SOCW4011

Evidence and Practice Based Research

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Abner Poon	w.poon@unsw.edu.au	Thursday, 2-4pm	G37, Morven Brown Building	93850685

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Tim Wong	Tim.Wong@unsw.edu.au			
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School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Social Work*

This course focuses on the connections between social work practice and research: evidence-based practice (EBP) and practice-based research. Students will learn the potentials and limitations of the EBP in social work and the process of conducting the EBP. This course also provides students with opportunities to extend their understanding of different research methodologies, to obtain skills and knowledge related to the research process, to learn the importance of conducting research well-grounded in practice, and to understand ethical and political issues related to social work research. These skills and knowledge will facilitate students' learning in other courses, field practicum, and future professional practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Understand roles of research in social work and roles of social workers in research
2. Critically assess research manuscripts
3. Know research methods that are appropriate to the research questions
4. Have skills to perform tasks required at various stages of research
5. Understand the relationship between research evidence and practice

Teaching Strategies

The course comprises lecture and tutorial sequences. Two-hour weekly lectures are held on [day] at [location]. One-hour tutorials are held later on [day] at [location]. This course values the class discussion as a critical learning method and students are expected to actively participate during the lectures and tutorials. Each student is expected to contribute to the learning of fellow students by bringing their own experiences, by relating them to social work values and knowledge, and by thinking critically.

Lectures

Lectures involve power-point presentations addressing the course text, other supplementary readings, and examples of social work research. Students will learn about key concepts, issues, and techniques of research. In order to maximize the benefit of lectures, students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in group discussions during lectures.

Tutorials

Tutorials involve small and large group discussions and skill-building activities. Group discussions and skill-building exercises are designed to enhance understanding of class materials and to practice skills covered in lectures and reading assignments. The group project assignment is also discussed during the tutorial sessions. It should be noted that participation is not the same as attendance. The crucial element to good tutorials is having all members of the class read the readings and attended the lectures.

Moodle

This course will use Moodle to assist teaching and learning activities.

Assessment

The specific requirements of each assessment task and their associated assessment criteria, expected performance standards and marking rubrics are provided in a separate **Assessment Guidelines Handout,** which is uploaded on Moodle.

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

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Summary of proposed research strategy	20%	22/03/2019 11:00 PM	1,3,4
Presentation and written report	50%	09/04/2019 11:00 PM	2,3,4
Individual research reflection task	30%	26/04/2019 11:00 PM	1,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Summary of proposed research strategy

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: On-line tutorial which will inform a written summary of a proposed search strategy to inform their chosen area of research worth 20% of the final mark . 750 words. Students 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 students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

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

Assessment 2: Presentation and written report

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Presentation and written report (1800 words) of a chosen area of research. The presentation and written report are each worth 25% so when combined this assessment task is worth 50% of the final mark. Students 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 students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Additional details:

Written report is due 9 April 2019, 11pm.

Presentations will take place during the tutorials in weeks 8, 9, 10 and 11 as scheduled with your tutor.

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

Assessment 3: Individual research reflection task

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Individual research reflection task worth 30% of the final mark. 1500 words. This is the final assessment.Students 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 students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

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

Attendance Requirements

If you attend less than 80% of classes, you may be refused final assessment. This means that if you do not attend at least 80% of possible classes, your final assignment or exam may receive a mark of zero. You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance. If you are concerned about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete your course successfully, you need to contact your course convenor immediately.

