Description: Research Project Dissertation

<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSC</td>
<td>8002</td>
<td>40370</td>
<td>1, 2005</td>
<td>EXT</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic group: FOSCI
Academic org: FOS003
Student contribution band: 2
ASCED code: 029999

STAFFING
Examiner: Ron Addie
Moderator: Zhongwei Zhang

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: MSC8001 and Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: BINH or GCAC or GCPC or GDAC or GDPC or MCOP or MPIT or BSCH.

RATIONALE
An in-depth project and dissertation on a specialised research topic are necessary to prepare graduates for further research and responsible jobs in computing and its applications. This course, in conjunction with MSC8001, enables students to develop and use research capability and an advanced level of computer science skills.

SYNOPSIS
This course forms the final part of the research component of the MComp programme. From the foundation established in MSC8001, students will complete a selected project in computer science with the supervision of appropriate staff from the Department of Mathematics and Computing.

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

1. keep abreast of developments in computer science;
2. execute and refine a selected research investigation;
3. develop higher level computer science skills which include the analysis, synthesis and evaluation of factors involved in the investigation of the research topic;
4. complete an extensive research based investigation and to evaluate the results;
5. effectively document and communicate the results of the investigation and the methods used in a dissertation.
TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Candidates will finalise and report on their investigation of the approved research topic.</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.

Appropriate material from: books, monographs, journals and conference proceedings, computer software and material from electronic sources.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Work</td>
<td>310.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>LITERATURE &amp; RESOURCE SURVEY</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>01 Mar 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(see note 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL SEMINAR</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>01 Mar 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISSERTATION</td>
<td>90.00</td>
<td>90.00</td>
<td>01 Mar 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES

1. Due dates for assignments will be assigned by the Supervisor once the project is under way.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to maintain regular contact with their supervisor 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:
Non-submission of assessment items by due dates set by their supervisor, or as amended in consultation with their supervisor, may lead to students being awarded a Failing grade for the course.

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: (1) submitting all summative assessment items; and (2) gaining at least 50% of the marks available for each summative assessment item.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
Two Examiners will be nominated by the Research and Postgraduate Coordinator to assess one or more students' dissertations and final seminar. The Examiners, who must be present at the seminar, will independently assess the seminar and dissertation in the following aspects: Understanding of literature and content for this work; Explanation of literature and content and adequacy of citations; Difficulty of the task undertaken by the student; Contribution to the subject by the student; and Quality of presentation. Each of these aspects will be given a mark in the range 0-20 and the final mark will be obtained by adding these together. The Examiners will then meet and determine a final grade. Where the Examiners cannot reach a consensus, the procedure in USQ Regulation 5.13 Master of Philosophy 14. Lack of consensus between Examiners will be followed except that the third Examiner may be an internal Examiner other than the student's supervisor and the process will be arranged by the Department of Mathematics and Computing. 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. Assessment of this course will be undertaken in concert with that of MSC8001. The assessment of that course and this one will be aggregated in the ratio of 20% for MSC8001 and 80% for MSC8002, and the resulting grade assigned to both courses.

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 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. If requested, students may 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 to do so.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 In accordance with University policy, the Examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
The dissertation will be assessed on the demonstrated quality of: incorporation of established knowledge; assimilation of research literature; scientific techniques; innovation; and technical writing.