



SOSS3001

Quantitative Social Research

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Cindy Harmon-Jones	c.harmon-jones@unsw.edu.au	by appointment	remote	

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Elizabeth Summerell	e.summerell@unsw.edu.au			
Sylvia Harmon-Jones	s.harmon-jones@unsw.edu.au			

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

The ability to conduct high quality quantitative research is a valuable skill for social scientists and applied social researchers. This course offers you a detailed introduction to quantitative research methods and data analysis. The first part of the course elaborates on major themes in research design (e.g., measuring social concepts, sampling, data collection) and common challenges (e.g., generalisability, bias, non-response, attrition). The second part introduces you to data analysis techniques commonly used by applied social researchers. We cover: basic descriptive statistics; sampling and distributions; comparisons of means; analysis of contingency tables and categorical association; and correlations. Strategies for presenting quantitative social research data are emphasised throughout the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Critically analyse quantitative social research
2. Develop quantitative research hypotheses
3. Design and describe appropriate methods for collecting quantitative data
4. Perform statistical analyses using statistical software
5. Report and interpret descriptive and inferential statistics

Teaching Strategies

This course seeks to provide students with knowledge about quantitative research as well as applied experience in how to run various statistical analyses using IBM SPSS Statistics (Statistical Software).

There is one 2 hour lecture and one 1.5 hour tutorial scheduled each week. It is assumed that students will spend several additional hours per week reading and preparing for tutorials and lectures and completing assessment tasks.

The 2 hour lecture is designed to help students to develop their understanding of the core issues in quantitative research methods. Lectures in this course are interactive, which means students will be asked to engage both with each other and with the lecturers with the aim of deepening their understanding of the course material. Lectures will be digitally recorded and made available for students who are unable to attend the lecture, or wish to revise content.

Tutorials are structured to help students learn practical skills in conducting and analysing quantitative research. Active participation in the tutorials will assist students to build skills in conducting a quantitative research project, analysing quantitative data using SPSS and writing up the results of the project.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research Report	40%		1, 3, 4, 5
Statistics take-home tests	60%		2, 4, 5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research Report

Details:

This assessment consists of a research report that includes a literature review, method description, results presentation and description, discussion and conclusion based on the course research topic and data collected during the semester.

2,500 words. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks 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: Statistics take-home tests

Details:

This assessment will consist of four take-home tests. Each one will require students to submit an IBM SPSS Statistics (Statistical Software) output table plus 150 words on their interpretation of what the table means.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks 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:

See the weekly schedule for the due dates of the 4 take home tests.

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: 31 May - 4 June	Lecture	- What is quantitative research? - Measuring social concepts Reading: Chapter 1
	Tutorial	- Introduction to SPSS - Course Survey
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	- Sampling - Graphical display of data - Readings: Chapters 2 and 3
	Tutorial	- Obtaining frequency tables and graphs
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Lecture	- Descriptive statistics - Reading: Chapter 4
	Tutorial	- Obtaining descriptive statistics in SPSS
	Assessment	Take Home Test #1 - Descriptive Statistics
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Lecture	- Probability and hypothesis testing - Reading: Chapter 10
	Tutorial	- Data preparation and cleaning
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Lecture	- Correlation - Reading: Chapter 8
	Tutorial	- Conducting correlations in SPSS
	Assessment	Take Home Test #2 - Correlation
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Reading	- Flexibility week, no lectures or tutorials
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Lecture	- Chi-Square - Reading: Chapter 9
	Tutorial	- Conducting chi-square tests in SPSS
	Assessment	Take Home Test #3 - Chi-Square
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	- Student's T-Test - Reading: Chapter 5

	Tutorial	- Conducting between subjects t-test in SPSS
	Assessment	Take home test #4 - T-Test
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	- Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) - Reading: Chapter 6
	Tutorial	- Conducting one way ANOVA in SPSS
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	- Paired t test - Interpreting and presenting results - Reading: Chapter 7
	Tutorial	- Writing Workshop - APA style
	Assessment	Research Report: Final Project

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Knapp, H. (2017). *Introductory Statistics Using SPSS (2nd Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Recommended Resources

The following two books are bestselling "classics" that are highly recommended for any students who want more background information or examples on the statistical techniques we will be learning. They both have multiple editions and you can often find used copies of previous editions that are reasonably priced.

Any Edition (up to the 6th Edition now) of Julie Pallant's *SPSS Survival Manual*: Pallant, J. (2016). *SPSS Survival Manual*. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/academic-professional/research-methods/SPSSSurvival-Manual-Julie-Pallant-9781760291952>

Any Edition (up to 5th Edition now) of Andy Field's *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*: Field, A. (2017). *Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics*. Sage (UK).

<https://www.discoveringstatistics.com/>

Course Evaluation and Development

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/>

Image Credit

Synergies in Sound 2016

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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.