



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# **SOSS3002**

Social Science Project

Term Three // 2020

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Hazel Blunden	<a href="mailto:h.blunden@unsw.edu.au">h.blunden@unsw.edu.au</a>	Email for an appointment	241, level 2, Goodsell Bldg	Contact via Teams or email

#### Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Joyce Wu	<a href="mailto:joyce.wu@unsw.edu.au">joyce.wu@unsw.edu.au</a>	Email for appointment		Contact via Teams or email
Claire Wilkinson	<a href="mailto:c.wilkinson@unsw.edu.au">c.wilkinson@unsw.edu.au</a>	Email for appointment		Contact via Teams or email

### School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

email: [soss@unsw.edu.au](mailto:soss@unsw.edu.au)

phone: 02 9385 1807

## **Course Details**

**Credit Points 6**

### **Summary of the Course**

How can social research be used to influence and change policy? In this course, you will undertake a social science research project in one of several policy areas. Building on the knowledge you have acquired in research courses and on the analytical skills necessary for policy-related work, you will develop and undertake a project with an applied focus. You will independently prepare a literature review and a research proposal, conduct the research, and write of a report embodying the results of the research. You will also work with a group on one aspect of the project and present an engaging summary of your research to the class. You will be actively supported by a Seminar Leader with expertise in a particular policy area.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Undertake and manage an applied social research project, individually and as part of a team
2. Develop and prepare a research proposal, research report, and present the research findings to a wider audience
3. Plan, conduct and manage an applied research project as part of a working research team
4. Interpret and communicate research findings to different audiences.
5. Develop the skills to effectively present and communicate their research findings to a group

### **Teaching Strategies**

In this course, you will be engaged in learning through structured hands-on research activities. The assessment tasks to develop, conduct and present on a research project are designed for you to reflect on your understanding of the subject and develop skills in research and communication, both written and verbal. The course is designed to build on prior experience and knowledge gained in previous study, to encourage independent work and to provide meaningful and timely feedback.

# Assessment

## Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research proposal	30%	09/10/2020 11:59 PM	1,2
Group presentation	20%	Week 10 seminars	1,2,4,5
Research report	50%	27/11/2020 11:59 PM	1,2,3,5

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Research proposal

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 1500 words

**Details:**

This task involves preparing a 1500 word research proposal, which includes a literature review and an explanation of the methods to be employed.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten days of submission. The 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: Group presentation

**Start date:**

**Length:** 20 minutes + 5-10 minutes for questions

**Details:**

This task involves developing and presenting a 20 minute group presentation on the results and conclusions of a particular aspect of the research project. An additional 10 minutes is provided for questions.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of the presentation. The rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards

**Additional details:**

Group presentations will take place in class in Week 10 and you will be asked to electronically share or email your presentation to your seminar leader.

Presentations may be delivered face to face or online, depending on which class you are in.

**Submission notes:** Group presentations will occur in class in Week 10 (week starting 16/11/20).

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

### **Assessment 3: Research report**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 3000 words

#### **Details:**

This task involves writing a 3000 word report drawing on the research that has been conducted throughout the semester. This is the final assessment in the course for attendance purposes. Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten days of submission. The 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.

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 September - 18 September	Seminar	<p><b>Developing a Research Puzzle, a Research Agenda, or a Program of Research</b></p> <p>In this seminar you will be introduced to the specific research topic or field that you will be working on throughout term.</p> <p>You will begin to think about research questions that you will focus on throughout term.</p> <p>In this seminar you will be introduced to concepts such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How to develop a research question</li><li>2. How to narrow your research question to make it manageable</li><li>3. How to identify if your research question is workable</li><li>4. How to identify if your research question will have policy relevance and/or impact</li><li>5. How to identify an overarching research aim</li><li>6. How to identify key concepts relevant to your research question</li></ol>
Week 2: 21 September - 25 September	Group Work	<p><b>There is no formal seminar in Week 2.</b> In this week you will meet in your groups independently to decide on the research direction you would like to take throughout term.</p> <p>The research direction will be defined by the research question or aim you establish for yourselves.</p> <p>At the end of the group meeting, one person will email their seminar leader with a draft research question or research aim decided upon by the group. The seminar leader will provide written feedback on the question and the direction the group has chosen.</p>

