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| Course Code: | 2002HSL |
| Course Name: | Introduction to Research |
| Trimester: | Trimester 1, 2019 |
| Program: | Associate Degree in Commerce & Business |
| Credit Points: | 10 |
| Course Coordinator: | Debbie Cotterell |
| Document modified: | 6 February 2019 |

Teaching Team

Your lecturer/tutor can be contacted via the email system on the portal.

Staff Consultation

Your lecturer/tutor is available each week for consultation outside of normal class times. Times that your lecturer/tutor will be available for consultation will be given in the first week of lectures. A list of times and rooms will be published on the Griffith College Portal under the “myTimetable” link.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Brief Course Description

Introduction to Research is a 10 Credit Point course within the Associate Degree in Commerce and Business. The course is situated within the second year of the program. The Associate Degree in Commerce and Business is designed to provide students with a pathway to:

- further university studies in Commerce, Business and related degrees or
- direct employment

This course focuses on practical research procedures including problem formulation, research design, and data collection, description and reporting. The course develops skills in conducting research and provides a working knowledge of ways to analyse and describe non-numerical information as well as techniques to describe sets of numerical data. Skills will be developed using information and methods pertinent to decision making in the management of the tourism, leisure, hotel and event industries.

Rationale

Research skills and knowledge of the research process are essential in an information-rich world. The management of tourism, leisure, hotel, event, property, and sport organisations in a range of contexts can be substantially enhanced by the analysis of existing information, regularly collected management data and information collected to answer specific management questions. Managers need to be able to gather information in reliable and valid ways and understand how to present, describe and interpret those data. Accordingly, “doing research” is a real-life skill that managers need to both understand and conduct.

Aims

The aim of this course is to introduce prospective managers and leaders in the service industries to the essentials of the research process. The course presents a number of practical research strategies. Furthermore, this course will assist with the development of skills for understanding research reports and articles.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:

1. Identify the basic frameworks and theories that underpin research in the tourism, leisure and hotel industries;
 2. Critically evaluate specific problems and questions to solve applied research scenarios;
 3. Select and implement research strategies appropriate to particular industry problems based on an appreciation of the value of multi-method research;
 4. Report, describe and understand qualitative and quantitative information in these management fields;
 5. Understand the need to maintain and apply ethical research practices as responsible professionals in the field.
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Texts and Supporting Materials

Required Readings

Details of the required readings can be found in the content schedule and online.

Recommended Reading

- Bryman, A. & Bell, E. (2011). Business research methods (3rd ed.). New York: Oxford.
 - Creswell, J. W. (2003). Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method approaches (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
 - Jennings, G. (2010). Tourism research (2nd ed.). Milton: John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd.
 - Neuman, W. L. (2006). Social research methods: Quantitative and qualitative approaches (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.
 - Veal, A.J. (2011). Research methods for leisure and tourism: A practical guide (4th ed.). London: Prentice Hall.
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Organisation and Teaching Strategies

Each week, you are required to attend 4 hours of contact time in class consisting of lectures, tutorials and workshops. The **lectures** will provide direction to, and interpretation of, information that forms the basis of the course. They will also provide opportunities for explanation of research theory and methods including the application of qualitative and quantitative strategies. **Tutorials** will be used to integrate all material through exercises which use simulated and real-life situations. The **Workshop** sessions provide you with the opportunity to develop a range of skills that will support learning objectives and foster certain generic skills that are helpful to your professional development.

The course is progressive in nature. That is, knowledge and skills are built up sequentially throughout the course. Development of understandings and skills that underlie evaluative studies require you to understand ideas soon after they are presented. Thus, understanding of concepts presented early in the course should not be left until later in the course. You also need to continue to revise and enhance your understanding of both qualitative and quantitative research that will be used to complete assessment items one and two.

Class Contact Summary

Attendance:

You are expected to attend all classes throughout the trimester as lectures and tutorials are provided for direction, explanation and interpretation. You are also reminded that your attendance in class will be marked twice during a four hour class. To receive full attendance, you must be present in the classroom on both occasions.

