



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

**ED649**

**INDEPENDENT STUDY IN  
CURRICULUM ISSUES**

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.

<b>Unit code</b>	ED649
<b>Unit name</b>	Independent Study in Curriculum Issues
<b>Associated higher education awards</b>	Master of Education
<b>Duration</b>	One semester
<b>Level</b>	Postgraduate
<b>Unit Coordinator</b>	Dr Robert Herschell
<b>Core/Elective</b>	Elective
<b>Weighting</b>	Unit credit points: 10
	Total course credit points: 80
<b>Student workload</b>	Directed study hours: 90 Personal study hours: 60 Total workload hours: 150
	Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional 1 hour(s) per week.
<b>Delivery mode</b>	External
<b>Pre-requisites</b>	ED601 Applying Worldview Studies to Christian Education <b>OR</b> ED602 Philosophical Perspectives on Education <b>AND</b> ED690 Introduction to Research Methods <b>AND</b> At least 10 credit points of Elective units in the area of Curriculum Issues
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>The opportunity for postgraduate students to pursue areas of special interest is an integral part of Masters-level studies. Interest in a topic or issue may not be satisfied by other units within the course, or may arise out of them, and students may wish to pursue their interest further, yet not at the level of a research dissertation.</p> <p>This unit has been designed to meet this need within the area of Curriculum Issues. Students will read more widely on an issue and will engage in some independent research, with an emphasis on self-directed study.</p> <p>It is expected that the unit will assist in the professional and personal growth of the student, and also be of benefit to the school and educational communities.</p>

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>critically reviewed available and relevant literature;</li> <li>designed the study, the methods of exploration/investigation, and the means of reporting – via a report, journal, article, research paper or presentation to a group – together with any appropriate supplementary materials;</li> <li>engaged in the implementation of the study, with evaluation, review and critique;</li> <li>demonstrated appropriate communication and reporting skills; and</li> <li>communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard, with special attention to design elements, grammars, usage, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation.</li> </ol>
<b>Content</b>	<p>Initial reading to guide the development of the study proposal.</p> <p>Preparation and presentation of a study proposal for negotiation and approval.</p> <p>Completion of a review of appropriate literature related to the topic and the methods of investigation to be employed.</p> <p>Development of a negotiated contract for carrying out the study, including forms of reporting and timeline.</p> <p>Carrying out of the investigation and or trial.</p> <p>Reporting on the investigation/trial with appropriate recommendations and evaluation.</p> <p>Final report on the investigation/trial submitted.</p>
<b>Assessment tasks</b>	<p><b>Task 1:</b> Project report</p> <p>Word length/Duration: 6000 words</p> <p>Weighting: 100%</p> <p>Learning outcomes: 1-6</p> <p>Assessed: Y - 2015, S - 1, W - 15</p>
<b>Specialist resource requirements</b>	<p>Computer, webcam, microphone and speakers with access to a reliable high speed internet connection, preferably broadband.</p> <p>Freely available email and SKYPE teleconferencing software will be used for electronic communications and teleconferencing.</p>
<b>Prescribed text(s)</b>	<p>Students will undertake their own literature searches in the process of their chosen independent study program.</p> <p>An Annotated Bibliography or Literature Review is normally required as part of the independent study requirements. These will include a wide range of academic literature as well as relevant journals and useful web-sites.</p>
<b>Recommended readings</b>	<p>Babbie, E. (2010). <i>The practice of social research</i>. (12th ed.). Wadsworth Publishing, Belmont, C A.</p> <p>Creswell, J. (2004). <i>Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research</i>. Merrill, Prentice-Hall, Upper Sadler River, NY.</p> <p>Hittleman, D. and Simon, A. (2006). <i>Interpreting Educational Research</i>. 4th edn. Pearson, Merrill, Prentice-Hall, Upper Sadler River, NY.</p> <p>Holly, M., Arhar, J. &amp; Kasten, W. (2005). <i>Action Research for Teachers: Travelling the yellow brick road</i>. (2nd ed.). Pearson, Merrill, Prentice-Hall, Upper Sadler River, NY.</p> <p>Johnson, B. &amp; Christensen, L. (2010). <i>Educational Research: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Approaches</i>. (4th ed.). Pearson, Merrill, Prentice-Hall, Upper Sadler River, NY.</p> <p>Shufflebeam, D. &amp; Shinkfield, A. (2007). <i>Evaluation Theory Models &amp; Applications</i>. Jossey-Bass, Wiley, San Francisco, CA.</p>

<p><b>Recommended readings (continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Websites</b></p> <p>Charles Sturt University: <a href="http://www.csu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/82742/annotate.pdf">http://www.csu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/82742/annotate.pdf</a></p> <p>University of New South Wales: <a href="http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/annotated_bib.html">http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/annotated_bib.html</a></p> <p>University of Wisconsin: <a href="http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/AnnotatedBibliography.html">http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/AnnotatedBibliography.html</a></p> <p>Monash University: <a href="http://www.monash.edu.au/lis/lonline/writing/general/lit-reviews/index.xml">http://www.monash.edu.au/lis/lonline/writing/general/lit-reviews/index.xml</a></p> <p>University of Canberra: <a href="http://www.canberra.edu.au/studyskills/writing/literature">http://www.canberra.edu.au/studyskills/writing/literature</a></p> <p>University of Queensland: <a href="http://www.uq.edu.au/student-services/phdwriting/phlink18.html">http://www.uq.edu.au/student-services/phdwriting/phlink18.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.cs.indiana.edu/how.2b/how.2b.research.html">http://www.cs.indiana.edu/how.2b/how.2b.research.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/100047.aspx">http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/100047.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.tacoma.k12.wa.us/sites/schools/Lincoln/staff/Documents/ActionResearch_School_Improvement.pdf">http://www.tacoma.k12.wa.us/sites/schools/Lincoln/staff/Documents/ActionResearch_School_Improvement.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://cadres.pepperdine.edu/ccar/projects.school.html">http://cadres.pepperdine.edu/ccar/projects.school.html</a></p> <p>In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as the <i>New International Version (NIV)</i> or the <i>New King James Version (NKJV)</i>.</p> <p>These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at <a href="http://www.biblegateway.com">http://www.biblegateway.com</a>. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.</p>
<p><b>Unit summary</b></p>	<p>Provision for postgraduate students to pursue areas of special interest is an integral part of Masters-level studies. This unit provides a platform for students' individual investigations and will assist in the professional and personal growth of students whilst also benefiting school and educational communities.</p>

SAMPLE