

# ARTS4266

Puzzles, Planning, and Presentation for Honours in the Social Sciences

Term 1, 2022



## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

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### School Contact Information

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## 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 is a compulsory course for Social Sciences honours students in the School of Social Sciences. It will introduce you to the practice of thesis writing and support you in the early stages of developing your honours argument. This course includes topics such as: using library resources for honours students including research consultation and access to databases; the role of methods in research and the use of theory in framing and conducting a research project in the social sciences; your ethical responsibilities as a researcher; and planning and managing a research project; working effectively with your supervisor; time and data management skills. The course introduces you to the idea of framing your research as an intervention in a disciplinary debate (or series of debates). A particular focus of the course is introducing students to the thesis form. This includes learning about the component parts of a minor-thesis, and thinking about how you might construct your own thesis, for maximum impact.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Identify the features of an outstanding thesis or dissertation.
2. Verbally present material in an engaging and informative way.
3. Work collaboratively with colleagues to share skills and knowledge relevant to producing a minor thesis

### **Teaching Strategies**

The intensive workshop allows you to get working on your research projects quickly. It is designed to both support you, and to efficiently introduce you to the key pieces of knowledge you will need to complete your honours year. This includes information on the ethical application process, data storage, working with a supervisor and library resources. The assessment focus will be on identifying excellence in thesis writing by consulting both the literature, and past honours theses. You will also share their expertise, with others in the class, via your group presentations. Different presentations will be focused on different elements of a minor thesis.

## Assessment

Please see Moodle for full information about the assessments.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Essay	60%	01/04/2022 11:59 PM	1
2. Group presentation	30%	Last 2 weeks of term	2, 3
3. Class Guide - based on presentation	10%	On the same day as your presentation	3

### Assessment 1: Essay

**Assessment length:** 2,500

**Due date:** 01/04/2022 11:59 PM

Students will write a 2,500 word essay focused on identifying and exploring the features of an outstanding research dissertation.

Written feedback and a numerical grade will be returned within two weeks of delivery.

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

### Assessment 2: Group presentation

**Assessment length:** 30 minute oral presentation

**Due date:** Last 2 weeks of term

Working in groups, students will present the rest of the class with their analysis of what constitutes an outstanding thesis.

Written feedback and a numerical grade will be returned within two weeks of delivery. Grading is collective.

### Assessment 3: Class Guide - based on presentation

**Assessment length:** 1,000 words

**Due date:** On the same day as your presentation

Each group (based on the presentation groups) will produce a 1,000 word guide for their classmates (those members of the class who did not present with the group). The guide will aid the rest of the class in their thesis preparation work.

Written feedback and a numerical grade will be returned within two weeks of delivery. Grading is collective.

This is the final assessment for this course.

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: 14 February - 18 February	Seminar	Welcome!  What is your project?  Working with past theses
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Seminar	Thesis Element 1: What is my research question?  1. How to develop a research question  2. How to narrow your research question to make it manageable  3. How to identify if your research question is workable  4. How to identify an overarching research aim  5. How to identify key concepts relevant to your research question
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Seminar	Thesis Element 2: What are my ethical requirements?  1. What is ethics in research?  2. What are the ethical dimensions of the research you propose to undertake?  3. When does institutional ethics approval need to be obtained?  4. The UNSW Research Code of Conduct
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Seminar	Thesis Element 3: What is my literature?  1. Why it is necessary to conduct a literature

		<p>review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Finding the literature you need</li> <li>3. Purposeful reading of the literature</li> <li>4. Creating an annotated bibliography</li> <li>5. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for your literature review</li> </ol>
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Seminar	<p>Introduction to the library by the librarian.</p> <p>Lessons from past honours students.</p>
Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	Homework	No classes (Flexibility Week) - self-directed learning.
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Seminar	<p><b>Thesis Element 4: What is my method?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is evidence?</li> <li>2. How do you match a research method to a research question?</li> <li>3. Where do you find evidence?</li> <li>4. How do you manage and protect your research materials?</li> </ol> <p>Mental health wellness and wellbeing.</p>
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Seminar	<p><b>Thesis Element 5: What is my evidence and how do I make sense of it?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identifying patterns in evidence</li> <li>2. How to structure your findings</li> <li>3. How to communicate your findings to the reader</li> <li>4. How to decide what to include and what to exclude</li> </ol> <p><b>Thesis Element 6: So what? (your discussion and conclusions)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to relate your findings back to the existing literature.</li> <li>2. How to conclude your research project</li> </ol>



Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Group Work	Group presentations Part 1
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Group Work	Group presentations Part 2

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

All readings will be in Leganto (see Moodle).

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

Your feedback will be used to updated lecture topics and assessments.

## **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 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**

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## **CRICOS**

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