SOCF5103

Research Issues in Counselling Social Work

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jan Breckenridge	j.breckenridge@unsw.edu.au	Please note: The main contact for this course will be Dr Tim Wong who will provide advice on all course information and student consultation.		
Tim Wong	tim.wong@unsw.edu.au	By appointment		

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

This course in the Master of Counselling Social Work (MCSW) program introduces you to research and the role of research in the development of knowledge and in relationship to clinical social work practice. You will gain an understanding of quantitative and qualitative methodologies and explore the values and political context of research activity, including evidence based social work practice. You will build on this knowledge to develop and apply skills in information literacy including locating, evaluating and using relevant information for the purpose of research. The interactive style of teaching in this course and the course assessment program will provide opportunities for you to further develop your understanding of core elements of research including the ability to assess and critique various styles of research and, design a research project relevant to your social work counselling practice setting.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and critique various styles of research used to design and implement a study of counselling/therapeutic practice
2. Articulate the relationships between social work practice and research and evidence-based practice (EBP)
3. Locate, evaluate and use relevant information for the purpose of research in practice contexts
4. Apply the core elements of a research process in order to design your own practice informed research relevant to your workplace setting.

Teaching Strategies

The course will develop your skills in information literacy including locating, evaluating and using relevant information for the purpose of research in practice contexts. The weekly seminar, interactive style of teaching, and the course assessment program will provide opportunities for you to further develop your understanding of core elements of research including the ability to assess and critique various styles of research and, design a research project relevant to your social work counselling practice setting.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Assignment 1	40%	22/03/2021 09:00 AM	1, 4
Assignment 2	60%	23/04/2021 11:00 PM	2, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Assignment 1

Length: 1500 words (max.)

Details:

Students will submit a research essay (max. 1500 words) on a topic relevant to the course material.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days 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.

Additional details:

Assessment 1 is worth 40% and is due to be submitted *via email attachment* by **Monday 22 March 2021, 9am**.

This assignment assesses Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 4:

- Identify and critique various styles of research used to design and implement a study of counselling/therapeutic practice.
- Apply the core elements of a research process in order to design your own practice informed research relevant to your workplace setting.

Submission notes: to be submitted via email attachment

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Assignment 2

Length: 2500 words (max.)

Details:

 Students will submit a research essay (max. 2500 words) on a topic relevant to the course material.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days 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 attendance purposes

Additional details:

Assignment 2 is worth 60% and is to be submitted *via Turnitin and email attachment* by **Friday 23 April 2021, 11pm**.

This assignment assesses Course Learning Outcomes 2, 3 and 4.

- Articulate the relationships between social work practice and research and evidence-based practice (EBP).
- Locate, evaluate and use relevant information for the purpose of research in practice contexts.
- Apply the core elements of a research process in order to design your own practice informed research relevant to your workplace setting.

Submission notes: to be submitted via Turnitin and email attachment

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not 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: 15 February - 19 February	Intensive	**Seminar 1** – Friday 19.2.2021 (1pm-5.30pm) ►Topic 1: *Introduction to course and evidence-based practice* • Skills Audit • 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 counselling practice? ►Topic 2: *From practice interest to research project: Finding your own research interest* • 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 ►Topic 3: *Reviewing the literature and available research* • Types of review: Scoping, Rapid Evidence, and Systematic • Meta-Analysis and Meta-Evaluation • Making judgments about the quality of evidence and implementing different appraisal frameworks
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February		
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Seminar	**Outreach Librarian** – Wednesday 3.3.2021 (3pm-4.30pm)

		This will be a Zoom session - the Zoom link will be available closer to the time.
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Reading	Researching your area of interest – *to be undertaken at a time of your choosing* (2 hours).
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Intensive	**Seminar 2** – Friday 19.3.2021 (1pm-5.30pm) ►Topic 1: *Qualitative methodology and research 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 ►Topic 2: *Quantitative Methodology: How many, how often, how much and under what circumstances?* • The feasibility of the experimental method in practice settings • Experimental, quasi-experimental and nonexperimental design • Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) in practice contexts • The quantitative research process ►Topic 3: *Mixed methods and outcomes research: What does this tell us about practice?* • Understanding outcomes in practice • Monitoring and administration data – uses and limitations • Examples of mixed-methods research
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March		
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Seminar	**Ethics & Stakeholder Engagement** – Wednesday 31 March 2021 (4pm-6pm) This will be a Zoom session - the Zoom link will be available closer to the time. Good Friday (2.4.2021)
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April		Easter Monday (5.4.2021)
Week 9: 12 April - 16	Intensive	**Seminar 3** – Friday 16.4.2021 (1pm-5.30pm)

April		►Topic 1: *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 ►Topic 2: *Evaluation for social work practice: How do we know an intervention is effective?* • How do we assess worker and client's perceptions of 'what works', 'for whom', and 'under what circumstances'? • Examples of evaluation studies ►Topic 3: *Meaningful knowledge exchange* • How do we make sure research is meaningfully translated into social work practice counselling contexts (e.g., conference presentations, Clearinghouses, repositories and research hubs)?
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Seminar	**Evaluation/Wrap Up** – Wednesday 21.4.2021 (4pm-5pm) This will be a Zoom session - the Zoom link will be available closer to the time.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The recommended text for this course is **Webber, M. (2015)** *Applying Research Evidence in Social Work Practice,* **London: Palgrave Macmillan.**

Copies of the text are available in the library.

The UNSW Bookshop has ordered in the text for purchase. Links for the Print and Digital books are:

- Print - https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9781137276100
- Digital - https://unswbookshop.vitalsource.com/products/-v9781137276117

Chapters from this text will be listed as compulsory reading but will also be supplemented by other resources uploaded in Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Additional readings

Students should not feel limited to the text and the literature provided in Moodle via Legantro.

There are numerous additional readings available for use in SOCF5103 assessment tasks in the UNSW library's journal collection.

Students should be familiar with the UNSW Library Website: http://www.library.unsw.edu.au.

If you have not used this previously, you will benefit from becoming familiar with GoogleScholar (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 "Show library access links for".*

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.

Alongside the text there are other valuable resources for SOCF5103 assessment tasks:

- Bryman, A. (2008) *Social Research Methods (3rd edition)*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Darlington, Y. and D. Scott (2002) *Qualitative Research in Practice: Stories from the Field*, St Leonards: Allen & Unwin.
- Royse, D.D. (2004). *Research Methods in Social Work (4th edition)*, Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning.
- Rubin, A. and E. Babbie (2016). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work (4th edition)*, Boston: Cengage Learning.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered regularly to inform and improve the structure of the course. The seminars have been designed to address the Course Learning Outcomes and specific aspects of the assignments, and to clarify aspects of the assignments to make them easy to understand.

In addition to the student feedback obtained through *myExperience*, informal feedback and class-generated feedback are also important to on-going course development. Student feedback is taken seriously and substantial improvements are made to all courses, including SOCF5103 based in part on such feedback.

Students will be able to provide feedback about the course through *myExperience* at the end of the term.

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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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Acknowledgement of Country

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