



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# ARTS5206

Research Specialisation

Term Three // 2020

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dorottya Fabian	d.fabian@unsw.edu.au	Your primary contact for this course is your thesis supervisor. The Course Authority (administrative, non-teaching Convenor) is Professor Dorottya Fabian, Associate Dean Research Training.		
Amy Stansfield	a.stansfield@unsw.edu.au	For administrative inquiries related to this course, you should contact Amy Stansfield in the HDR office.	HDR Team Leader, Faculty Research Office, Arts and Social Sciences	

### School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

email: [soss@unsw.edu.au](mailto:soss@unsw.edu.au)

phone: 02 9385 1807

## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

This core course of the Master of Philosophy in Arts and Social Sciences provides you with the opportunity to work closely with academic leaders in your field of specialization within the Humanities and Social Sciences to gain in-depth knowledge of current developments, problems and debates. The specialisation enables you to hone your discipline-specific research skills, gain experience with relevant research methods and deepen your understanding of the field in its historical and intellectual context, its theories and approaches, as well as its cutting-edge debates in the literature. Ultimately it also assists you with writing your research proposal

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate advanced research and information retrieval skills
2. Synthesize disciplinary knowledge purposefully to drive convincing argument
3. Hone written and verbal communication skills
4. Critically evaluate and apply theories and methods to drive relevant discipline-specific innovation in a global context

### Teaching Strategies

This course is designed to serve individual, discipline-specific learning needs, assisting students to attain deep knowledge of their chosen field of research. Classes will be small with an intensive agenda, including high expectations of active engagement and capacity to absorb complex, detailed material fast. Teaching is focussed on providing discipline-specific overviews of key issues (through in-class summaries, online resources, and set readings and their discussion) and personalized guidance in conducting research as each student develops their own individual project.

The presentations of research proposals will take place on week 9 in a major symposium-like setting for the entire cohort in each interdisciplinary MPhil specialisation. The MPhil is designed to provide inter- and transdisciplinary training and so it is important for students to be able to address an interdisciplinary audience. Students will need to articulate clearly the disciplinary distinctiveness of what they are doing, and why they are doing it within their chosen discipline. When brought together in such a workshop, students will be encouraged to reflect on their own discipline by way of contrast with other disciplines that contribute to the wider research area. The symposium-workshop will also be extremely useful for those wishing to undertake cross-disciplinary research as they will need to justify why and how such research is necessary in filling in research gaps and in deriving novel perspectives on an existing issue.

To make this symposium-workshop a success, all students in each specialisation should meet as one group at the start of the term (week 1) so that the importance of disciplinary depth, as well as an understanding of how that discipline sits in relation to other disciplines, may be articulated. This initial large group meeting gives the students an opportunity to grasp what others are doing, and then they can hear about each-other's work in week 9.

Feedback on the presentations in week 9 can be harnessed for the final written version of the research proposal to be submitted the following week.

## Assessment

The MPhil is designed to provide inter- and transdisciplinary training and so it is important for students to be able to address an interdisciplinary audience in their research proposal and presentation. Students will need to articulate clearly the disciplinary distinctiveness of what they are doing, and why they are doing it within their chosen discipline. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own discipline by way of contrast with other disciplines that contribute to the wider research area.

## Teaching Strategies – note to supervisors

This compulsory course in the MPhil program is normally convened by the supervisor or a close colleague with whom the supervisor might share a research group or a group of honours students and research candidates. The class component of the course can be offered in any of the 3 terms to suit the supervisor/research group leader's availability. T1 might be more suitable if honours students are involved but MPhil candidates are officially enrolled in this course in T3 and therefore all 3 assignments are due in T3.

As indicated by the summary of the course, the convenor is responsible for setting readings and leading discussions that deepen the candidates' and other participants' disciplinary knowledge – the history and current state of the discipline, its major debates, research questions, methods and approaches. As a minimum the group should meet fortnightly but preferably weekly for 9 weeks (of a term or across the year). So as not to overwhelm the MPhil candidates, the assessments are all linked to their own individual research thesis but they are expected to do any additional required reading and participate in discussions.

To ensure transparency, avoid conflict of interest and assist supervisors with marking load, it is recommended that the literature review and the proposal are marked by another academic, not the supervisor. It seems appropriate to ask the co- or joint supervisor to mark the literature review and thus provide timely additional feedback on top of comments from the primary supervisor. Since the formal research proposal is submitted to the annual research progress review panel, it seems appropriate that the expert reader of this panel marks this assignment as part of the review. The quality of the presentation is included in the mark. This assignment may take the form of the presentation to the review panel or, preferably, be a part of the public confirmation review presentations.

## Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Annotated bibliography	20%	Week 4	1
Literature Review	30%	Week 7	2,3
Research Proposal	50%	Week 10	2,3,4

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Annotated bibliography

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:**

Prepare a literature search and annotated bibliography on an assigned / selected topic.

Written feedback and class discussion

**Additional details:**

Write a standard abstract for your intended research project and prepare a literature search and annotated bibliography for it. An annotated bibliography usually consists of the citation of the source, a paragraph on its main point/argument, methods used, and whether useful for the planned research and how.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

**Assessment 2: Literature Review**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** Maximum 3000 words

**Details:**

Prepare a literature review of an assigned / selected field identifying various arguments, methods and research gaps.

Written feedback

**Additional details:**

Written feedback will be provided by your supervisor (and/or secondary supervisor).

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

**Assessment 3: Research Proposal**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** Maximum 5000 words for written proposal, plus presentation.

**Details:**

Prepare a research proposal, inclusive of literature review, identification of research gap / problem, aims and objective and proposed method and outline of investigation. Prepare a short 10 minute presentation on this material. The oral presentation will comprise 10% of the mark, while the

written proposal will form the remaining 40%.

written and verbal feedback and class discussion

**Additional details:**

In addition to the written research proposal, you will be required to prepare a short (10-minute) presentation on this material. This will be delivered as part of the research review process.

You will receive written feedback from the Expert Reader of your research progress review panel, in addition to panel discussion of your proposal.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not 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
		<p>The schedule of meetings will be arranged by your supervisor / research group leader. The expected contact hours will be 18-20 face-to-face hours over the term.</p> <p>In addition to the contact hours, you will be expected to spend at least 10-12 hours on average each week on reading and preparation for the meetings, and work on the assessment tasks.</p>

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

Your supervisor will provide you with a reading list.

### **Recommended Resources**

Your supervisor will advise on recommended resources.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

This is the first time that this course has been offered, as the MPhil is a new program. You will be asked to provide feedback on the course at the end of Term 3.



## **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](mailto: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/>

## Image Credit

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## CRICOS

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## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.