



SRAP5101

Research Methods and Project Design

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jung-Sook Lee	js.lee@unsw.edu.au	by appointment	Morven Brown 140	9385 2329

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 introduces the process of conducting research and will present contemporary social research methods of relevance to the study of policy, development and international relations. In the course, you will explore the processes involved in locating and making sense of information and in generating new information through research. Covering both qualitative and quantitative research methods, the course reviews survey design, in-depth interviews and focus groups, observational research and textual analysis. You will learn the concepts and challenges associated with conducting research. You will also acquire skills in research design, data collection, data analysis and report-writing.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the whole research process: from conceptualisation and designing a research project, to methods and techniques of gathering information, to data analysis, ethics, and report-writing.
2. Understand the elements of a literature review.
3. Recognise key issues in research planning and design.
4. Select appropriate methods for addressing particular research problems.
5. Explain a range of basic social science research methods including survey design; interviews; and observational research.

Teaching Strategies

Teaching strategies include:

- online lectures
- in-class workshops
- independent work/activities
- authentic assessments

The rationale for the design of this course is twofold. First, the course designers recognise that blending online and face-to-face learning activities permits the inclusion of a greater range of learning activities and makes best use of available face-to-face time. Second, given that this course is designed to enable you to undertake your own independent research later in their program of study, the course is designed with a very practical focus on the development of methodological skills and techniques.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Literature review	40%	TBA	2
Research proposal	60%	TBA	3, 4, 5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Literature review

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1000

Details:

This assessment consists of a 1000 word literature review on a topic of your choosing. You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission through the University's Learning Management system (LMS). The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so that you can work towards specified standards.

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

Assessment 2: Research proposal

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2500

Details:

This assessment consists of a 2500 word research proposal on a topic of your choosing. You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission through the University's Learning Management system (LMS). The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so that you can work towards specified standards.

This is the final assessment for this course.

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: 15 February - 19 February	Reading	Saturday the 20th of February will be an all-day intensive (9am - 5pm). Please prepare for this by doing the readings for Modules 1-4.
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Web	Module 5.
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Web	Module 6.
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Web	Module 7.
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Web	Module 8.
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Web	Module 9.
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Web	Module 10.
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Web	Module 11.
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Web	Module 12.
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Reading	Work on Assessment 2

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The core text for this subject is:

Thomas, G. (2017). *How to do your research project: A guide for students*. Sage.

Other useful books are:

Bryman, A. (2016). *Social research methods*. Oxford university.

Ralph. Hall (2008). *Applied social research: Planning, designing and conducting real-world research*. South Yarra: Palgrave Macmillan.

Recommended Resources

A full reading list for each module will be available on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

We will be using the University's MyExperience survey to evaluate the course, but you are welcome to communicate any other feedback to the course convenor at any time. Student feedback will also be sought during semester (at the end of the first Saturday).

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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Acknowledgement of Country

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