needed to conduct research into a chosen topic using a preferred research method
7. the methodological problems posed by the gap between research and practice in education.

**TOPICS**

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Practical application of educational research</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot research study</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.

Students will select readings that are appropriate for their research requirements. These readings are published in the two books of readings that accompany this course.
STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
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<td>Private Study</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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECT</td>
<td>999.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>17 Jun 2005</td>
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(see note 1)

NOTES

1. An ungraded pass is the only grade available for this course. All students who are qualified for an ungraded pass grade will be given a grade of P. Other students will be given either a Failing grade (F) or an Incomplete (IDM).

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is 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 or at least a grade of C- 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 20% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each month late.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the summative assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for each item.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   An ungraded pass is the only grade available for this course. All students who are qualified for an ungraded pass grade will be given a grade of P. Other students will be given either a Failing grade (F) or an Incomplete (IDM).

6. Examination information:
   There is no examination in this course.

7. Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Not applicable.

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

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1. The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the examiner.

2. Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of request being made by the examiner. The student must retain this copy until the grade for this course has been finalised.

3. In accordance with the University's assignment extension policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

4. The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media.

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

6. Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.

7. In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next working day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience.

8. Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). 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.

10. Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a 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).

11. When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distributed patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.

12. Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.

13. Each assessment item must be submitted and passed.

14. Summative assessment items will receive a grade of P, F or IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up). Any ungraded assessment requirement will receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Students will require access to e-mail and Internet access to USQConnect for this course.

2. Students are to use a recognised referencing system as specified by the examiner.
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