Description: Preliminary Research and Pilot Study

<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>EDU</td>
<td>9601</td>
<td>67012</td>
<td>2, 2007</td>
<td>WEB</td>
<td>2.00</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: Jon Austin

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 the second of two research and evaluation courses that are offered within the Doctor of Education program in the Faculty of Education. It links directly to the first course in which students gain advanced knowledge and skills in research/evaluation applicable to their topic and field of study and in which they prepare a preliminary research/evaluation proposal. It is in this second course that students put their research skills into practice by implementing their preliminary research/evaluation and pilot study proposal. At this stage students are expected to have a clear purpose for the conduct of pilot work in relation to their major research study for their dissertation or folio. The pilot work is not expected to be a major undertaking but should inform some aspect of the future study e.g. development and trial of a data collection instrument. Understanding research and evaluation in an educational context requires the development of skills in design, choice of method, data collection, analysis and interpretation, as well as the development of analytical skills required for assessing existing research and evaluation reports. By being involved in the processes applicable to their specific research field, students will further develop their understanding of the complexities related to their particular educational situation whether it be in relation to experimental research, case study, grounded theory, phenomenology, curriculum evaluation or other research methods.

SYNOPSIS
The major goal of this course is for students to carry out preliminary research and pilot study that will inform in some way their subsequent proposal for their major research in the Doctor of
Education program. It follows on from the previous course EDU8603 "Research Methods and Critical Inquiry" in which students gain advanced knowledge and skills in research/evaluation applicable to their topic and field of study and in which they prepare a preliminary research proposal for a pilot study. This pilot work serves a dual purpose. Firstly it allows students to put their research skills into practice by implementing a pilot study. Secondly, it provides an opportunity for them to develop or investigate a specific aspect of their major research study prior to their writing of their research proposal proper and the conduct of their proposal defence. This pilot work may involve such activities as the development and trial of a data collection instrument, the conduct of preliminary interviews or observations, or other exploratory data collection and analysis. Students are allocated an advisor but may also participate in collaborative problem-solving research groupings of students and staff during the course. The course will promote and apply the skills required for proposing, conducting and reporting research in education.

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 will demonstrate competence in written language and scholarly writing, including correct spelling, grammar and bibliography, referencing and will demonstrate an understanding of:

1. the principles and logic of inquiry into education; (Research project)
2. the relationship between philosophy/epistemology and educational research; (Research project)
3. contemporary ideas about educational research; (Research project)
4. the differences between humanistic, scientific/analytical and critical research methods; (Research project)
5. the requirements of different research methodologies by selecting appropriate research approaches to perform required analyses; (Research project)
6. the skills needed to conduct research into a chosen topic using a preferred research method; (Research project)
7. the methodological problems posed by the gap between research and practice in education. (Research project)

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical application of educational research</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot research study</td>
<td>60.00</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).
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.

Students will select readings that are appropriate for their research requirements. These readings are published in the two books of readings that accompany this course.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECT</td>
<td>999.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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</table>

(see note 1)

NOTES

1. An ungraded pass is the only grade available for this course. All students who are qualified for an ungraded pass grade will be given a grade of P. Other students will be given either a Failing grade (F) or an Incomplete (IDM).

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 or at least a grade of C- 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 20% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each month late.

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 available weighted marks for each item.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   An ungraded pass is the only grade available for this course. All students who are qualified for an ungraded pass grade will be given a grade of P. Other students will be given either a Failing grade (F) or an Incomplete (IDM).

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

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Not applicable.

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

1 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.

2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced
   within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of request being made by the examiner. The
   student must retain this copy until the grade for this course has been finalised.

3 In accordance with the University's assignment extension policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the
   examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating
   circumstances.

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

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

6 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.

7 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area,
   the due date for the assignment will be the next working day. Students are to note on the
   assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience.

8 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.

10 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable
    to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply
    to defer an assessment in a 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).

11 When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distributed patterns
    and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.

12 Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of
    assignment specifications.

13 Each assessment item must be submitted and passed.

14 Summative assessment items will receive a grade of P, F or IDM (Incomplete Deferred
    Make-up). Any ungraded assessment requirement will receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.
OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Students will require access to e-mail and Internet access to USQConnect for this course.
2. Students are to use a recognised referencing system as specified by the examiner.
3. 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.