

SRAP5101

Research Methods and Project Design

Term 3, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Bingqin Li	Bingqin.li@unsw.edu.au	Please email to arrange an appointment.	Off campus	contact by email

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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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 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, ethics, 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

Please use the SOSS Referencing Guide, which is available on Moodle.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Literature review	40%	21/10/2022 11:59 PM	2
2. Research proposal	60%	18/11/2022 11:59 PM	3, 4, 5

Assessment 1: Literature review

Assessment length: 1000

Due date: 21/10/2022 11:59 PM

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.

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

Additional details

Additional details are provided on Moodle.

Assessment 2: Research proposal

Assessment length: 2500

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

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.

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

Additional details

Additional information is available on Moodle.

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: 12 September - 16 September	Web	Preparing for the research: framing the research question, literature review and research ethics
Week 2: 19 September - 23 September	Web	Choosing the suitable research strategy and design
Week 3: 26 September - 30 September	Web	Desktop research: literature review, policy & document analysis
Week 4: 3 October - 7 October	Web	Qualitative research: nature, sampling and data collection (interviews, focus groups)
Week 5: 10 October - 14 October	Web	Analysing qualitative data
Week 6: 17 October - 21 October	Web	Quantitative research: nature and data collection (survey, internet-based data collection & quantifying qualitative data)
	Assessment	Literature review
Week 7: 24 October - 28 October	Web	Analysing quantitative data
Week 8: 31 October - 4 November	Web	Mixed method research
Week 9: 7 November - 11 November	Web	Research planning
Week 10: 14 November - 18 November	Web	Writing a research report
	Assessment	Research proposal

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Thomas, G. (2017). How to do your research project: A guide for students. Sage.
Bryman, A. (2016). Social research methods. Oxford university.

Recommended Resources

A full reading list for each weekly topic 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 the term.

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, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

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.

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).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Image Credit

Photo by Marvin Meyer on Unsplash

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