Program Progression:

You are reminded that satisfactory Program Progression requires that attendance in classes is maintained at equal to or greater than 80%, and that GPA is maintained at equal to or greater than 3.5 with passing grades achieved in more than 50% of courses in any trimester [please see Griffith College Policy Library - Program Progression Policy - for more information].

Lecture Notes & Course Materials:

You will be expected to have attempted the necessary pre-reading and preparation for class, and contribute to those sessions by responding to and asking questions. You are also required to bring a copy of the lecture notes printed from the Griffith College website and any other required course materials to classes each week.

Independent Study:

You are expected to reinforce your learning gained during class time by accessing, studying and working through the information and assessment exercises, that is undertake independent study. For this 10 CP course, you will need to spend at least 10 hours per week engaged in activities that will help your learning and fulfil the course objectives. Thus, provided you have well used the 4 hours per week of formal contact, you would then complete at least 6 hours per week of independent study.

Content Schedule

Weekly Teaching Schedule

| Week | Topic | Activity | Readings |
|------|--|----------|--|
| 1 | Introduction to Research: Evidence-based Practice and The Research Process | Lecture | Qualitative versus Quantitative Tourism Research (Walle, 1997) |
| 2 | Library Search & Literature Review | Lecture | Writing reviews of academic literature: An overview (Galvan & Galvan, 2017). |
| | Introduction to Assignment 2; Open Coding | Tutorial | |
| 3 | Research Design: Strategies and Frameworks | Lecture | Qualitative Data Analysis: A Sourcebook of New Methods (Miles & Huberman, 1984) |
| | Axial Coding | Tutorial | |
| 4 | Conducting Qualitative Research (I) | Lecture | Qualitative Data Analysis: A Sourcebook of New Methods (Miles & Huberman, 1984) |
| | Reflective Coding | Tutorial | |
| 5 | Conducting Qualitative Research (II) | Lecture | Plagiarism behaviour among undergraduate students in hospitality and tourism education (Goh, 2013) |
| | Report Writing | Tutorial | |
| 6 | Understanding Quantitative Data (I) | Lecture | Tourism destination competitive-ness: a quantitative approach (Enright & Newton, 2004) |
| | Checking Drafts | Tutorial | |
| 7 | Understanding Quantitative Data (II) | Lecture | Tourism destination competitive-ness: a quantitative approach (Enright & Newton, 2004) |
| | Introduction to Assignment 3; Demographics Table | Tutorial | |
| 8 | Conducting Quantitative Research (I) | Lecture | |
| | Analysing Descriptive Statistics | Tutorial | |
| 9 | Conducting Quantitative Research (II) | Lecture | A study of hotel guest perceptions in Mauritius (Juwaheer & Ross, 2003) |
| | T-tests and Correlation | Tutorial | |
| 10 | Understanding & Using Research Findings: Research ethics & politics | Lecture | Ethics of research in Facebook (Zimmer, 2010) |
| | Report Writing | Tutorial | |
| 11 | Course review & revision | Lecture | |

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| | Assignment 3 due | Tutorial | |
| 12 | Course review & revision | Lecture | |
| | Revision | Tutorial | |

Assessment

This section sets out the assessment requirements for this course.

Summary of Assessment

| Item | Assessment Task | Weighting | Relevant Learning Outcomes | Due Date |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Assignment: Review Quizzes | 10% | 1,2 | Weeks 2-12 |
| 2 | Assignment 2: Qualitative Analysis | 25% | 2,3,4,5 | Week 6: 9am on the day after the lecture |
| 3 | Assignment 3: Quantitative Analysis | 25% | 2,3,4,5 | Week 11: 9am on the day after the lecture |
| 4 | Final Exam | 40% | 1,2,3,4 | Exam Period |

Assessment Details

Assessment in this course provides a means of using and reviewing your grasp of the theoretical underpinnings of basic research methods. Through applying the research skills developed in the lectures and tutorials, you will have the opportunity to test your knowledge on real data. Further, report writing skills are developed in summarising findings.

Assignment 1 - Review Quizzes:

You will be given a series of short quizzes and tasks to complete during class time, over the course of the trimester. More information will be posted on the portal during Week 1.

