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SOCW4011

Evidence and Practice Based Research

Term One // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Abner Poon	w.poon@unsw.edu.au	Thursday, 2-4pm	G37, Morven Brown Building	93850685

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Bani Adam	b.aadam@unsw.edu.au			
Margaret Mills	margaret.mills@unsw.edu.au			
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School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Social Work*

This course focuses on connections between social work practice and research by looking at evidence-based practice (EBP) and practice-based research. You will learn the process of conducting research, and various potentials and limitations of EBP in social work. This course also provides you with opportunities to extend your understanding of different research methodologies; obtain skills and knowledge related to the research process; learn the importance of conducting research well-grounded in practice; and to understand ethical and political issues related to social work research. These skills and knowledge will facilitate your learning in other courses, field practicum, and future professional practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the importance of research in social work and roles of social workers in research
2. Critically assess research manuscripts
3. Articulate research methods that are appropriate to the research questions
4. Demonstrate skills to perform tasks required at various stages of research
5. Explain the relationship between research evidence and practice

Teaching Strategies

In accordance with UNSW Learning and Teaching Guidelines, this course aims to engage you in an active learning environment. This course values class discussion as a critical learning method and you are expected to participate actively during lectures and tutorials. To learn about key concepts, issues and techniques of research, you are expected to contribute to fellow students by bringing your own experience, by relating them to social work values and knowledge, and by thinking critically.

Lectures

Lectures involve power-point presentations addressing the course text, other supplementary readings, and examples of social work research. Students will learn about key concepts, issues, and techniques of research. In order to maximize the benefit of lectures, students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in group discussions during lectures.

Tutorials

Tutorials involve small and large group discussions and skill-building activities. Group discussions and skill-building exercises are designed to enhance understanding of class materials and to practice skills covered in lectures and reading assignments. The group project assignment is also discussed during the tutorial sessions. It should be noted that participation is not the same as attendance. The crucial element to good tutorials is having all members of the class read the readings and attended the lectures.

Moodle

This course will use Moodle to assist teaching and learning activities.

Assessment

The specific requirements of each assessment task and their associated assessment criteria, expected performance standards and marking rubrics are provided in a separate document in Moodle. Assessments should be referenced in accordance with the *School of Social Sciences Referencing Guide*, available at <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Literature review protocol	20%	16/03/2020 06:00 PM	1,3
Proposal presentation	30%	17/04/2020 02:00 PM	2,3,4
Project description and reflection report	50%	30/04/2020 06:00 PM	2,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Literature review protocol

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1000

Details: Students will write a literature review protocol (maximum 1000 words) to inform their chosen area of research after their in-class exercise. Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Proposal presentation

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Students will present a project in class. The project is a proposal to develop an evidence-based intervention which includes an evaluation plan. Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Project description and reflection report

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500

Details: Students will write a report describing the project and their reflection. Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

If you attend less than 80% of classes, you may be refused final assessment. This means that if you do not attend at least 80% of possible classes (80% of lectures and 80% of tutorials), your final assignment may receive a mark of zero. You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance. If you are concerned about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete your course successfully, you need to contact your course convenor immediately. For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is *Project Description and Reflection Report* worth 50% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 17 February - 21 February	Lecture	Introduction to SOCW4011. Defining key terms: evidence and evidence-based practice. Understanding evidence collaborations (Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations) and the hierarchy of evidence. Honours Thesis and Honours Portfolio briefing
Week 2: 24 February - 28 February	Lecture	Developing appropriate research questions. Reviewing the literature and available research evidence. Understanding different literature review methods: scoping, rapid evidence, systematic reviews and meta-analysis. Making judgments about the quality of evidence - PRISMA and Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist. Examples of literature review.
	Tutorial	Developing a literature review protocol. Forming small working groups for assignment 2.
Week 3: 2 March - 6 March	Lecture	No lecture.
	Online Activity	Research process Critical writing in research
Week 4: 9 March - 13 March	Lecture	Qualitative Methodology Understanding the 'how' and the 'why' of research inquiry; the qualitative research process; case studies; grounded methodology; phenomenology; textual and discourse analysis; social media as a source of useful qualitative data. Examples of practice informed research.
	Tutorial	Qualitative research review.

		<p>Students are expected to read an article before attending the class. The article will be used for class discussion. It will be uploaded in Moodle.</p> <p>Small group discussion on project.</p>
Week 5: 16 March - 20 March	Lecture	<p>From practice interest to research project - Finding and using evidence competently; the politics of evidence – determining what can we know; ethical considerations for evidence-based practice. Examples of practice informed research.</p>
Week 6: 23 March - 27 March	Lecture	<p>Quantitative Methodology</p> <p>Understanding the quantitative research process and feasibility of the experimental method in practice settings. Conducting and evaluating experimental (such as quasi and RCT) studies in practice. Examples of practice informed research.</p>
	Tutorial	<p>Quantitative research review. Students are expected to read an article before attending the class. The article will be used for class discussion. It will be uploaded in Moodle.</p> <p>Small group discussion on project.</p>
Week 7: 30 March - 3 April	Lecture	<p>Mixed Methods and Outcome Evaluation for Social Work Practice – how do we know if an intervention is effective? How do we assess worker and clients' perceptions of 'what works', 'for whom' and 'under what circumstances'? Examples of outcome evaluation studies.</p>
Week 8: 6 April - 10 April	Lecture	No lecture. Public holiday
	Online Activity	<p>Policy evaluation</p> <p>Knowledge transfer</p>
Week 9: 13 April - 17 April	Lecture	<p>Collaborative/participatory approaches to research – action research and ethnography. Ensuring participation of practitioners and service users is genuine. Examples of practice informed research projects.</p>
	Tutorial	Project presentations - Assignment 2
Week 10: 20 April - 24 April	Lecture	<p>Knowledge Transfer – How do we make sure that research is meaningfully translated into practice contexts; conference presentations, clearinghouses, repositories and research hubs.</p>
Week 11: 27 April - 28 April	Lecture	No lecture.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Webber, M. (2015). *Applying Research Evidence in Social Work Practice*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

The MyExperience responses form the basis of SOCW4011 ongoing course development. Informal evaluations undertaken by tutors in previous years provides important information for re-shaping course content and assessments. Based on the feedback from last year's cohort, SOCW4011 has reoriented the content to more directly address the ways in which practitioner wisdom, client preference and existing research combine together to inform evidence informed practice. In addition, assessments have been changed to better suit the needs of students entering either of the Honours streams – SOCW4016 Social Work Honours Advanced Practice Portfolio and SOCW4015 Social Work Honours Research Thesis.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

Cockington Green Gardens. Picture taken by Abner Poon.

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