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 <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Educational Research Ethics and Data Management

<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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<td>EDU</td>
<td>8604</td>
<td>63145</td>
<td>1, 2007</td>
<td>WEB</td>
<td>1.00</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
Moderator: Barry Fields

REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in Program: DEDU

OTHER REQUISITES

State law in Queensland (Australia) requires that all adults working/undertaking professional experience/researching with children under the age of 18, in the state of Queensland are required to possess a current suitability card (Blue Card). (See "Other Requirements" for further information.) Also see: http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html

RATIONALE

This course is one of three research and evaluation courses that are offered within the Doctor of Education program in the Faculty of Education. The first (1 unit) course provides an overview of the methods and approaches used in research and evaluation; this second (1 unit) course relates to educational research ethics and data management; and the third (2 unit) course is concerned with the preliminary conduct of research involving data collection and data analysis relevant to students' proposed research. It is vital that educational researchers understand and engage with the ethical and political dimensions and effects of the research paradigms, methods and techniques that they deploy to address their research hypotheses or questions. Researchers need also to comprehend and evaluate approaches to data management in published research as a foundation for ensuring that their own data management practices are as effective, efficient and equitable as possible.

SYNOPSIS

This course provides an overview of selected contemporary issues related to the ethics and politics of educational research, and to the appropriate management of data in educational research projects. Topics include: anonymity and confidentiality; informed consent; gatekeepers and stakeholders;
overt and covert research; recording and representing participants' voices; situated ethics; research benefits and interests; ethical implications of and for research designs; primary and secondary data; data collection techniques; data analysis techniques; sampling and selecting participants; reliability, validity, credibility and trustworthiness; drawing inferences and reaching conclusions.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item(s) that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective are shown in parenthesis. On successful completion of this course students should have a knowledge and understanding of the:

1. ethical and political dimensions and effects of educational research (Ethical Clearance Application and commentary)
2. engagements with educational research ethics and politics by researchers working with specific research paradigms, methods and techniques (Ethical Clearance Application and commentary)
3. skills required to prepare an appropriate and effective ethical clearance application (Ethical Clearance Application and commentary)
4. key components of the efficient collection and management of research data (Data Collection and Analysis Critical Commentary)
5. principal elements of the effective analysis and reporting of research data (Data Collection and Analysis Critical Commentary)
6. skills needed to interrogate a published educational researcher's approach to data collection and analysis. (Data Collection and Analysis Critical Commentary)

TOPICS

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Educational research ethics</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<td>2. Educational research politics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Data collection techniques</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Data analysis techniques</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).

Coombes, PN, Danaher, MJM & Danaher, PA (Eds) 2004, Strategic uncertainties: Ethics, politics and risk in contemporary educational research, Post Pressed, Flaxton, Qld.
REFERENCES

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.

(Theme issue)


**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
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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>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tr>
<td>ETHICAL CLEARANCE APPLICATION</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATA COLLECTION &amp; ANALYSIS CRI</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
   (a) 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 chances of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. (b) This course contains a number of online discussion forums designed to assist students in successfully completing the course. Students are not obliged to participate in the forums, but they are advised to do so.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   N/A

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

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   Each of the two summative (weighted) assessment items constitutes 50% of the final grade.
Examination information:
There is no examination in this course.

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

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

1. Letter grades will be used for summative assessment items in this course.
2. Marking criteria are provided in the course material.
3. Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced if required by the examiner.
4. 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.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. In addition to reading the course materials and the recommended textbooks, students are strongly encouraged to access libraries and/or online articles and books in order to do the background reading necessary to complete both the summative assessment items for the course.
2. IMPORTANT NOTE: You are not required to collect data for the assessment requirements for this course. Moreover, you may NOT collect data for your project or dissertation unless you are doing so under the supervision of your supervisor and, if such data gathering involves human participants, unless you have the prior written approval to do so from the Faculty of Education Ethics Reference Group.
3. Students are required to use a recognised referencing system, preferably the American Psychological Association (5th edition) referencing system.
4. 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.
5. Students enrolling in WEB courses MUST have ongoing convenient and reliable access to the Internet in order to access course materials and participate in activities that will affect assessment. The levels of equipment required may change from time to time, with the most recent specification listed at
http://www.usq.edu.au/currentstudents/computingstandards/default.htm. You can check whether your computer system meets these requirements from USQAssist (http://usqassist.usq.edu.au/).