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: Research Methodology 1

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
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Academic group: FOBUS
Academic org: FOBUSN
Student contribution band: 2
ASCED code: 080399

STAFFING
Examiner: Melissa Johnson Morgan
Moderator: Raj Gururajan

OTHER REQUISITES
Students are required to have access to a personal computer, e-mail capabilities and Internet access to USQConnect. Current details of computer requirements can be found at http://www.usq.edu.au/business/aboutfob.htm

SYNOPSIS
This course provides an introduction to the methodology of research in the context of business and commerce. The focus will be on issues such as: topic selection, problem definition, development of research questions, theory construction, research design, and selected data collection tools. Additionally, students will be expected to develop critical thinking skills and the capacity to read and critique a research article. The course is directed at research students who wish to learn about designing and conducting research in the disciplines represented in business and commerce. Students will be expected to develop an understanding of the key components of the research process, as well as the application of research methods appropriate to particular research questions.

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 is/are shown in parentheses after each objective. On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. describe the processes involved in topic selection, problem definition and the development of research questions (Assignment 1, Class Participation)
2. evaluate the role of literature review and theory construction in research (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Class Participation)
3. analyse alternative approaches to research design and methodology (Assignment 2, Class Participation)
4. apply critical thinking skills in reading and critiquing research articles (Assignment 1, Assignment 2).

**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research and science</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Locating and evaluating research articles</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<td>3. Finding, stating and delineating research problems</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Literature review and theory construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Research design and methodology - quantitative and qualitative approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Approaches to and methods of qualitative research</td>
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<td>7. Quantitative data and survey research</td>
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<td>8. Experimental designs</td>
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<td>9. Correlational and differential research</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Relating research question, theory, design and validity issues</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.


**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<td>Assessment</td>
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<td>Directed Study</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
<td>60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>(see note 3)</td>
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**NOTES**

1. class participation refers to either in-class or online contributions to weekly discussion topics
2. mini critique
3. major critique

**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1 Attendance requirements:
   If you are an international student in Australia, you are advised to attend all classes at your campus. For all other students, 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 satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval of the examiner, then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded.

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 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 Student Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene university regulations. These regulations can be found at http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm. Students should also read the Faculty of Business Policies and Procedures which can be found at http://www.usq.edu.au/business/aboutfob.htm.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 Assignments: (i) 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. (ii) Students must retain a copy of each assignment submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours if required by the examiner. (iii) The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. Applications for extensions should be in writing and must include supporting documentary evidence. Extensions are only granted in unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances. The examiner shall consider all documentary evidence (including statement from a doctor, employer, counsellor or independent member of the community as appropriate) accompanying an application for extension and decide on the outcome. Length of extensions: Up to one week’s extension (five working days) may be granted if a signed statement with supporting documentation is sent with the assignment, proving that an unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstance caused the delay, for example unusual and unpredictable work or family commitments. If the signed statement and supporting documentation does not show that unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances were present for the days claimed, then the normal reduction in marks for a late assignment of 5% per working day will apply. Extensions beyond one week are not allowed unless express permission is obtained from the examiner. Extensions beyond one week are only granted in extreme circumstance because model answers may be distributed after this time. If you are likely to require an extension for a longer period than one week, you must contact the examiner for advice. In most cases, you will be required to complete an alternative make-up assignment. However, make-up assignments are only granted if you have passed all other pieces of assessment for the course. Medical extensions: In the case of an application for extension for medical reasons, the documentation should include a statement from a doctor stating: the date the medical condition began or changed; how the condition affected the student’s ability to study; when it became apparent that the student could not submit the assignment. As a rule, you will be granted an extension for the number of working days covered on a medical certificate. In the case of a medical extension, you do not need to contact the examiner unless you require an extension of longer than one week. Extensions for family/personal reasons: In the case of an application for extension for family/personal reasons, the documentation should include a statement from a doctor, counsellor or independent member of the community stating: the date the
student's personal circumstances began or changed; how the circumstances affected the student's ability to complete the assignment; when it became apparent that the student could not complete the assignment. In the case of an extension for family/personal reasons you must contact the examiner before the due date to discuss the reason for the extension and to negotiate the length of an extension if granted. Extensions for employment-related reasons: In the case of an application for extension for employment-related reasons, the documentation should include a statement from the student's employer stating: the date the student's employment began or the conditions of employment changed; how this prevents the student from completing the assignment. In the case of an extension for employment-related reasons you must contact the examiner before the due date to discuss the reason for the extension and to negotiate the length of an extension if granted.

2 Text books: Please note that it is the responsibility of the student to acquire a copy of the text book as soon as their enrolment in the course has been confirmed. Extensions will not be granted on the basis of the student not having a copy of the text, if the text is available from the USQ bookshop.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Learning resources: Prescribed texts and materials (see above); recommended reference materials (see above); printed Introductory Book, Study Book/s, and Book/s of Selected Readings; CD (compact disc); and course Website accessible via USQConnect.