For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is *a 1500 word independent research reflection* worth **30%** of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Lecture	**Lecture:** Introduction to SOCW4011; Defining key terms – 'evidence'; 'evidence-based practice'; Evidence Collaborations – Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations and the hierarchy of evidence; gold standard evidence – is this a helpful concept for social work practice?
	Tutorial	**Tutorial**: Skills audit and reflection on the use of 'evidence' in third level placement. Formation of small working groups for course Assessment 2 task.
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Lecture	**Lecture:** From practice interest to research project - developing appropriate research questions. Finding and using evidence competently; the politics of evidence – determining what can we know; ethical considerations for evidence based practice. Examples of practice informed research.
	Tutorial	*Tutorial:* Reflection on readings and small group work discussion of the research topic for their poster.
Week 3: 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	**Lecture:** Reviewing the literature and available research – Scoping, Rapid Evidence and Systematic Reviews; Meta-Analysis and Meta-Evaluation; making judgements about the quality of evidence - PRISMA and Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist.
	Tutorial	*Tutorial:* Reflection on readings and small group work discussion of the research topic for their poster.
Week 4: 11 March - 17	Lecture	**Lecture:** Qualitative Methodology and Research

March		Methods – the 'how' and the 'why' of research inquiry; the qualitative research process; case studies; grounded methodology; phenomenology; textual and discourse analysis; social media as a source of useful qualitative data. Examples of practice informed research projects using these methods
	Tutorial	**Tutorial:** Planning a grounded methods project and qualitative data analysis exercises and small group work on poster presentations.
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Online Activity	**Please note there is no lecture or tutorial in week 5** - students to individually complete an on-line tutorial on 'Finding Evidence' for Assessment 1. The on-line tutorial forms the basis for Assessment 1 and the link for the tutorial is on Moodle. Please see separate Assessment Guidelines for information on what is expected for Assessment 1 and how this on-line tutorial task is intended to resource Assessments 2 and 3.
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	**Lecture:** Collaborative/participatory approaches to research – action research and ethnography; what do we mean by 'Practice Informed Research';ensuring participation of practitioners and service users is genuine; examples of practice informed research projects
	Tutorial	**Tutorial:** Planning a collaborative project and maximizing participation from the field and small group work on poster presentations.
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	**Lecture:** Quantitative Methodology - the feasibility of the experimental method in practice settings. Experimental; quasi-experimental and non-experimental design; Randomised Control Trials (RCTs) in practice contexts; the quantitative research process
	Tutorial	**Tutorial:** Benefits of Randomised Control Trials (RCTs) for social work practice - planning a quantitative inquiry and small group work on poster presentations.
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	**Lecture:** Mixed Methods and Outcomes Research – what do these approaches tell us about practice?
	Tutorial	*Tutorial:* Exercise – determining outcomes of social work practice Poster presentations
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	**Lecture:** Evaluation for Social Work Practice – how do we know an intervention is effective and how do

		we assess worker and clients' perceptions of 'what works', 'for whom' and 'under what circumstances'? Examples of evaluation studies
	Tutorial	**Tutorial:** Poster presentations
Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Lecture	*Lecture:* Knowledge Transfer – How do we make sure that research is meaningfully translated into practice contexts; conference presentations, clearinghouses, repositories and research hubs.
	Tutorial	*Tutorial:* Poster presentation (Wednesday classes only)
Week 11: 29 April - 1 May	Tutorial	*Tutorial:* Poster presentation (Thursday class only)

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The core text for this course is **Martin Webber *Applying Research Evidence in Social Work Practice* (2015) published by Palgrave Macmillan**. Chapters from this text will be listed as compulsory reading but will also be supplemented by other resources uploaded in Moodle. The UNSW Bookshop has ordered this text for purchase.

Recommended Resources

See weekly reading list in Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

The MyExperience responses form the basis of SOCW4011 ongoing course development however informal evaluations undertaken by tutors in previous years provides important information for re-shaping course content and assessments. Based on the feedback from last year's cohort SOCW4011 has re-oriented the content to more directly address the ways in which practitioner wisdom, client preference and existing research combine together, to inform Evidence Based Practice (EBP). In addition, assessments have been changed to better suit the needs of students entering either of the Honours streams – SOCW4016 Social Work Honours Advanced Practice Portfolio and SOCW4015 Social Work Honours Research Thesis.

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 also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

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

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and 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 also 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

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

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.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

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