ARTS4247

Research Skills in the Humanities

Term 1, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Lisa Ford	l.ford@unsw.edu.au	Monday 10am -12pm or other times by appointment	MB 346	

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Tel: 02 9348 0406

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.

Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous UNSW's Indigenous strategy

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

This course will help you to develop a range of higher-level research skills. It will cover such areas as research methodology, research questions, the literature review, presentation skills, and academic writing. It will help you to identify and develop your research proposal, articulate its point and purpose, and present it in oral and written form. It will thereby support you in the skills you need to produce a sustained research project such as the Honours thesis. The content is delivered through seminars and workshop.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate the key principles of high-quality quality research in a relevant discipline
2. Locate, analyse and evaluate research relevant to a specific topic
3. Construct and articulate a clear and coherent research proposal
4. Articulate the ethical obligations generated by research in the humanities

Teaching Strategies

This course comprises a two-hour session from Week 1 to Week 9, followed by a six-hour Honours Symposium in Week 13. There is no class from Week 10 to Week 12, which are for self-study and individual consultations on assessments. The two-hour sessions are designed to enable students to learn the skills of conceiving and managing a research project, including locating their research within relevant academic literature, managing the research process, considering appropriate research methods, and communicating research effectively. The seminars will cover topics such as the literature review, online databases, research methodology, and authoring a thesis. At the workshops, students will work with peers from multiple disciplines on specific tasks such as sharpening research questions, brainstorming ideas, understanding their methodologies, fine tuning their timelines, and presenting a critique of completed theses.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Research presentation	30%	21/04/2022 10:00 AM	2, 3
2. Thesis critique	30%	18/03/2022 11:59 PM	1, 4
3. Research proposal	40%	19/04/2022 11:59 PM	2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Research presentation

Due date: 21/04/2022 10:00 AM

Your research presentation will be 15 minutes in duration, and will provide a summary of your research proposal, covering the research topic, statement, rationale, literature review, and methodology. It will be presented in the format of an academic conference paper. You will receive oral feedback at the presentation and written feedback afterwards.

Additional details

Please block out this whole day as there will be a full day mini-conference.

Assessment 2: Thesis critique

Due date: 18/03/2022 11:59 PM

1500 words. Your task is to submit a critical evaluation of one recent Honours thesis in your discipline. Your critique should consider the following: a) Thesis topic b) Literature review c) Thesis structure d) Argument e) Quality of writing. You will have the opportunity to present a short thesis critique to your colleagues. You receive written feedback on the critique.

Assessment 3: Research proposal

Due date: 19/04/2022 11:59 PM

2500 words excluding references. Your research proposal must cover the following: a) Tentative title of the project b) Project statement c) Rationale d) Literature review e) Methodology f) Tentative chapter outline g) Timeline h) References i) Ethical implications. You will receive written feedback. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

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
O Week: 7 February - 11 February	Seminar	Introduction to Honours
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Seminar	Deconstructing the research process / Ethics and Values
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Seminar	Library Hacks
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Seminar	Literature Review
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Seminar	Thesis Critique
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Assessment	Academic Writing
Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	Reading	Flexibility Week
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Seminar	Academic presentations
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Reading	Digital Humanities
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April		
	Seminar	The Finished Thesis
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Presentation	Please schedule all day for this meeting. ARTS4249 will be postponed.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

See Leganto

Recommended Resources

Charles Lipsom, *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from Your First Ideas to Your Finished Paper*

This book is written for US Theses, which are much shorter than yours and based on far less independent primary research. But it is still very useful and I suggest that you buy a copy. The library has an older version if you want to take a look before purchasing.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be gathered through MyExperience. It is always analysed and considered in planning for this course.

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

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.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

Image Credit

View from a palace in Rajasthan, 2020. Photo by Lisa Ford

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