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 D

<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>PSY</td>
<td>8604</td>
<td>66356</td>
<td>2, 2007</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>4.00</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: PSY8603

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 applied research skills to conduct a substantial program of research concerning a meaningful problem within the practice of psychology. This course gives the student the opportunity to develop skills in reporting on and critically examining the findings from the program of research conducted in Psychology Doctorate Project B and Project C.

SYNOPSIS

This is the fourth of four project courses that contribute to the professional doctorate. This course involves the completion of the research component as outlined in the proposal submitted in Project A and conducted in the studies in Project B and Project C. The student will be expected to exhibit competence in using the appropriate analytical procedures to examine the hypotheses guiding the research program, reporting and integrating the results of the studies completed, critically examining the findings in terms of theoretical underpinnings of the research, previous findings, methodological issues, and directions for future study. When required, it is also expected that the student will use qualitative and quantitative techniques to triangulate sources of evidence and substantiate the thesis arguments. A written report (up to 30,000 words) will be submitted for examination and an oral presentation of findings will be required. The quality of the dissertation will meet the standard of a good refereed journal in its field.
OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate competencies in critically reviewing literature and competently conducting research projects to address theoretical and practical questions and issues in the field. In general they will be able to:

1. demonstrate analytical, critical and creative thinking in postulating research hypotheses and problems (Assessment 1);
2. operationalise research procedures; triangulate sources of evidence; report and critically examine findings (Assessment 1);
3. postulate new directions of research and new unsolved problems (Assessment 1);
4. suggest new paradigms and methods of investigation and (Assessment 1);
5. present findings and ideas for future research in a professional and scientific manner (Assessment 1).

TOPICS

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>130.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>52.00</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>DISSERTATION</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>02 Nov 2007</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:
   Not applicable.

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 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.

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.
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.

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.

The Dissertation (up to 30,000 words) will be sent to two external markers. 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.

This course will be completed over two consecutive semesters. Students will be given an IDM grade at the end of the first semester of their enrolment in the course.

If revisions are required, the student will revise the dissertation accordingly and will resubmit it to his/her principal supervisor with a letter indicating the changes that have been made. The supervisor will inform the Departmental Research & Higher Degrees Committee about the progress and quality of the revisions made. The Departmental Research & Higher Degrees Committee will then decide to Pass or Fail the student.