

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Alison Wannan	a.wannan@unsw.edu.au	By appointment before or after seminars or at other negotiated times. I work part time from Monday to Wednesday.	Room 134 Level 1 Morven Brown	9385 0356

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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Course Details

Credit Points 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. Resources will be available online and group and/or individual supervision will take place in a face to face environment. 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 the 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. The ongoing 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 precise final format will vary. Students can create either an extended essay or a formal research report. Research activities can lead to a variety of outputs depending upon 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, but if there are no obvious possibilities, the academic supervisor can help students identify a suitable topic.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Revised research proposal	40%	15/03/2020 11:00 PM	1,2
Final Report	60%	03/05/2020 11:00 PM	2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Revised research proposal

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1,500 words

Details: 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.

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

Assessment 2: Final Report

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 4,000 words

Details: 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.

Turnitin setting: 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: 17 February - 21 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: 24 February - 28 February	Seminar	Refining your research project Becoming a writer and selecting your secondary research method.
Week 3: 2 March - 6 March	Seminar	Sources of secondary information and search strategy Developing a search strategy to identify data or evidence which best suits your research question and method.
Week 4: 9 March - 13 March	Homework	Individual consultations or 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: 16 March - 20 March	Seminar	Analysis of your secondary data/evidence Reviewing data/evidence to analyse findings by categories and themes.

Week 6: 23 March - 27 March	Homework	<p>Individual consultations or independent research</p> <p>Discuss and refine your approach to analysing secondary sources. Booked times with course convenor. <i>A chance to meet and discuss your search strategy and how you intend to analyse your secondary sources.</i></p>
Week 7: 30 March - 3 April	Seminar	<p>Linking up - interpreting your findings</p> <p>Reviewing how your findings link to theory and related literature and making a strong argument.</p>
Week 8: 6 April - 10 April	Homework	<p>Individual consultations or independent research or optional seminar</p> <p>Discuss ways of building a strong argument in presenting your research. Booked times with course coordinator OR alternatively, an additional optional seminar will be held to discuss the research report, if required.</p>
Week 9: 13 April - 17 April	Seminar	<p>Identifying the implications of your research project</p> <p>Understand why your findings matter in terms of your research topic and identify the implications of your research for policy, practice or advocacy.</p>
Week 10: 20 April - 24 April	Homework	<p>Individual consultations or independent research</p> <p>Discuss your final report and the strength of your argument(s) in presenting your research. Booked times with course coordinator. <i>A chance to meet and discuss your research report before you submit Assessment 2.</i></p>

Resources

Prescribed Resources

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 the "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 be related to the topic.

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources

Belcher, W. (2009) *Writing your journal article in 12 weeks*, Los Angeles: SAGE.

Hall, R. (2008) *Applied Social Research*, Sydney: Macmillan

Additional readings

Other readings are provided on the course Moodle site under the Leganto link. This will give you direct access to the articles. Other additional readings will be added during the term.

Course Evaluation and Development

Past students suggested a couple of ways of improving the Course - both of which have been taken on board this term. The main two changes are providing additional readings as well as an option to have an extra seminar, as they liked small group discussions. Additional references about the different (quantitative and qualitative) approaches to conducting secondary research have been included on Moodle. Although most students thought the individual consultation sessions were most beneficial, some students had a preference to attend an additional seminar. Consequently in Week 8 there is an option for students to attend either an individual consultation or an additional seminar, or do independent research. The decision about whether there will be an additional seminar this term will be discussed with students in Week 6.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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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