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: Psychology Masters Project B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>PSY</td>
<td>8170</td>
<td>70196</td>
<td>3, 2007</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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**Academic group:** FOSCI  
**Academic org:** FOS005  
**Student contribution band:** 1  
**ASCED code:** 090701

**STAFFING**
Examiner: Peter Terry  
Moderator: Paul Bramston

**REQUISITES**
Pre-requisite: PSY8160

**RATIONALE**
The scientist-practitioner model of professional practice in psychology has broad consensual acceptance within the profession. It follows that students must be able to conduct a substantial empirical project concerned with the application of theory in a selected area. This course gives them the opportunity to do so in a supervised, learning environment.

**SYNOPSIS**
This is the second of two courses that contribute to the Psychology Masters Project. The course will consist of an individual empirical project in a selected area of psychology of relevance to the student's chosen specialisation. Under the supervision of a staff member, the student will design the study based on a review of appropriate literature, collect and analyse data and write a report normally of 9,000 to 15,000 words (but not exceeding 20,000 words). It is expected that the report of the project would be of sufficient standard to be accepted for publication in a professional journal.

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

1. demonstrate the ability to think analytically, critically and creatively about a chosen research topic and related issues within the area of specialisation chosen (Assessment 1);  
2. demonstrate competence in each component of empirical research procedures, viz; identify and analyse research problems, formulate hypotheses, operationalise research procedures, collect relevant data, carry out appropriate analysis of data, interpret results obtained, and draw appropriate conclusions (Assessment 1).
3. competently write a report of a research project to communicate all aspects of the project to professional peers (Assessment 1).

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be determined by the student in consultation with his/her supervisor.</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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).

Department of Psychology, "Preparing a Dissertation - Guidelines for Successfully Completing a Psychology Masters Project A & B". [NB: To be provided by the Department]

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>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>240.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>39.00</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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<tr>
<td>DISSERTATION (20,000 WORD MAX)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>01 Feb 2008</td>
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</table>

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:

It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities 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. International students must attend
all activities scheduled for them and ensure that their attendance is registered with the staff member in charge of the activity.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   Not applicable.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit the dissertation after the due date without prior approval from the Program Co-ordinator then a fail grade will be awarded.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the dissertation, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course by satisfactorily completing the dissertation.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   As P is the only passing grade available for this course, all students who are qualified for a passing grade will be given a grade of P. Other students will be given either a Failing grade or an Incomplete grade.

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

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in 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 http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

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

10 The examiner in consultation with the Program Co-ordinator may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. The Examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. An extension will be considered in extraordinary circumstances only. The extension will not be granted beyond six weeks after the end of the semester.

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

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

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

14 The report will conform with guidelines on the content, style and format of reports issued from time to time by either the USQ or the Psychology Department. Students will be provided with a copy of the Psychology Department's "Preparing a Dissertation - Guidelines for successfully completing Psychology Masters Projects A & B" and will be expected to follow the procedures therein.

15 The dissertation will be marked by two examiners; one external to the USQ, and the other a staff member who was not the supervisor. In the event of substantial discrepancy between the markers, a second internal examiner will mark the report.
16 Prior to submission of the dissertation, the supervisor should consult with the Program Coordinator regarding a suitable external and internal examiner. The supervisor should then contact the nominated potential examiners to seek their informal agreement to examine the dissertation.

17 The supervisor will approve the dissertation for examination. The loose bound copies of the dissertation should be given to the Program Coordinator who will distribute copies to the two examiners.

18 The Program Coordinator is responsible for the return of the examiners' comments and should review these carefully. A decision will be determined on the basis of the consensus of both the reviewer's evaluations. According to their evaluation, the outcome will be: that the dissertation be accepted as satisfactory for the award of the degree; that the dissertation be accepted as satisfactory for the award of the degree subject to the completion of specified minor revisions to the satisfaction of the University of Southern Queensland; (These revisions might involve minor editorial changes, improvement of expression, better presentation of data, etc. In some cases, where English is the candidate's second language, there might be the need for considerable editing); that one or more sections of the dissertation be rewritten prior to the resubmission of the dissertation for re-examination; (These revisions might include structural changes to the dissertation and/or revisions on the basis of conceptual, methodological or analytical discussion of the data); that the dissertation be rejected and the degree not be awarded.

19 If revisions are required to the dissertation, the supervisor should prepare a letter to the student which clearly sets out an integrated list of the revisions required by the two examiners. The Program Coordinator is responsible for checking that these revisions satisfy the examiners' reports. The supervisor checks the revised dissertation and once all the required revisions have been satisfactorily completed, the Coordinator is informed and the student given a Pass for the course.