EXTENDED INVESTIGATION

NEW VCE STUDY DESIGN

VCE Extended Investigation
UNITS 3 & 4 @ DECV 2015

“In a nutshell: The aim of this course is to provide you with the skills needed for success at the Tertiary level.”
EXTENDED INVESTIGATION

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VCE Extended Investigation is aimed at academically capable students who wish to research a topic in depth. To complete this course successfully students will need to be self-motivated and resilient. Independent research may sound easy at first but in fact it can be a challenging experience. If students have a passion for a particular area of research and would like to investigate this area in more depth, then this may be the subject for them!

Scope of the course

The VCE Extended Investigation will enable students to develop, refine and extend knowledge and skills in independent research and carry out an investigation that focuses on a rigorous research question. The investigation may be based around an area of personal interest. Through this study, students develop their capacity to explore, justify and defend their research findings to a general audience in both oral and written forms.

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The Aims of the Course:

- Have the ability to independently develop and construct a rigorous research question
- Understand and apply research methods
- Explore a chosen area of investigation in depth
- Develop as independent, critical and reflective learner
- Develop research project management knowledge and skills
- Analyse and evaluate findings and results
- Develop skills in written and oral presentation of research findings.

CONTACT

If you have any questions about the course please contact:

Will Byron
(8480 0163)

Julian Lowndes
(8480 0130).

For information about how to enroll in this course, please contact our enrolments office On 8480 0000.
What exactly will you do in this course? Generally speaking the course can be broken down into three general areas:

1. Critical Thinking:

   Students will learn how to think critically about different arguments and research, how to distinguish a weak argument from a strong one and how to use evidence to support a view.

2. Research Methodology:

   Students will learn the different methods used to undertake research including how to decide which method is best for a topic and how to write a research question.

3. Your Chosen Area of Research:

   Once students have chosen an area to conduct research, they will be asked to complete a literature review that will develop understanding of the subject area and help refine their research question.

Studying Online at Distance

How is the course going to work? Students will access all course material online. Each week they will be asked to view the course material for the week and complete the weekly tasks in their own blog or in the class forum. The course will require them to be in constant contact with the teacher and fellow students through a variety of different methods including seminars and online lessons.

The Online Journal (Blog)

In this course, all of the weekly tasks will be completed online in a personal blog. Each week students will be asked to complete tasks. Their blog will work as an Extended Investigation Journal: The Journal is important because it will allow them to track, review and refine the focus of their investigation and record research and background findings. On a regular basis, students will review their research in light of your growing awareness of the purpose and nature of research and elements of research design.

In addition to their blog, students will be asked to maintain a bibliography (a list of ALL relevant resources that you have utilised over the course of your investigations).

The Forum and Online Lessons

In addition to the weekly blog tasks, students will be asked to engage in peer discussion and weekly online lessons. A central element of the assessment in this course is presenting their research to others. Via the forum and the online lessons, students will develop their capacity for clearly articulating ideas and receiving feedback from others and greatly improve their ability to communicate to non-specialist audiences.

Seminars

Throughout the year students will have the opportunity to participate in group seminars in which they will be able to discuss ideas, present to others and develop their research skills.
Structure & Assessment

Unit 3
Designing an Extended Investigation

In this Unit, students will develop the skills needed for construction and designing of research, explore the nature and purpose of research, and identify a specific research question.

Students use their Extended Investigation Journal to record the progressive refinement of your selected area of interest. Students will not be able to pass the subject if they have not regularly contributed to their research and recorded their progress throughout the year.

Assessment for Unit 3: Designing an Extended Investigation consists of three outcomes:

1. Design and justify a research question  (20 out of 80 possible marks for unit 3)
2. Write and present a research plan  (60 out of 80 possible marks for unit 3)
   *These two outcomes equate to 30% of your total score for the subject for the year.
3. Critical Thinking Test  (10% of total score)
   *This outcome equates to 10% of your total score for the subject for the year.

*Formal lodgment of Research Question: In Term 1, student’s selected research question will be registered with VCAA to ensure that no student is completing a similar question. All research in this subject must be your own work and cannot be completed in teams with fellow peers.

Unit 4
Presenting an Extended Investigation

In Unit 4, students will shape their research findings into a presentation format. They will present their investigation to a non-specialist panel that will ask questions and challenge choices made in the project. Students will need to be able to reflect on research and the methods they used to reach your conclusions. Students will be able to justify their methodology, that is, explain how they conducted their research and why it is that they chose to conduct the research at each particular stage.

Assessment for Unit 4: Presenting an Extended Investigation.

1. Complete a written report for a non-specialist audience that presents and evaluates the results of the extended investigation.
The written report will be externally assessed.

2. Explain the investigation and defend research findings in a presentation to a non-specialist audience.
The audience will consist of independent external markers set by VCAA and will be held at your home school.
   *These two outcomes equate to 60% of your total mark for the subject for the year.

* In order to achieve a satisfactory for both Units 3 & 4, students must meet the hurdle requirements for each week: they must complete set tasks and document all research they have undertaken in the course.

The Final Score breakdown of final marks is as follows:

1. Unit 3 Outcome 1 = 7.5%
2. Unit 3 Outcome 2 = 22.5%
3. End of Unit 3 Critical Thinking Test = 10%
4. Written Final presentation (4000 words) = 36%
5. Oral final presentation (15-20 minutes to panel) = 24%