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: Psychology Doctorate Project A |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Subject | Cat-nbr | Class | Term | Mode | Units | Campus |
| PSY     | 8601    | 70198 | 3, 2007 | ONC | 1.00 | Toowoomba |

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

STAFFING
Examiner: Peter Terry
Moderator: Paul Bramston

REQUISITES
Co-requisite: PSY8020

RATIONALE
The scholar-practitioner model of training in psychology has broad consensual acceptance within the applied profession. The professional doctorate therefore requires the student to be proficient in critically reviewing relevant theory and research to assist in the identification, investigation and resolution of current issues within the practice of psychology. This course provides the opportunity to conduct a comprehensive theoretical and empirical literature review related to a specific problem the student wishes to investigate and to design a research program consisting of at least two studies to investigate identified theoretical and practical issues.

SYNOPSIS
This is the first of four project courses that contribute to the professional doctorate. The course involves selecting a topic and supervisor, conducting a thorough literature review, and developing a detailed thesis proposal that critically summarises the current substantive, practice and research methodology issues. The student will be expected to exhibit competence in conducting a thorough literature search using various data bases, identifying pivotal issues, formulating appropriate research questions and hypotheses derived from theory and empirical findings, and designing methods appropriate to investigating the research question(s). A written report (up to 8,000 words) will be submitted to the supervisor.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate competencies in critically reviewing literature to address theoretical and practical questions and issues in the field,
and designing research programs to further investigate these questions and issues. In general the
student will be able to:

1. demonstrate analytical, critical and creative thinking in postulating research hypotheses
   and problems (Assessment 1);
2. postulate new directions of research and new unsolved problems (Assessment 1);
3. write and summarise concepts in a professional and scientific manner (Assessment 1);
4. demonstrate competence in identifying and choosing procedures appropriate for addressing
   hypotheses, awareness of the limitations of the research plan they have chosen and account
   for these weaknesses and limitations; competence in assessing and addressing ethical
   concerns in research (Assessment 1).

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The subject of the thesis proposal will be proposed by the student and</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>after consultation, will be finally determined by the student's supervisor.</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.

Association*, 5th edn, APA, Washington, DC.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>127.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>13.00</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>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISSERTATION PROPOSAL</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>01 Feb 2008</td>
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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:
   To complete the dissertation proposal satisfactorily, students must obtain a pass from the
   supervisor and one other marker in the Department. Any disagreement amongst markers
   will be arbitrated by the Program Co-ordinator.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit the assignment 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 summative assessment
   item, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives
   of the course by satisfactorily completing the summative assessment item (the assignment).

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 extension period will
   not last beyond the end of the fourth week after the end of the examination period 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.
The DISSERTATION proposal shall include: a comprehensive critical review of research in the field; a discussion of relevant theoretical and practical issues; a description of how the dissertation will make a contribution to the field; a list of all references cited; selection criteria for participants, describe the variables chosen, instruments/interview procedures to be used, interventions/treatments to be applied, administration procedures for consent of participants, and proposed methods for data analysis. Scientific justification of each segment of the research plan is essential. The document "Ethics Committee Application for Ethics Clearance for Investigations Involving Human Research" must be submitted and approved. 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. The USQ Ethics Approval will conform to the procedures issued by the USQ Office of Research and Higher Degrees. The completed manuscript will not exceed 8,000 words. The manuscript will be submitted in duplicate to the Supervisor. Evaluation will be completed by the Supervisor and one other member of the Department. The student will be graded as either Pass or Fail for this course upon approval of the proposal and Ethics Application.