

SRAP5103

Research Report

Term 1, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Alison Wannan	a.wannan@unsw.edu.au	By appointment before or after seminars or at other times	Morven Brown 134 / Online	9385 1807

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

In this course, you will have the opportunity to undertake a piece of directed original research with the support of an academic advisor. You will complete a number of formative tasks, building up to the submission of a single research report detailing the design, conduct and findings of your research.

8939 Master of Development Studies, 8225 Master of Arts (International Relations) and 8248 Master of Policy Studies must seek approval from the Program Convenor to enrol in the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Design, develop and report on research activities and questions, showing awareness of research ethics and selecting appropriate research methods related to their research topics;
2. Critically engage with current scholarship in their field of study to inform research and contribute to knowledge in this field; and
3. Demonstrate resourcefulness, creativity and flexibility in the application of knowledge and skills to solve problems related to research.

Teaching Strategies

This course is designed to facilitate directed research using online resources and individual/group supervision. Students will be encouraged to design a desk-based project that can be undertaken within a short time frame, to apply the concepts discussed in SRAP5101 Research Methods. The course structure includes dedicated writing time to ensure students complete their research projects within stated timeframes.

Assessment

Course design and learning activities

This course has been designed to facilitate directed research. Students can undertake group work and peer review throughout the course, however, the final essay or research project will be an individual piece of work. Students conduct a piece of desk-based research on a topic of their choosing. The course gives students the opportunity to conduct research in an area of interest within the disciplines of international relations, development studies or public policy and governance. As the completion of SRAP5101 is a prerequisite, it is expected that students will build on the knowledge acquired in that course for their research topic (although if students wish to explore a new topic, this can be negotiated).

Students will work with the course coordinator to refine the scope and topic of the research project. Assessments have been designed to build towards, develop and clarify the scope and content of the final 4,000 word research report or essay. Although students may initially develop their research project in groups, each research report will be individually designed and the final format will vary. Most students will produce a formal research report. We recognise that research activities can lead to a variety of outputs depending on the topic and goal of the research project, including but not limited to:

- An extended essay (similar to a journal article - an argument built on evidence)
- Technical or academic research reports
- Advocacy reports that lobby for change using an evidence based approach
- Literature reviews evaluating emerging issues in a given field.

Project topics are negotiated between the student and the course convenor. Students are invited to propose topics as much as possible, and the academic supervisor can help students identify a suitable topic.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Revised research proposal	40%	13/03/2022 11:00 PM	1, 2
2. Final Report	60%	30/04/2022 11:00 PM	2, 3

Assessment 1: Revised research proposal

Assessment length: 1,500 words

Due date: 13/03/2022 11:00 PM

Building on the final assessment in SRAP5101 (Research Proposal), students are to submit a revised research proposal of 1500 words for a desk-based research project. Written feedback and a numerical grade will be given to students within 2 weeks of delivery. Marking criteria will be made available to students at the start of the semester so that they can work to specified standards.

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

Assessment 2: Final Report

Assessment length: 4,000 words

Due date: 30/04/2022 11:00 PM

Students submit an individual research report of 4000 words on the desk-based research they conducted. Written feedback and a numerical grade will be given to students within 2 weeks of delivery. Marking criteria will be made available to students at the start of the semester so that they can work to specified standards. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can 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	Getting started on your research Course overview and assessments. What is desk-based or secondary research? Reviewing your SRAP 5101 research topic and question by creating a concept map.
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Seminar	Refining and designing your research project Defining the research question(s) for your secondary research project and deciding on your research method to use existing data.
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Seminar	Sources of secondary data and search strategies to locate data Developing a search strategy to identify data and evidence which best suits your research question and theory.
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Homework	Individual consultations and independent research Discuss and refine your research proposal. Booked times with course convenor. <i>A chance to meet and discuss your research proposal before Assessment 1 is due.</i>
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Seminar	Analysis of your secondary data/evidence How to review the data you gather and analyse your findings. <i>Arrange a consultation with a research librarian about your search strategy for Week 6 or Week 7.</i>

Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	Homework	<p>Individual consultations or independent research</p> <p>Consultation with a research librarian to discuss or revise your search strategy, Review your data and start to analyse your findings.</p>
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Seminar	<p>Linking up - Analysing your data and presenting your findings</p> <p>Discussing your analysis and what your findings mean. Linking your findings with your research question(s) and the issues you identified in the initial background (literature reviews) to make a strong argument.</p>
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Homework	<p>Individual consultations or independent research</p> <p>Discuss your selection of data and your initial findings. Booked times with course convenor.</p>
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Seminar	<p>Identifying the implications of your research project and writing a conclusion</p> <p>Understanding why your findings matter in terms of your research topic and identify the implications of your research for policy, practice or advocacy. Book a time to meet with the course coordinator in week 10 to discuss your final report and the strength of your argument.</p>
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Homework	<p>Individual consultations or independent research</p> <p>Focus on completing, editing and polishing your report. Booked times with course convenor. <i>A chance to meet and discuss your research report before you submit Assessment 2.</i></p>

Resources

Prescribed Resources

A selection of readings is provided on Moodle under the Leganto link. This will give you direct access to the articles.

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources

Thomas, G. (2017) *How to do your Research Project: A Guide for Students* (3rd ed). London: SAGE Publications.

Print:

<https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9781473948877>

Digital:

<https://unswbookshop.vitalsource.com/products/-v9781526414557>

Largan, C. and Morris, T. (2019) *Qualitative Secondary Research: A Step by Step Guide*. London: SAGE Publications.

Course Evaluation and Development

Additional references about the different (qualitative and quantitative) approaches to conducting secondary research have been included on Moodle.

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>

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