

Course Outline

Code: ENP710A

Title: Planning Thesis A

Faculty of Arts, Business and Law

School of Social Sciences

Teaching Session: Semester 1

Year: 2018

Course Coordinator: **Dr Nicholas Stevens**

Phone: (07)5459 4453

Room: D1.28

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1. What is this course about?

1.1 Course description

This course requires you to describe a planning issue or problem and carry out independent research to resolve the issue or problem. You will prepare a brief research proposal and provide a theoretical context for the research through a literature review. You will be responsible for obtaining any necessary research ethics approval and conduct the research necessary to complete the thesis, working with a research supervisor. Successful completion of this course involves collection of all research data and presenting possible strategies to deal with the issues or problems.

1.2 Course content

- Definition of a research problem or research questions with evidence from academic literature
- Carry out research using appropriate analytical methods and techniques
- Reaching conclusions and presenting options for dealing with the identified planning issue

2. Unit value

24 units

3. How does this course contribute to my learning?

| Specific Learning Outcomes | Assessment Tasks | Graduate Qualities |
|---|---|--|
| On successful completion of this course you should be able to: | You will be assessed on the learning outcome in task/s: | Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming: |
| Identify and analyse a planning problem, based on a literature review. | 1 | Knowledgeable. Empowered. |
| Define a methodology for data collection and analysis. | 2 | Sustainability-focussed. Engaged. |
| Collect and analyse fieldwork data and results. | 3 | Sustainability-focussed. Ethical. |
| Consolidate data, research and theory to create a final thesis which addresses the research question. | 4 and 5 | Creative and critical thinkers. Engaged. |

4. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the *Coursework Programs and Awards - Academic Policy* for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”

4.1 Enrolment restrictions

Only available to students enrolled in AR705 who meet the academic standard (GPA of 5.5) achieved in the four required courses ENP701, ENP702, ENP703 and SCS701

4.2 Pre-requisites

ENP701, ENP702, ENP703, SCS701, CMN574 and ENP710A

4.3 Co-requisites

Nil

4.4 Anti-requisites

ENP709

4.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills

Nil

5. How am I going to be assessed?

5.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

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5.2 Assessment tasks

| Task No. | Assessment Tasks | Individual or Group | Weighting % | What is the duration / length? | When should I submit? | Where should I submit it? |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Semester 1 – ENP710A | | | | | | |
| 1 | Verbal presentation about the nature of the research proposal, an outline of the process and possible methods of analysis | Individual | 0% Formative Feedback from Supervisor | 10 minutes | Intensive workshop Week 1 (<i>First semester</i>) | Verbal Presentation at intensive workshop |
| 2 | Define a methodology for data collection and analysis. | Individual | 0% Formative Feedback from Supervisor | 1500 words | Week 3 (<i>First semester</i>) | Electronic submission to supervisor |
| Semester 2 – ENP710B | | | | | | |
| 3 | Collect and analyse Fieldwork data. | Individual | 0% Formative feedback from Supervisor | 500 words | Week 1 (<i>Second Semester</i>) | Electronic submission to supervisor and Course Coordinator |
| 4 | Draft thesis submitted with draft conclusions about the research questions | Individual | 0% Formative Feedback from supervisor | 20,000-30,000 | Week 10, 5pm (<i>Second semester</i>) | Electronic submission to supervisor |
| 5 | Final thesis submitted | Individual | 100% | 20,000-30,000 | Friday Week 13, 5pm (<i>Second semester</i>) | Couriered to Supervisor |
| | | | 100% | | | |

Assessment Task 1: Verbal presentation about the nature of the research proposal, an outline of the process and possible methods of analysis

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| Goal: | Develop a research idea or question in Week 1 and justify its importance to the planning discipline |
| Product: | Verbal presentation |
| Format: | You are required to make a 10 minute presentation about your research outline, the topic, background, rationale, research question, aim and objectives, methodology, research methods and techniques, and timeframe for your thesis. Time will be allocated in the research workshop to hear from you and to discuss each project. |
| Criteria | You will be assessed according to levels of achievement in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear presentation of the statement of problem/issue |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rationale for research, research question, aim and objectives and extent to which these address a planning issue of significance to the planning profession or the community |
| Generic skill assessed | Skill assessment level |
| Communication | Graduate |

Assessment Task 2: Define a methodology for data collection and analysis

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| Goal: | Define a methodology for data collection and analysis |
| Product: | Thesis chapter outlining methodology and methods to be applied in the thesis |
| Format: | Working with your supervisor, you are required to prepare a methodology outlining the methods to be used in carrying out the research. |
| Criteria | <p>You will be assessed according to levels of achievement in the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Familiarity with research design demonstrated through a research outline that includes: the planning issue, rationale, research question, aim and objectives, methodology, research methods and techniques, and a realistic timeframe for the research. 2. Coherence, sequencing, and application of a logical approach to a planning problem and its significance to the profession or the community. 3. Application of facilitation skills to group discussion about the issue/problem. 4. Knowledge and use of relevant referencing. |
| Generic skill assessed | Skill assessment level |
| Organisation | Graduate |
| Applying technologies | Graduate |

