CIVL4560
Project
Academic year: 2002

Number of Units: 2 Semester offered: second

Class contact hours
Students will find the timetable details (days, times, rooms) for this course on mySI-Net and should regularly check it for possible changes to times or location of classes. Timetable changes are imported to mySI-net on a nightly basis and thus it is the most accurate display of the timetable. It is expected that students work at least 10 hours a week on their project.

Purpose of the course
The course is designed to help students develop research skills and gain specialised knowledge in a particular field of interest.

Staff
Course Co-ordinator Dr Hamid R Ronagh
Office: Room 418, Building 50
Phone: 3365 9117 (Office); 3365 4163 (General Office)
E-mail: h.ronagh@uq.edu.au

Supervisors
All available Civil Engineering academic staff are involved

Assumed Knowledge
It is better that students do this subject in their 4th year as all 1st, 2nd and 3rd year courses may be useful in their research. Third year students may find the course rather difficult.

Feedback to Lecturers
You are encouraged to provide feedback to the coordinator at any time during the term of the course.

Web site
This course is supported by a web-board. The web-board can be accessed at the following URL address: http://www.uq.edu.au/ronagh/teaching/civl4560

Course learning goals
On completing this course students will:
1. learn to use library searching facilities,
2. be able to perform a literature review,
3. learn to complete a research task
4. develop better collaboration and critical thinking skills.
Course Outline

Research is an inevitable part of any successful business. Performing research activities, however, is not easy and straightforward. It requires self-discipline, focus and communication. Research experience in an educational environment is proved to enormously lift the abilities of students in developing a resourceful, self-disciplined, focused mind. The course is designed to promote this.

Course Content

It will depend on the chosen research topic.

Teaching and learning methods

Students will generally work in groups of two or three, supervised by the academic staff. A research task will be defined. The research may be theoretical, need computer work or experiments in the lab. Every student must attend the Library Information Skills Workshop, submit the library assignment and submit a full project document by the due date (refer to Appendix 1: Deadlines). Students should discuss with their supervisor, the definition and scope of the research topic. Weekly meetings with the supervisor (at mutually agreed times) should be held to discuss regular progress and problems encountered. It is the responsibility of the students to meet the supervisor to ensure regular progress.

There will be a meeting of all students and the coordinator of this course in the first week of the semester. Time and place of which will be announced via email to all enrolled students. There, students need to choose their group partners, and indicate their choice of the research field. Possible choices are; Structures, Transport, Environment, Coastal, Water and Construction Management. Depending on their choice, they will be directed to a particular staff member with whom they can negotiate the thesis topic. The topic has to be finalised by the deadline (refer to Appendix 1: Deadlines) and the form provided in Appendix 2, has to be signed and returned to the coordinator.

Staff members involved are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. F Albermani</td>
<td>Phone: 33654126 Email: <a href="mailto:f.albermani@uq.edu.au">f.albermani@uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr T Baldock</td>
<td>Phone: 3369432 Email: <a href="mailto:t.baldock@uq.edu.au">t.baldock@uq.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>A/Prof. H. Chanson</td>
<td>Phone: 33653516 Email: <a href="mailto:h.chanson@uq.edu.au">h.chanson@uq.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dr. B. Clarke</td>
<td>Phone: 33656464 Email: <a href="mailto:billc@uq.edu.au">billc@uq.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. R. Day</td>
<td>Phone: 33653896 Email: <a href="mailto:r.day@uq.edu.au">r.day@uq.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. H. Dia</td>
<td>Phone: 33653517 Email: <a href="mailto:h.dia@uq.edu.au">h.dia@uq.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>A/Prof. P. Dux</td>
<td>Phone: 33653619 Email: <a href="mailto:p.dux@uq.edu.au">p.dux@uq.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. L Li</td>
<td>Phone: 33653911 Email: <a href="mailto:l.li@uq.edu.au">l.li@uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. D. Lockington</td>
<td></td>
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Additional costs
The only additional cost is paying for the thesis binding.

Assessment program
Assessment will be as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Information Skills Workshop</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effort judged by the supervisor (marked individually)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis document marked by the supervisor (marked individually)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis document marked by an informed reader (marked individually)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment criteria

- **Grade 2**: The student fails to demonstrate any relevant knowledge or understanding of the underlying concepts. Much of the information provided is inaccurate and irrelevant.
- **Grade 3**: Some knowledge of the subject is evident but the student only demonstrates a limited understanding of the underlying concepts and the information provided is largely inaccurate or irrelevant.
- **Grade 4**: The student demonstrates a sound knowledge of the relevant information and at least a partial understanding of the underlying concepts. Has some correct and some incorrect information.
- **Grade 5**: The student demonstrates a sound knowledge of the relevant information and a sound understanding of the key concepts. There are only minor factual inaccuracies.
- **Grade 6**: Key concepts are understood. There are only very minor factual inaccuracies and no irrelevant information.
- **Grade 7**: Key concepts are understood. There is evidence of critical analysis and an ability to synthesise information from different aspects of the subject. There are no factual inaccuracies and no irrelevant information.

Assessment and grading

**Library Information Skills Workshop:**
Students need to contact the Civil Engineering Library Liaison Officer, at the Dorothy-Hills Physical Sciences and Engineering Library in order to register their name for one of the available classes. At the moment, Mrs Dianna Guillemann is the Civil Engineering Library Liaison Officer. She can be contacted on 33658281 or by email on d.guillemin@library.uq.edu.au.

