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**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION**

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**55003 Thesis Preparation**

<b>Course name:</b>	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Communication
<b>Number of credit points:</b>	8
<b>Level:</b>	400
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	None
<b>Year and Semester offered:</b>	Autumn
<b>Grading:</b>	Graded

**HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION**

Thesis Preparation introduces students to study at Honours level. Its induction program ensures they are familiar with appropriate methods of researching material and equipped to begin designing their thesis. Students will receive assistance in developing a detailed proposal for their thesis.

**CONTRIBUTION TO GRADUATE PROFILE**

- the opportunity to work in the humanities and social sciences
- to prepare students for postgraduate research
- to emphasise interdisciplinary approaches
- to integrate scholarship with contemporary media
- to undertake a program of advanced coursework
- to prepare to produce a thesis relevant to students academic, professional and/or creative agenda

**OBJECTIVES**

At the completion of this subject students will be able to

- a) design a detailed thesis proposal and present it in writing and orally to a group;
- b) choose appropriate methods for undertaking their thesis;
- c) identify and explain the theoretical approaches that inform their thesis;
- d) offer and receive constructive critical feedback within a supportive peer network

**TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES**

The aim of this subject is to assist students in developing their thesis proposal and their thesis. To this end they will be expected to:

- attend and actively participate in class sessions, which involves working through structured learning activities in class, to be followed up on-line;
- outside of class time, students meet with their academic supervisor, unless they are on leave this semester (expectations of these meetings will be discussed in class);

Within the group there will be a range of thesis topics and formats, academic backgrounds and interests, writing styles and needs, preferred ways of working and learning, and so on. Given this heterogeneity, the aim of this subject is not to provide prescriptive, generic advice on preparing a thesis, but rather to provide learning opportunities that are structured yet flexible in order to assist students in preparing their thesis. Guest presentations from a range of thesis areas will also be a part of this subject.

Class sessions will run like workshops, combining discussions and tasks designed to encourage students to analyse and reflect on the types of decisions they may face as they prepare their thesis. To get the most out of this compulsory subject, it is important that students prepare for each class session, arrive on time and participate fully.

**CONTENT**

This class meets each week. A selection of seminars will be available for students to choose from in some weeks. A timetable of these sessions will be available to students in weeks 2/3.

Exactly which topics are addressed in class, in what order and in what ways, will to a large extent depend on the needs and interests of the group. Throughout the duration of the subject students are encouraged to propose any additional issues pertaining to thesis preparation that they would like the group to address.

## ASSESSMENT

### Assessment item 1. Thesis or Project Proposal

**Objectives:** a, b, c

**Value:** 100%

**Due:** Week 14

**Task:** Students expand their original proposal to elaborate their aims, ideas, research questions, creative approaches and literature. This proposal should be between 2,000 and 3,000 words and be in the format most appropriate to their disciplinary area of study and thesis type.

**Purpose:**

To progress and articulate the ideas that will form the basis of investigation for the thesis or project plus exegesis.

**Structure:**

This will be determined by students' area of study.

### Assessment criteria:

Demonstrated ability to:

- Progress the original ideas of the proposal submitted for entry into honours
- Present an organised and articulate case for the thesis or project
- Explore basic literature and methodology appropriate to student's area of study and individual thesis or project.

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

This subject is marked on a pass/fail basis. In order to pass, students must accomplish each of the following:

Attend all of the combined class sessions and a selection of a minimum of three specialist sessions. Students must attend a total minimum of seven sessions throughout semester but may attend more than that if they wish.

Participate in Thesis Preparation activities in class.

Submit their thesis proposal by 5 pm on Friday June 13 .

If they accomplish each of the items listed above, they will pass the subject. If they accomplish all but one of the items, they will fail the subject (unless they have followed the procedures for special consideration outlined below and their request has been granted).

### PRESCRIBED TEXTS AND SUGGESTED REFERENCES:

There are no prescribed texts.