The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Research Methodology for the Human Sciences

<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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<tr>
<td>HSC</td>
<td>8050</td>
<td>40392</td>
<td>1, 2005</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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Academic group: FOSCI
Academic org: FOS004
Student contribution band: National Priority Nursing
ASCED code: 060399

STAFFING
Examiner: Cath Rogers-Clark
Moderator: Lorna Robertson

RATIONALE
Nurses and midwives need to be able to read and critique research. They therefore need to develop the ability to be a critical consumer of research and to be able to apply this to their own areas of practice. It is particularly important that nurses and midwives base their practice on research evidence and can provide health care consumers with researched evidence when they seek to make informed decisions.

SYNOPSIS
This course will develop students' abilities to be critical consumers of research. Studies will focus on extending students' knowledge about the purpose of research, research design and various methodologies including empirical, interpretive, critical and feminist approaches. Through examination of past research students will distinguish the hallmarks of effective research design including ethical considerations. They will learn about evidence based practice and write a critical literature review for their own area of practice.

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

1. Critically analyse the current methodological debates taking into consideration the different philosophical bases of different scientific approaches to research;
2. Explain the varying ways the term "theory" is used in each of the research paradigms;
3. Discuss the centrality of theory to research and describe how each paradigm claims to demonstrate the theory-evidence link;
4. Discuss the benefits and limitations of the evidence-based practice movement in health care;
5. Discuss ethical considerations which arise in research design and conduct;
6. Demonstrate the ability to take an area of research concern and refine it by framing a researchable problem or question; and
7. Demonstrate the ability to analyse and critique the literature in a field of specific interest.
### TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Methodological Debate - What is Science? and What is Research?</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Theory-Practice-Research - Meanings of theory in each paradigm, Evidence-based practice</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Research Design - Selecting an appropriate method, Review of quantitative methods, Evidence-based practice, Overview of qualitative methods, eg. - semi-structured interviewing</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<td>4. Research Ethics - Informed consent, Safety, The researcher/participant relationship, The impact of the researcher</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The Critical Practitioner - Conducting a literature search, Selecting an appropriate tool for critique, Critically reviewing the literature</td>
<td>20.00</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.


*(Applied Social Research Methods Series)*

### STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<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>ASSIGNMENT 1 - S/ANS QUESTIONS</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>23 May 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>10 Jun 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPT - ONLINE GRP DISCUSSION</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10 Jun 2005</td>
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</table>
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 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 5% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

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 satisfactorily completing each summative assessment item.

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 obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

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

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

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 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.

10 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This should be sent to USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request from the Examiner to do so.

11 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

12 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.