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SRAP5101

Research Methods and Project Design

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Hazel Blunden	h.blunden@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Goodsell Building, Level 2, Room 252	93858314

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

This course introduces the process of conducting research and will present contemporary social research methods of relevance to the study of policy, development and international relations. In the course, you will explore the processes involved in locating and making sense of information and in generating new information through research. Covering both qualitative and quantitative research methods, the course reviews survey design, in-depth interviews and focus groups, observational research and textual analysis. You will learn the concepts and challenges associated with conducting research. You will also acquire skills in research design, data collection, data analysis and report-writing.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the whole research process: from conceptualisation and designing a research project, to methods and techniques of gathering information, to data analysis, and report-writing.
2. Understand the elements of a literature review.
3. Recognise key issues in research planning and design.
4. Select appropriate methods for addressing particular research problems.
5. Explain a range of basic social science research methods including survey design; interviews; and observational research.

Teaching Strategies

Teaching strategies include:

- online lectures
- in-class workshops
- independent work/activities
- authentic assessments

The rationale for the design of this course is twofold. First, the course designers recognise that blending online and face-to-face learning activities permits the inclusion of a greater range of learning activities and makes best use of available face-to-face time. Second, given that this course is designed to enable you to undertake your own independent research later in their program of study, the course is designed with a very practical focus on the development of methodological skills and techniques.

Assessment

[Here you can outline any relevant information that was not included in AIMS but may prove helpful for your students. For example, you might provide details on the referencing system, links to previous student exemplars or the designated week in the course that you will discuss the assessment at length. Importantly, this section is an area for you to provide information that does not go through the approved governance structure.]

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Literature review	40%	15/03/2019 11:59 PM	2
Research proposal	60%	26/04/2019 11:59 PM	1,3,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Literature review

Start date:

Length: 1000 words

Details: This assessment consists of a 1000 word literature review on a topic of your choosing. You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission through the University's Learning Management system (LMS). The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so that you can work towards specified standards.

Additional details:

Write a literature review on a social issue that interests you. Some social issues that you could choose are provided below. However, you are free to choose any social issue. Please note that the topic you choose for this assessment will also form the basis of the final assessment (the Research Proposal), for example:

- Climate change
- Housing and homelessness
- Domestic violence
- Mental health
- Fostering/adoption of children
- Drug use
- Refugees
- Human rights
- Unemployment
- Food security
- Water security

A literature review is a critical analysis of published material related to a particular topic. More detail about how to write a literature review will be provided in Module 2. Reading the following

material (available via Moodle) before starting on your literature review will be of assistance:

- How to write a literature review
- Literature review pointers
- Good and bad literature reviews
- Examples of good literature reviews

Please note your final word count at the start of the document.

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

Assessment 2: Research proposal

Start date:

Length: 2500 words

Details: This assessment consists of a 2500 word research proposal on a topic of your choosing. You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission through the University's Learning Management system (LMS). The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so that you can work towards specified standards. This is the final assessment for this course.

Additional details:

This task is designed to develop skills in preparing a research proposal. It is an integral part of the process of undertaking applied research and skills in its preparation are an important component of doing applied social research.

Imagine you are tendering for a government contract on the topic you chose for Assessment 1 (Literature Review). The task is to respond to the call for tenders, with a winning research project design. Your aim is to propose a research project that will deliver the research outcomes sought by the government.

More information about good tender design can be found in Chapter 3 of the text book (Hall, 2008).

The proposal should include the following elements:

TITLE: A title that clearly captures the research focus

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND: A brief introduction to the research—why the research is important and necessary. You should include a brief literature review that identifies and reviews research that has already been done in your chosen area. It should clearly articulate the gap in the current literature that your research will address. This will involve a refined version of the literature review submitted for Assessment 1. It will also include your research objectives and research questions.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS: An outline of the research methods to be employed and how they address the research questions. This section should include a clear description of your research

design—quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods, the sources and nature of your data, and your data analysis strategies. You should also provide a justification for the research method chosen, discuss ethical considerations and the limitations of your research. In this section you should refer to relevant literature. It should not be a purely descriptive account.

SCHEDULE: An estimation of how long it would take to complete. You can use a Gantt chart to indicate a timeline and staging of the research tasks.

BUDGET: A funder will want to know how much your services will cost and expect a budget. You should include a budget table outlining the various line items (such as researcher time, fieldwork and travel, data analysis, report writing etc.).

CONCLUSION: A summation of your proposal.

REFERENCES

The research proposal will be 2,500 words. Tables (including the table of contents), figures and reference list do not count towards the word count. Please note the word count at the start of the document.

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

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1 (Sat 23 Feb)	Seminar	Saturday 23rd of February will be an all-day, face-to-face teaching intensive (9am - 4pm, Morven Brown G4). Please prepare for this by doing the readings for Modules 1-4, as outlined in the Reading List link on Moodle.
Week 2	Web	Online Module 5
Week 3 (Wed 6 March)	Seminar	Face-to-face session (Wednesday 6th March, 6-8pm, Morven Brown G6) Module 6
Week 4	Web	Module 7
Week 5	Web	Module 8
Week 6 (Wed 27 March)	Seminar	Face-to-face session (Wednesday 27th March, 6-8pm, Morven Brown G6) Module 9
Week 7	Web	Module 10
Week 8	Web	Module 11
Week 9 (Wed 17 April)		Face-to-face session (Wednesday 17th April, 6-8pm, Morven Brown G6) Module 12

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The core text for this subject is:

Hall, R. (2008). *Applied Social Research: planning, designing and conducting real-world research*. South Yarra: Palgrave Macmillan.

Several copies of this book are also available in the Library - in the High Use collection and also on the shelves in the general collection.

Please note this book will also be used in SRAP5102. So if you purchase it for SRAP5101 you will get good use out of it.

Recommended Resources

A full reading list for each module will be available on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

We will be using the University's myExperience survey to evaluate the course, but you are welcome to communicate any other feedback to the course convenor at any time. Student feedback will also be sought during semester (at the end of the first Saturday).

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

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