Assessment Task 3: Collect and analyse Fieldwork data

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| Goal: | You are to collect data and analyse applying appropriate methods |
| Product: | Chapter outlining how data was collected and analyse to develop options for dealing with the research question. |
| Format: | You will undertake fieldwork relevant to the research questions and write a 500 word chapter analysing the data and explaining how the data was collected. |
| Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback will be given by your supervisor about the degree to which appropriate techniques are used to analyse the issue and gather data. Coherent sequential logical development of planning options is based on economic, social and other analysis |
| Generic skill assessed | Skill assessment level |
| Problem solving | Graduate |

Assessment Task 4: Draft thesis submitted with draft conclusions about the research questions

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| Goal: | Draft thesis submitted with draft conclusions about the research questions |
| Product: | Draft version of all chapters in the thesis |
| Format: | If you would like feedback on your draft thesis, you are required to submit a 20,000 to 30,000 word draft to your supervisor by the due date to allow adequate time for feedback prior to final submission. |
| Criteria | <p>Feedback will be based on the assessment criteria for the final thesis, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. development of a sound research question and objectives with supporting evidence from the literature review |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. knowledge and application of appropriate methods of data collection, clearly described and justified 3. knowledge and application of appropriate methods of data analysis, with results of the research activities presented succinctly and accurately, supported by detailed annexures as necessary 4. recognition of the implications of research through the syntheses of analysis which clearly explains how the findings address the research question and the objectives 5. recognition of the implications of research through a discussion and conclusion which relates the findings to the literature and practical application 6. correct application of an appropriate referencing system |
| Generic skill assessed | Skill assessment level |
| Communication | Graduate |
| Information literacy | Graduate |

Assessment Task 5: Final thesis submitted

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Goal: | To submit the final thesis which addresses the research question and makes a contribution to the planning disciplinary knowledge |
| Product: | The final thesis addresses the research question and makes a contribution to the planning disciplinary knowledge. |
| Format: | In consultation with your supervisor, you are required to conduct and write up research as a scholarly thesis. You must demonstrate research competency and the ability to make a contribution to the body of knowledge in the chosen area of planning. The 20,000 to 30,000 word thesis should comprise sections including: an introduction that identifies and justifies the research question, methods of data collection and analysis, results of data collection and analysis, discussion of findings and relevance to the research question and academic literature, and conclusion with recommendations. The latter will be drawn from the analysis and discussion and reflect the attainment of the thesis aim and the way in which the research question is addressed. |
| Criteria | <p>You will be assessed according to levels of achievement in the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. development of a sound research question and objectives with supporting evidence from the literature review 2. knowledge and application of appropriate methods of data collection clearly described and justified 3. knowledge and application of appropriate methods of data analysis, with results of the research activities presented succinctly and accurately, supported by detailed annexures as necessary 4. recognition of the implications of research through the syntheses of analysis which clearly explains how the findings address the research question and the objectives 5. recognition of the implications of research through a discussion and conclusion which relates the findings to the literature and practical application 6. correct application of an appropriate referencing system |
| Generic skill assessed | Skill assessment level |
| Organisation | Graduate |
| Communication | Graduate |

5.3 Additional assessment requirements

Plagiarism

In order to minimise incidents of plagiarism and collusion, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

5.4 Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

6. How is the course offered?

6.1 Directed study hours

Delivered On-line via blackboard plus a 3 day intensive workshop on campus

6.2 Teaching semester/session(s) offered

Semester 2 – Sippy Downs

6.3 Course activities

| Teaching Week / Module | What key concepts/content will I learn? | What activities will I engage in to learn the concepts/content? | |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | Directed Study Activities | Independent Study Activities |
| First Semester | | | |
| 1 | Intensive on-campus research Workshop Issue identification, methods of data collection and analysis, ethics of research, writing a thesis. | Lectures and workshops about research and research process. Student presentations. | You carry out research which enables a problem or research question to be defined. |
| 2-13 | Individual work on thesis | Regular meetings with supervisor as agreed. | You undertake independent research in consultation with supervisor |
| Second Semester | | | |
| 1 - 13 | Individual work on thesis | Regular meetings with supervisor as agreed. | You undertake independent research in consultation with supervisor |

Please note that the course activities may be subject to variation.

7. What resources do I need to undertake this course?**7.1 Prescribed text(s)**

Nil

7.2 Required and recommended readings

Lists of required and recommended readings may be found for this course on its Blackboard site. These materials/readings will assist you in preparing for tutorials and assignments, and will provide further information regarding particular aspects of your course.

7.3 Specific requirements

Nil

7.4 Risk management

For courses working in a field environment other than an office or a low risk environment: Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and a low level of health and safety risk exists. Some risks concerns may include working in an unknown environment as well as slip and trip hazards. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff

8. How can I obtain help with my studies?

In the first instance you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Peer Advisors and Academic Skills Advisors. You can drop in or book an appointment. To book: Tel: +61 7 5430 2890 or Email: student_central@usc.edu.au

9. Links to relevant University policies and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

<http://www.usc.edu.au/university/governance-and-executive/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10. General enquiries

In person:

- **Sippy Downs** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building B, Ground floor (level 1)
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Building A

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au