The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

This version produced 20 Dec 2007.
The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Communication and Scholarship

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
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Academic group: FOART
Academic org: FOA003
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 100700

STAFFING
Examiner: Eleanor Kiernan
Moderator: Jill Lawrence

RATIONALE
Advances in communication are occurring globally at a rapid rate. In the contemporary world, effective communication requires an understanding of these new complex processes. It also requires individuals to possess a broad range of transferable skills to meet the demands of change, and to apply these in an equally broad range of contexts.

SYNOPSIS
This course presents an introduction to the theory and practice of Communication, with particular application to academic and professional settings. Students study the processes of research and scholarship, and of tailoring communication for specific audiences. Students develop an understanding of barriers to communication, and strategies which can be used to overcome these barriers. Verbal and nonverbal communication thinking skills, and the dynamics of interpersonal and group communication will be explored. Students also gain the written, verbal and personal transferable skills essential to their role in a rapidly changing environment.

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

1. define and describe the process of communication;
2. identify the importance of adapting the styles of written and oral communication to the needs of particular audiences;
3. analyse and develop a given task, and to conduct a literature review in order to fulfil the task;
4. identify and explain the principles of referencing and apply an accepted referencing system;
5. communicate information, in written and oral forms, clearly, logically and concisely at a high level of proficiency;
6. apply a systematic approach to drafting, revising and editing written communication;
7. identify, develop and communicate sound arguments in written and oral forms, and to counter unsound and illogical arguments;
8. explore problem solving and decision making strategies;
9. understand the dynamics of communication within groups and organizations;
10. demonstrate knowledge of the dynamics of interpersonal communication, and apply this knowledge in a number of contexts;
11. identify and apply the principles of nonverbal communication to enhance the communication process;
12. identify and minimise barriers to effective communication and use a range of strategies to overcome these barriers;
13. identify the importance of transferable skills and be able to apply the skills gained in a number of contexts.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Foundation module</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Capstone module</td>
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<td>3. Written communication module</td>
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<td>4. Oral communication module</td>
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<td>5. Clear thinking, problem solving and decision making module</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<td>6. Interpersonal communication module</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Nonverbal communication module</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Group and organisational communication module</td>
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</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).

Instructional package

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>Directed Study</td>
<td>61.00</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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<td>Workshops</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>ORAL PRESENTATION</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRELIMINARY ESSAY PLAN</td>
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<td>10.00</td>
<td>17 Aug 2007</td>
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<td>ESSAY</td>
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<td>35.00</td>
<td>14 Sep 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>REPORT</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>12 Oct 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

1. This assessment item aligns with Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11 and 13.
   **NOTE:** Due dates for this assessment item will be advised at the beginning of semester (Oral Presentations will be held in weeks 14 and 15).

2. Advice about the assessment of this course will be given during workshops. This assessment item aligns with Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,10,11 and 13.

3. This assessment item aligns with Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 and 13.

4. This assessment item aligns with all of the Objectives.

### IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. **Attendance requirements:**
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) 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. For this course, normal class attendance consists of one two hour workshop per week.

2. **Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:**
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade, a student must (i) submit all of the summative assessment items, including the Oral Presentation; and (ii) achieve at least 50% on the Essay. Students will be allowed to resubmit a failed first assessment item for reassessment. If a student is permitted to resubmit a failed assignment, normally the only passing grade or mark allowable for the resubmitted assignment will be C- or 50% (as appropriate).

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 receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.

5. **Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:**
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks 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

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) All Faculty of Arts assignments must be lodged in the Faculty Assessment Centre on the Ground Floor of Q Block no later than 12 noon on the due date. (c) 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. (d) 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. (e) 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. (f) 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. (g) 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).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 In view of the course objectives and their emphasis on the development of conceptual and applicable skills, students are strongly advised to attend all classes.

2 Students will require access to email and have internet access to USQConnect for this course.