		<p><b>That question should be emailed to your seminar leader by 5pm on Friday of Week 2 (25 September).</b></p>
<p>Week 3: 28 September - 2 October</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p><b>Meeting your ethical requirements. Structure of a research proposal.</b></p> <p>In Week 3 you will consider the ethical issues associated with your research agenda, and look at the structure of a research proposal.</p> <p>In this seminar you will be introduced to concepts such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is ethics in research?</li> <li>2. What are the ethical dimensions of the research you propose to undertake?</li> <li>3. When does institutional ethics approval need to be obtained?</li> <li>4. The UNSW Research Code of Conduct.</li> </ol> <p>Also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the structure of a research proposal?</li> <li>2. What should be in it?</li> </ol>
<p>Week 4: 5 October - 9 October</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p><b>Reviewing the literature</b></p> <p>In Week 4 you will make strategic decisions about the literature you need to consult before beginning the data collection and analysis phases.</p> <p>In this seminar you will be introduced to concepts such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why it is necessary to conduct a literature review</li> <li>2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for your literature review</li> <li>3. Finding the literature (and other sources) you need</li> <li>4. Purposeful reading of the literature</li> <li>5. Creating a reference list , tools for managing references</li> </ol> <p><b>Assessment 1: Research proposals are due 11:59PM Friday 9 October.</b></p>
<p>Week 5: 12 October - 16 October</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p><b>Working with Data</b></p> <p>In Week 5 you will start working directly with data.</p> <p>In this seminar you will be introduced to</p>

		<p>concepts such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is data?</li> <li>2. How do you match a research method to a research question?</li> <li>3. Where do you find data?</li> <li>4. How do you manage and protect your data?</li> </ol>
Week 6: 19 October - 23 October	Group Work	<p>There is no seminar in Week 6. <b>This week the groups meet independently to continue work on your project and plan the presentation</b> which will be given in Week 10.</p>
Week 7: 26 October - 30 October	Seminar	<p><b>Data Analysis and Research Findings</b></p> <p>You will start to draw conclusions from your data.</p> <p>In this seminar you will be introduced to concepts such as</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to analyse data</li> <li>2. How to present findings</li> <li>3. How to describe your findings</li> <li>4. How to decide what to include and what to exclude.</li> </ol>
Week 8: 2 November - 6 November	Seminar	<p><b>Discussion, Theory Development and Reaching a Conclusion</b></p> <p>You will start the process of relating your findings back to the literature.</p> <p>In this seminar you will be introduced to concepts such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The difference between 'findings' and 'theory'.</li> <li>2. When is it necessary to present new theory?</li> <li>3. How to relate your findings back to the existing literature.</li> <li>4. How to conclude your research project.</li> </ol>
Week 9: 9 November - 13 November	Seminar	<p><b>How to have Research Impact</b></p> <p>We will discuss what to do with your research now that it is finalised. How do you share it with others and use it to help influence the world around you?</p> <p>In this seminar you will be introduced to concepts such as:</p>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is meant by research impact?</li> <li>2. How do academics' research get published?</li> <li>3. What are 'non-traditional research outputs'?</li> <li>4. How can research be used to influence policy?</li> <li>5. How can research be shared via the mass or social media?</li> </ol> <p>In this week you will also meet in your groups to finalise your presentation which will be given in Week 10. You might want to rehearse your presentation.</p>
Week 10: 16 November - 20 November	Seminar	<p>Assessment 2: group presentation.</p> <p>In this final week, you will be part of a group presentation to the class (and watch the other groups present). This may be face to face or online, depending on which class you are in.</p>

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

Students will be given access to a full range of resources via the Moodle website for this course.

### **Recommended Resources**

Recommended resources will be discussed in seminars and many will be provided via Moodle.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

Student feedback will be sought through informal and formal evaluation through the term, and acted upon to improve the student learning experience.

## **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](mailto: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**

Copyright UNSW.

## **CRICOS**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.