COMP3860
Special Topics in Computing and Information Systems
Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Dept of Computing

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Malcolm Ryan
malcolm.ryan@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
Room 205, 4 RPD
N/A

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Permission by special approval

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit is a special topic unit that may be offered from time to time in new areas of computing and information systems, or as a special project under the supervision of a member of staff.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes

ULO1: Create a research proposal, designing a project to answer a research question.
ULO2: Evaluate existing research literature to establish the current state of research in an area of computing.
ULO3: Apply time and project management skills to carry out a research plan.
ULO4: Create an experimental research prototype to answer a research question.
ULO5: Analyse the results of an experiment to answer a research question.
ULO6: Communicate research findings in a well-structured report.

General Assessment Information
Details of the assessment tasks, including expected content and due dates, should be negotiated and confirmed between supervisors and students in Week 1.
### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical deliverable</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Literature review

**Assessment Type**: Literature review  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 13 hours  
**Due**: TBA  
**Weighting**: 10%

A review of existing literature relevant to the research question.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate existing research literature to establish the current state of research in an area of computing.

#### Technical deliverable

**Assessment Type**: Project  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 59 hours  
**Due**: TBA  
**Weighting**: 40%

The precise deliverable depends on the project and could be a design document, an implementation, or a detailed analysis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply time and project management skills to carry out a research plan.
- Create an experimental research prototype to answer a research question.

#### Project proposal

**Assessment Type**: Report  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 13 hours  
**Due**: TBA
Weighting: **10%**

A short description of the project, its major aims and methods.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create a research proposal, designing a project to answer a research question.

**Project Report**

Assessment Type: Report  
Indicative Time on Task: 26 hours  
Due: TBA  
Weighting: **20%**

A description of the technical deliverable plus the results of its evaluation. A short presentation can also be part of the report section as negotiated by the supervisor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the results of an experiment to answer a research question.  
- Communicate research findings in a well-structured report.

**Reflective report**

Assessment Type: Reflective Writing  
Indicative Time on Task: 26 hours  
Due: TBA  
Weighting: **20%**

A reflection on the research experience, the success of the project, and lessons learnt for future research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create a research proposal, designing a project to answer a research question.  
- Apply time and project management skills to carry out a research plan.  
- Create an experimental research prototype to answer a research question.  
- Analyse the results of an experiment to answer a research question.  
- Communicate research findings in a well-structured report.

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1 If you need guidance or support to understand or complete this type of assessment, please contact the Learning Skills Team

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation
Delivery and Resources

This unit is a special topic unit that may be offered from time to time in new areas of computing and information systems, or as a special project under the supervision of a member of staff. Mode of delivery is open for negotiation between students and supervisors, however should include a minimum of 1 hour face-to-face contact per week.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au
Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills
Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity Support
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.