**Thesis Document:**
The submitted thesis document should be type-written. Two hard copies and one electronic copy (on either floppy disk or CDROM), have to be submitted to the Department Office before the deadline.
Electronic copy should be either in PDF or Microsoft WORD format. The document may contain the following headings: Introduction; Literature Survey; Research Plan and Outcomes, Discussions and Conclusions, or other headings as appropriate. Basically, the document should introduce the research topic, outline works which has been done previously by other researchers, state the current research and how it is different from previous work, explain the methodology, discuss the results obtained and suggest conclusions. Avenues for future research may also be added.

There is no specific requirement for the way the document is formatted. Students can choose any reasonable font types and sizes, margins, etc. Students must submit their thesis document individually. Group submission is not acceptable.

There is a specific coversheet for the thesis. The cover sheet is provided in Appendix 3. You can also download it from the web-board allocated to this course. Hard copies of the thesis are to be thermal bound by use of a “Bindomatic” machine. This facility is available in the Department Office. Procedures are as follows:

(i) Students obtain a payment slip from the Department Office for payment at the Cashiers Office. The cost is $5.00 per cover / hard copy.
(ii) Students submit their thesis to the Department Office for binding, together with the receipt of payment. Departmental Staff will bind the theses and submit to the thesis Coordinator.

Copying and Plagiarism
Although students are encouraged to discuss amongst themselves and with their lecturers the concepts and ideas being presented in this course, any material submitted for assessment must be the student's own work. Copying or plagiarism (presenting as your own the ideas of others without proper acknowledgment or referencing) and falsifying results are forms of cheating and are unacceptable behaviour. This type of behaviour falls under the definition of misconduct in the University of Queensland Statute No 4 (Student Discipline and Misconduct) 1999. Students found copying or cheating or assisting a fellow student to cheat will receive penalties specified in Statute 4. Penalties may include loss of marks or credit for this course or you may be required to do extra or repeat work in the course.

Late submission
Late submission of the Project-Topic form means that you do not like to continue and will withdraw from the course. Late submissions of the project documents will be penalised 1% per day. Maximum delay for the project document is 7 days and any further delay results in your document not being marked (You will loose the allocated 60%). For legitimate reasons like illness, etc., earliest possible notification must be made to the co-ordinator. A decision will then be made according to the circumstances. (Refer to Appendix 1; Deadlines)

There have been circumstances in the past like students submitting their project documents to their supervisors, sending the project-topic form by email, not using the correct cover sheet or submitting their documents as a group (not individually). Although these are all acceptable means of communication, they add a lot of load to the administration work involved. I therefore have no way rather to penalise students who do not follow the instructions exactly. A decision will be made on the penalty based on the severity of the mistake you have made.

Would all students please also note that all administration work involved and your final grade are the responsibility of the project coordinator! Supervisors will only guide you with the research. Any advice you seek from them with regard to any administration matter related to the course may be wrong and can endanger your final grade. Therefore if you have any concerns on how to submit, what form to use, and so on, please only contact the coordinator.
University of Queensland Disability action Plan

Any student with a disability who may require alternative academic arrangements in the course is encouraged to seek advice at the commencement of the semester from a Disability Adviser at Student Support Services.

The University Health Service can arrange advice and assistance on professional accreditation/registration issues that might arise as a result of alternative arrangements.

Graduate attributes

A University of Queensland graduate will have in-depth knowledge of the field(s) studied. In addition, graduates will display effective communication skills, independence and creativity, critical judgement and ethical and social understanding. The statement of Graduate Attributes, ref. HUPP Policy 3.20.5 is available at http://www.uq.edu.au/hupp/contents.

Appendix 1: Deadlines

- Submission of the Project-Topic form to the coordinator:
  4:00pm, on Friday of the second week of the semester. That is 12 days into the semester. Please leave the completed form with Ms Loretta Laenen at the Civil Office and ask her to put it in Dr Ronagh’s mailbox.

- Submission of the project document (both hard and electronic copies):
  4:00pm, on Friday of the second last week of the semester. That would be 9 days before the beginning of swat vac. Please submit to Ms Loretta Laenen at the Civil office.
Appendix 2: Project-Topic form

Topic: ……………………………………………………………………………………………...

Students in the group: (Please write your name clearly using block letters)

1) ……………………………
   Email: ……………………………………
   Phone: Home ………………… Mobile ………………….

2) ……………………………
   Email: ……………………………………
   Phone: Home ………………… Mobile ………………….

3) ……………………………
   Email: ……………………………………
   Phone: Home ………………… Mobile ………………….

Supervisor’s name: ……………………………………….

Supervisor’s signature: ……………………………………….
Appendix 3: Project cover sheet

Project cover sheet is provided in the next page.

a) In the text box provided insert the full title of your thesis.
   Use Times New Roman, 14, Bold, Capital letters, e.g. CONCRETE COATING.

b) For student name, insert your full name, including first name/s and family name.
   Use Times New Roman, 14, Capital letters, do not abbreviate, e.g. MELINDA JANE SMITH

c) Insert course code.
   Use Times New Roman, 14, Capital letters, e.g. CIVL4580.

d) Insert supervisor’s name, including title.
   Use Times New Roman, 14, Capital letters, e.g. DR F ALBERMANI.

e) Enter submission date in full.
   Use Times New Roman, 14, Capital letters, e.g. 1 NOVEMBER 2001.
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Bachelor of Engineering Project

Student Name:
Course Code:
Supervisor:
Submission date:

A project submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Engineering degree program in the Division of Civil Engineering

School of Engineering
Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture