Description: Critical Thinking

Subject  Cat-nbr  Class  Term  Mode  Units  Campus
PSY  1101  63095  1, 2007  ONC  1.00  Springfield

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

STAFFING
Examiner: Gerry Tehan
Moderator: Graeme Senior

RATIONALE
Much of the study in the course of the four years of this degree is aimed at teaching students to think like a professional psychologist. Largely this involves being able to think critically about any issue that arises and to be able to problem solve. In order to do this one needs a thorough understanding of how people learn, how they evaluate information and how they use it. Students also need to be aware of the shortcoming of the cognitive processes they bring to critical thinking and problem solving that are likely to lead to less than optimal outcomes.

SYNOPSIS
Critical thinking and problem solving skills are attributes that USQ affirms its graduates should have acquired upon completion of their degree. This course is aimed directly at fostering those skills. This is done by examining the topic from a range of perspectives. The techniques of critical thinking and problem solving are explicitly taught. In addition, the issue of bias and other types of cognitive limitations that produce erroneous solutions are also examined.

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

1. demonstrate an understanding of the psychological basis underpinning critical thinking and problem solving skills (All pieces of Assessment);
2. apply critical thinking and problem solving skills in solving applied problems (Assignments 1 and 2);
3. follow specific writing, organization, and style guidelines as set out in the latest edition of the Publication Manual of the APA (Assignments 1 and 2).
TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schema Building</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypotheses Testing</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logical Reasoning</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Solving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biases in Decision Making</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).

Goldstein, EB 2005, Cognitive psychology, Thompson/Wadsworth, Melbourne, Australia.

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.


Stanovich, KE 2004, How to think straight about psychology, 7th edn, Allyn & Bacon, Boston, Mass.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<td>Class Contact</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 1</td>
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<td>06 Mar 2007</td>
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<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEST 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEST 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEST 3</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<td>06 Mar 2007</td>
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NOTES
1. Assignment due dates to be advised.
2. Test 1 to be held in week 5.
3. Test 2 to be held in week 8.
4. Test 3 to be held in week 11.

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.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assignment.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 5% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day 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 achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

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

7. Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   There is no examination for 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  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.

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

11 Access to email, discussion groups and the internet is a departmental requirement. Students are expected to open their university provided email account and check it regularly for personal communication. Information sent this way will be regarded as being receivable.