Assignment 2 - Qualitative Data:

Using previously collected interview data, you will be required to code and analyse the data and then prepare a 2,000 word report. The report should incorporate conclusions and implications arising from the study. You will also include a revised literature review based on the feedback given from your tutor as part of Assignment 1 (Literature Review Draft).

Further information will be provided both in class and also posted on the Griffith College portal.

Assignment 3 - Quantitative Data:

You will be required to complete 2,000 word quantitative report from supplied quantitative data. You will be required to use a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet to complete basic quantitative analysis to provide descriptive data and one-way analysis of variance. The assignment concludes with a basic research report. Further information will be provided both in class and also posted on the Griffith College portal.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be in the end of trimester examination period. The date, time and location will be provided when available. The exam format will be multiple choice, short answer and data interpretation. The examination will test all areas and topics covered in the lectures.

Submission and Return of Assessment Items

Normally you will be able to collect your assignments in class within fourteen [14] days of the due date for submission of the assignment.

Retention of Originals

You must be able to produce a copy of all work submitted if so requested. Copies should be retained until after the release of final results for the course.

Extensions

To apply for an extension of time for an assignment, you must submit an Application for Extension of Assignment form to your teacher at least 24 hours before the date the assignment is due. Grounds for extensions are usually: serious illness, accident, disability, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances and must be able to be substantiated with relevant documentation [e.g. Griffith College Medical Certificate]. Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library - for guidelines regarding extensions and deferred assessment.

Assessment Feedback

Marks awarded for in-trimester assessment items, except those being moderated externally with Griffith University, will be available on the Student Portal within fourteen [14] days of the due date. This does not apply to the final assessment item in this course (marks for this item will be provided with the final course result).

Generic Skills

Griffith College aims to develop graduates who have an open and critical approach to learning and a capacity for lifelong learning. Through engagement in their studies, students are provided with opportunities to begin the development of these and other generic skills.

Studies in this course will give you opportunities to begin to develop the following skills:

| Generic Skills | Taught | Practised | Assessed |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Written Communication | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Oral Communication | Yes | Yes | |
| Information Literacy | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Secondary Research | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Critical and Innovative Thinking | | Yes | Yes |
| Academic Integrity | | Yes | Yes |
| Self Directed Learning | | Yes | Yes |
| Team Work | | Yes | |
| Cultural Intelligence | | Yes | |
| English Language Proficiency | | Yes | |

Additional Course Generic Skills

Additional Course Information

In addition to formal contact hours, you are provided with extra support through individual consultation with teaching staff, tutorials in English language, and self-access computer laboratories.

Academic Integrity

Griffith College is committed to maintaining high academic standards to protect the value of its qualifications. Academic integrity means acting with the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in learning, teaching and research. It is important for students, teachers, researchers and all staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work. Academic integrity is important for an individual's and the College's reputation.

All staff and students of the College are responsible for academic integrity. As a student, you are expected to conduct your studies honestly, ethically and in accordance with accepted standards of academic conduct. Any form of academic conduct that is contrary to these standards is considered a breach of academic integrity and is unacceptable.

Some students deliberately breach academic integrity standards with intent to deceive. This conscious, pre-meditated form of cheating is considered to be one of the most serious forms of fraudulent academic behaviour, for which the College has zero tolerance and for which penalties, including exclusion from the College, will be applied.

However, Griffith College also recognises many students breach academic integrity standards without intent to deceive. In these cases, students may be required to undertake additional educational activities to remediate their behaviour and may also be provided appropriate advice by academic staff.

As you undertake your studies at Griffith College, your lecturers, tutors and academic advisors will provide you with guidance to understand and maintain academic integrity; however, it is also your responsibility to seek out guidance if and when you are unsure about appropriate academic conduct.

In the case of any allegation of academic misconduct made against a student he or she may request the guidance and support of a Griffith College Student Learning Advisor or Student Counsellor.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the [Academic Integrity Policy](#); this policy provides an overview of some of the behaviours that are considered breaches of academic integrity, as well as the penalties and processes involved when a breach is identified.

For further information please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy on the Griffith College website – Policy Library.

Risk Assessment Statement

There are no out of the ordinary risks associated with this course.

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