



UNSW
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SOCW4015

Honours Research Thesis

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Alison Wannan	a.wannan@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Morven Brown G 30	93850356

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

email: soss@unsw.edu.au

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

The Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) program provides students the opportunity to demonstrate learning in advanced knowledge and skills required for research in social work or a related health/welfare area. The Honours Research Thesis course SOCW4015 is the central focus of Level 4 Honours in Social Work for those students who select to undertake Honours via a Research Thesis. This course is based on a sustained, in-depth study of training in research methods and design integrated throughout the BSW (Hons.) program. Students will be individually supported by an academic supervisor to undertake a 12,000 word independent empirical or conceptual research project in their area of interest either alongside their Fourth Level Placement or subsequent to the completion of the Placement in Summer semester. The thesis will demonstrate their ability as autonomous researchers and will allow students to proceed directly to a Professional Doctorate in Social Work or other research degrees.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Formulate a research question for a particular context or research issue and justify the appropriate methodology and research methods
2. Identify and analyse critically the different theoretical perspectives that may influence the research process and area of study
3. Demonstrate awareness of how you have implemented an ethical research process
4. Execute a research project that demonstrates technical skill in research methods and research design or alternatively skill in generating conceptual analyses to reflect on the research issue chosen
5. Construct a thesis which demonstrates scholarly capability

Teaching Strategies

As students are undertaking an independent research project where they will choose their own research specialty area and methodology, they will be individually supervised by an academic supervisor with expertise in either or both of these areas. The supervisor will provide specialist knowledge and skills in the area of research design and implementation and will provide ongoing and comprehensive feedback on drafts of the thesis. Students undertaking the research thesis will also participate in regular seminars designed to support their research process and encourage collegial interest between the students in this stream.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Honours Research Thesis	100%	Not Applicable	1,2,3,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Honours Research Thesis

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Students are required to undertake a 10 -12,000 conceptual or empirical research project in an area of their interest, related to social work or health/welfare practice. Students will work on this project in either semester 2 year 4 (or dual degree equivalent) concurrent with the Fourth Level Placement or over the subsequent Summer semester. Students will be allocated an academic supervisor who has expertise in the student's research area and/or chosen methodology. The thesis mark comprises 100% of the mark for SOCW4015. Students will be provided with ongoing feedback on their research project by their allocated supervisor. In addition student's will receive peer feedback as well as feedback from the convener of SOCW4015 during seminars. Each thesis will be marked by two independent examiners. Students will receive a numerical grade and written feedback from the examiners

Additional details:

Each thesis will be marked by two independent examiners who will provide a detailed report containing feedback alongside the mark for the thesis.

The thesis mark comprises 100% of the mark for SOCW4015.

Student's final mark for SOCW4015 will be the average of the two marks awarded by each Examiner unless there is more than a 6-mark difference at which point a third examiner may be appointed.

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
Research Methods Part 1	Seminar	The first seminar will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selecting your research topic and deciding on a workable question• Undertaking your literature review• Choosing your methodology• Developing your research proposal and ethical issues
Research Methods Part 2	Seminar	The second seminar will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalising your research proposal• Further developing your academic writing• Understanding the role of your supervisor and negotiating your expectations

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

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/>

Image Credit

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