Description: Psychology Honours Project 1

Subject        Cat-nbr    Class    Term    Mode    Units    Campus
PSY            4001       44423    2, 2005  ONC     1.00     Toowoomba

Academic group: FOSCI
Academic org:   FOS005
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code:     090701

STAFFING
Examiner: Murray Thompson
Moderator: Nola Passmore

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in Program BSCH in Psychology major (12302)
Co-requisite: PSY4010

RATIONALE
Psychologists in professional practice or research must be able to conduct a substantial empirical
scientific study concerning the application of psychological knowledge and techniques and then
write a report of sufficient academic rigour to be published and distributed such that they are
worthy of the consideration of their professional colleagues.

SYNOPSIS
This is the first of three courses that contribute towards the Psychology Honours Project. The
overall project will involve an individual piece of research in a selected area of psychology in
which information concerning an approved research topic is gathered, organised, analysed and
discussed in a critical and evaluative manner. The study requires advanced knowledge of statistics
and research methodology. In this first course, students are required to decide on a topic in
conjunction with their supervisor; submit a brief topic outline, research proposal and application
for ethical clearance; and begin the initial stages of the research project.

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

1. formulate a research question and/or hypotheses based on previous literature in the
   chosen field;
2. choose an appropriate methodology that will address the particular research question
   and/or hypotheses;
3. obtain and/or develop any materials necessary for the conduct of the project (e.g.,
   questionnaires, software, psychological tests);
4. demonstrate an understanding of potential practical problems that may eventuate in the conduct of the project, and be able to develop contingency plans to deal with these potential problems;

5. demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in the chosen project, and be able to address ethical issues in a manner that is consistent with Australian Psychological Society guidelines;

6. write a brief research proposal that outlines the rationale for the study, the proposed methodology, budget considerations, and other practical concerns;

7. complete an application for ethics clearance of a research project that uses human or animal participants.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be determined by the student in consultation with his/her supervisor.</td>
<td>100.00</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.

Reference materials will depend on the particular topic under investigation. While different types of materials may be consulted, depending on the nature of the topic, it is envisaged that psychology journal articles will make up the bulk of the reference materials.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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</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>TOPIC OUTLINE</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>05 Aug 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROPOSAL</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>09 Sep 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETHICS APPLICATION</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>09 Sep 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRESS REPORT</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>24 Oct 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as workshops and consultation with supervisors) 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 the Topic Outline, Research Proposal and Ethics Application satisfactorily, students must meet all of the guidelines specified in the 2004 Fourth Year Handbook and have the Topic Outline, Research Proposal, and Ethics Application approved by the Examiner. To complete the Progress Report satisfactorily, students must meet the objectives set by their supervisors.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   Please see the extension policy contained in the 2005 Fourth Year Handbook. This is available from http://psych.sci.usq.edu.au/teaching/Honours.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   If the Topic Outline, Research Proposal and Ethics Application are approved and the student's Progress Report is deemed as satisfactory by the student's supervisor and the course examiner, the student will be awarded an interim grade of IIP, indicating satisfactory performance in the course. Please note that the mark of 1 awarded for each of these pieces of assessment is just a nominal mark to indicate that the assessment piece has been received and is deemed to be satisfactory. Students who do not qualify for an IIP grade may, at the discretion of the Examiner, be assigned additional work to demonstrate to the Examiner that they have achieved the required standard.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   When the Psychology Research Project has been assessed in its entirety, the grade of IIP will be changed to the final grade. For example, if the student receives an HD for his/her dissertation at the completion of Psychology Honours Project 3, then the grade of IIP for Psychology Honours Project 1 would change to an HD.

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...

**ASSESSMENT NOTES**

9 Detailed instructions regarding the Topic Outline, Research Proposal and Ethics Application are given in the 2005 Psychology 4th Year Handbook. Students must familiarise themselves with these instructions and ensure that their Topic Outline, Research Proposal and Ethics Application meet all guidelines.

10 While all students must submit a Topic Outline, Research Proposal and Ethics Application, the other research tasks that will be accomplished during the semester will depend on the nature and time line of the particular project. Early in the semester, the student and his/her supervisor must decide on specific objectives for the course. These objectives should be put in writing and a copy kept by the student and the supervisor. Tasks may involve such things as writing a first draft of the literature review, developing materials, collecting data, or other research activities specified by the supervisor. When preparing drafts, please consult the 2005 Psychology 4th Year Handbook for details of requirements. At the end of the semester, the student and supervisor will review the student's progress in meeting the objectives and will complete a Progress Report to be submitted to the examiner. A blank copy of this Progress Report is contained in the 2005 Psychology 4th Year Handbook.

11 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.

12 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner.

13 Extensions for the Topic Outline, Research Proposal and Ethics Application will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Applications for extensions must be endorsed by the supervisor, and submitted in writing to the examiner. See the 2005 4th Year Psychology Handbook for more information. The supervisor and student may negotiate extensions for other work not related to the Topic Outline, Research Proposal and Ethics Application. However, such extensions would usually only be given if there were extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. If extenuating circumstances are likely to severely disrupt the student's progress, the student and supervisor should inform the examiner as soon as possible so that suitable options can be discussed.

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

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

16 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.

17 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 day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.

18 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.

19 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. The following temporary grade may be awarded IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up).

20 Lists of available supervisors and project/topics will be available at the start of the semester. Students should discuss potential topics with suitable staff members as soon as possible. In some cases, supervisors may be willing to supervise a different topic of the student's choice, though staff are under no obligation to do so. From time to time, the Psychology Department is unable to provide supervision in a particular area due to staff leaving or being absent for various reasons. Therefore, there is no guarantee that students will be able to work on a particular project with a particular supervisor, even if the student had made a prior agreement with the particular staff member.

21 Students are strongly advised to maintain regular contact with their supervisor. Students should carefully read the information pertaining to the supervisor-student relationship contained in the 2005 Psychology 4th Year Handbook.

22 Students are not allowed to begin data collection until their Research Proposal and Ethics Application have been approved in writing.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Although not directly assessed, students are strongly advised to attend all workshops pertaining to the Psychology Honours Project and to regularly check messages on the course newsgroup. Details regarding workshops and the newsgroup will be given to students at the start of semester.