SRAP2001

Qualitative Social Research

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sally Baker	sally.baker@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Morven Brown, G16	93850686

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Social Research and Policy*

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 experienc*e.

Assessment

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

The standards against which each of these assessments will be evaluated are in the **rubrics 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 in this course.

As noted, 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/.

Submission of written assignments

All assessments that can be submitted electronically must be submitted electronically only, through a TurnItIn portal in Moodle. There is no hard copy submission required.

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) and consistent font and style throughout.

YOUR ASSESSMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BY 11.59PM ON THE DUE DATE TO AVOID A LATE PENALTY.

Moodle will NOT accept assessments after 11.59pm on the due date. To avoid any last minute problems in submitting your assessment via Moodle, such as a problem with internet access, you are strongly advised to **aim to submit early**.

If you are not able to submit your assessment on time, you will incur a late penalty. Please check the School rules and policies in relation to requests of extensions and late submission of assessed work, available at 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, but within three weeks of the due date at the latest. Extensive feedback on and discussion of assessments will also be provided during tutorials and lectures.

ASSESSMENT TASK	FEEDBACK MECHANISM	FEEDBACK DATE
Research proposal	Oral and written	General feedback provided in week 5 lecture and tutorials, grades and specific written feedback when all assessments have been graded (weeks 6-7)
Interviewing exercise	Oral and written	General feedback provided in week 7 lecture and tutorials; grades when all assessments have been graded (weeks 7-8)
Research report	Written	Grades and feedback will be available on Moodle when all assessments are graded

More detail about each of these assessments will be provided in lectures, tutorials and in Moodle as the course progresses.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research proposal	30%	15/03/2019 11:59 PM	1,2
Interviewing exercise	20%	29/03/2019 11:59 PM	3
Research report	50%	03/05/2019 11:59 PM	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research proposal

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1000

Details: 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.

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

Assessment 2: Interviewing exercise

Start date:

Length: 150 words + transcribed interview

Details: 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.

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

Assessment 3: Research report

Start date:

Length: 2500 words

Details: 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.

Turnitin setting: 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: 18 February - 24 February	Lecture	**Introduction to qualitative research** Course structure
	Tutorial	Introductions and welcome Download N-Vivo Negotiating the research topic
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	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: 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	**Ethics, sampling and recruitment** Key concepts relating to ethics, sampling and recruitment
	Tutorial	Tips for Assessment 1 Preparing proposal abstracts Peer feedback exercise. Check Moodle for pre-tutorial readings and activities
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	**Ethnographic methods** Practical and ethical issues in observational methods
	Tutorial	Develop interview schedule Select interview partner

		Check Moodle for pre-tutorial readings and activities **Assignment 1 is due on Friday 15th March 2018 before 11.59pm**
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Lecture	**Interviewing methods** Conducting interviews Cleaning data Tips for Assessment 2
	Tutorial	Interview practice Transcription tips
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	**Appraising quality in qualitative research** Evaluating qualitative research
	Tutorial	*There is no tutorial this week: use this time for recording/ transcribing interviews for Assessment 2.* Your tutor will be available to support you if you have questions this week **Assignment 2 is due on Friday 29th March 2018 before 11.59pm**
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	**Commencing qualitative analysis & identifying categories and themes** Commencing analysis in NVivo Steps in thematic analysis
	Tutorial	Steps in thematic analysis NVivo 1: Intro to coding using example transcript Check Moodle for pre-tutorial readings and activities
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	**Interpreting qualitative data** Understanding different approaches to interpreting data
	Tutorial	Nvivo 2: Start coding ten course interview transcripts
Week 9: 15 April - 21	Lecture	**Methodologies symposium**

April		Listen and learn from experienced researchers describing their research and methodological decisions
	Tutorial	Nvivo 3: Finalise and deepen analysis; identify key findings for report
	Web	Contribute to discussion on Moodle about the themes from the 10 course interview transcripts
Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Lecture	No lecture this week due to Easter and Anzac Day
	Tutorial	No tutorials this week due to Easter and Anzac Day
Week 11: 29 April - 1 May	Lecture	**Communicating qualitative findings** Strategies for writing up findings
	Tutorial	Nvivo 3: Finalise and deepen analysis; identify key findings for report Tips for Assessment 3 **Assignment 3 due Friday 3rd May by 11.59pm**

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The **core text** for this course is: Bryman, A. (2012). *Social Research Methods* (5th Edition). Please purchase this text if possible as it underpins all course content.

Please note that we will be teaching from the 5th edition only. If you have a previous edition of this textbook you will be responsible for comparing content with earlier editions to ensure it is the same.

Recommended Resources

Some **additional reference texts** that will be discussed include:

- 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.

Other material, such as information handed out and developed in the tutorials, will be accessible on-line through Moodle.

Recommended online materials and other useful sources

Bryman companion site
http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/sociology/brymansrm5e/

Social research methods knowledge base
http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/qual.php

QSR International (NVivo)
http://www.qsrinternational.com/what-is-qualitative-research.aspx

Other material and resources

Students are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with the UNSW Library and its resources since utilisation of these resources is central to successful progress in university study:
http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/

For example, the library runs the ELISE tutorial on-line, which familiarizes students with academic writing, research and using information responsibly. It can be located at
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise

Online databases are accessible through the UNSW Library website at
http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/HowDoI/databases.html. The page also links to helpful tips and a guide to using databases as a research resource.

Please be aware that internet sources are not always reliable of scholarly information on qualitative research.

You will benefit from becoming familiar with Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com) as a key search engine for academic publications and reports. You can set up the preferences to link to the UNSW Library even when you are not on campus.

Go to Google Scholar> settings> library links, and enter 'University of New South Wales' in the box for "Library".

You can sign up for Table of Contents (TOC) Alerts from the homepages of relevant journals, to receive an email whenever new articles are published in that journal. Journal websites will often carry information on the most viewed and most cited articles; these are likely to be interesting and often influential contributions. Google Scholar will also point you to articles that have cited a particular article and hence will be related to the topic.

NB Wikipedia is not an appropriate academic resource.

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 Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) 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. Significant changes to the course will be communicated to subsequent cohorts of students taking the course.

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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