

SOSS2001

Qualitative Social Research

Term 1, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Caroline Lenette	c.lenette@unsw.edu.au	Appointment required	MB130	

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

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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

In this course you will examine the various components of qualitative research. You will learn the concepts and challenges associated with conducting qualitative research and develop your capacity for undertaking social research through the acquisition of skills in research design, data collection, data analysis and report writing.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the concepts of qualitative research and how qualitative research can be applied to real world problems.
2. Develop sound research questions and choose the appropriate methodology to answer these questions.
3. Collect and analyze qualitative data
4. Write a high-quality research report involving qualitative data.

Teaching Strategies

In accordance with UNSW Learning and Teaching Guidelines, we expect to engage students in learning through structured hands-on activities. This is premised on the belief that effective learning takes place when students are actively engaged in the learning process.

The learning outcomes will be addressed through lectures and workshops. Students are expected to engage with the material and prepare for the tutorials and lectures in order to enhance their learning experience.

Assessment

Students are expected to read the information in this course outline and on Moodle carefully and to follow the advice provided on how to achieve expected standards in completing the assessment tasks.

Rubrics will be available on Moodle. A rubric is a table or grid that lists a number of criteria against which you will be assessed and descriptors that specify the performance corresponding to each level (FL-HD), to allow assessors to interpret which level has been met. Students are strongly encouraged to look at the rubrics well in advance as they each clearly state what type of work you need to hand in to attain a good grade.

Assessments should be referenced in accordance with the School of Social Sciences Referencing Guide, available at <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policiesguidelines/>.

Submission of written assignments

All assessments will be submitted electronically via TurnItIn on Moodle (no hard copy submission).

Assessments must be prepared in **Microsoft Word** format (not pdf), using a minimum 2.54cm margins on all sides, 12 point font size (except headings), double spaced, and consistent font and style throughout.

YOUR ASSESSMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BY MIDNIGHT ON THE DUE DATE TO AVOID A LATE PENALTY.

Moodle will accept late assessments but aim to submit early.

Please check the School rules and policies in relation to requests of extensions and late submission of assessed work: <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

You are also declaring that the assessment item is your own work, except where acknowledged, and has not been submitted for academic credit previously in whole or in part.

It is your responsibility to keep a copy of your work in case of loss of an assignment. You are also responsible for checking that your submission is complete and accurate before you submit it via TurnItIn on Moodle.

Feedback

Grades will be entered and feedback returned through Moodle once marking is complete on assessments with extensions, between two to three weeks from the due date. Extensive feedback and discussion of assessments will be provided during tutorials and lectures.

Attendance and participation requirements - please note that these will be updated in 2022 depending on how class attendance is monitored. This course is delivered face-to-face and online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance and contacting your course convenor immediately if you are concerned about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete your course successfully. Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from forthcoming classes should be addressed to the **Convenor** in writing and, where applicable, should

be accompanied by appropriate documentation (e.g. medical certificate). For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is the Research report worth 50% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Research proposal	30%	11/03/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2
2. Interviewing exercise	20%	25/03/2022 11:59 PM	3
3. Research report	50%	22/04/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Research proposal

Assessment length: 1000

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

1000 word research proposal scaffolding the final assessment. A numerical grade and comments is given within two weeks 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.

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

Assessment 2: Interviewing exercise

Assessment length: 150 + transcribed interview

Due date: 25/03/2022 11:59 PM

Students submit an interview transcript and 150 word reflection. A numerical grade and comments is given within two weeks 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.

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

Assessment 3: Research report

Assessment length: 2500

Due date: 22/04/2022 11:59 PM

2500 word independent research report. A numerical grade and comments is given within two weeks 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.

This is the final assessment for this course, for the purposes of the attendance requirement.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can 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 February - 18 February	Lecture	Introduction to qualitative research
	Tutorial	Introductions and welcome Download N-Vivo Negotiating the research topic
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Lecture	Beginning the research process Developing research questions Reviewing the literature: what questions to ask to guide your reading
	Tutorial	Reviewing literature Developing research questions Proposals
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Lecture	Ethics, sampling and recruitment Key concepts relating to ethics, sampling and recruitment
	Tutorial	Tips for Assessment 1 Preparing proposal abstracts
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Lecture	Ethnographic methods Practical and ethical issues in observational methods
	Tutorial	Develop interview schedule Select interview partner
	Assessment	Assessment 1 due!

Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Lecture	Interviewing methods Conducting interviews Cleaning data Tips for Assessment 2
	Tutorial	Interview practice Transcription tips
Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	Assessment	No classes (Flexibility week) - use this time to interview your research partner and transcribe your interview. Assessment 2 due!
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Lecture	Appraising quality in qualitative research Evaluating qualitative research Commencing qualitative analysis (in NVivo) & identifying categories and themes
	Tutorial	Steps in thematic analysis NVivo 1: Intro to coding using example transcript
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Lecture	Interpreting qualitative data Understanding different approaches to interpreting data
	Tutorial	Nvivo 2: Start coding ten course interview transcripts
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Lecture	Communicating qualitative findings Strategies for writing up findings
	Tutorial	Nvivo 3: Finalise and deepen analysis Identify key findings for report
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Tutorial	Nvivo 3: Finalise and deepen analysis Tips for Assessment 3
	Assessment	Assessment 3 due!

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Bryman, A. (2015) *Social Research Methods* (5th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University (same as SOSS1001).

Recommended Resources

Bryman companion site

<http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/sociology/brymansrm5e/>

Silverman, D. (2013) *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook* (4th ed), Sage Publications.

Clarke, V. and Braun, V. (2013) *Successful Qualitative Research: A Practical Guide for Beginners*, Sage Publications.

Glesne, C. (2010) *Becoming Qualitative Researchers: An Introduction* (4th ed), Pearson.

Morris, A. (2015) *A Practical Introduction to In-Depth Interviewing*, Sage Publications.

Saldaña, J. (2012) *Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*, Sage Publications.

Access to NVivo

You will be able to access NVivo on your own device outside of seminars using myAccess. myAccess means that you can use NVivo in your own time, on your mac, PC or tablet device in any location with an internet connection. Go to myaccess.unsw.edu.au to find out more information on how to login and use the service, there are quick reference guides, frequently asked questions and who to contact if you need more help.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using, among other means, UNSW's MyExperience process. Informal feedback and class-generated feedback are also important. Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based in part on such feedback.

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

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