School of Social Sciences

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture

SOSS3002

Social Science Project

Term 1, 2023



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy]

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

How can social research be used to influence and change policy? In this course, you will undertake a social science research project in one of several policy areas. Building on the knowledge you have acquired in research courses and on the analytical skills necessary for policy-related work, you will develop and undertake a project with an applied focus. You will independently prepare a literature review and a research proposal, conduct the research, and write a report embodying the results of the research. You will also work with a group on one aspect of the project and present an engaging summary of your research to the class. You will be actively supported by a Seminar Leader with expertise in a particular policy area.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Undertake and manage an applied social research project, individually and as part of a team
2. Develop and prepare a research proposal, research report, and present the research findings to a wider audience
3. Plan, conduct and manage an applied research project as part of a working research team
4. Interpret and communicate research findings to different audiences.
5. Develop the skills to effectively present and communicate their research findings to a group

Teaching Strategies

In this course, you will be engaged in learning through structured hands-on research activities. The assessment tasks to develop, conduct and present on a research project are designed for you to reflect on your understanding of the subject and develop skills in research and communication, both written and verbal. The course is designed to build on prior experience and knowledge gained in previous study, to encourage independent work and to provide meaningful and timely feedback.

Assessment

Referencing style must be Harvard: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/citing-different-sources or APA: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/how-cite-references-apa-style

Assessments will be discussed in class throughout the course.

There is a 10% +/- allowance for the word count. Please note a 2% penalty will be applied for every 100 words an assessment is over or under the word count.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Research proposal	30%	13/03/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2
2. Group presentation	20%	Week 10 Seminars	1, 2, 4, 5
3. Research report	50%	24/04/2023 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 5

Assessment 1: Research proposal

Assessment length: 1500 words
Due date: 13/03/2022 11:59 PM

This task involves preparing a 1500 word research proposal, which includes a literature review and an explanation of the methods to be employed.
Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten days of submission. The rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

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

Additional details

Assessment template and rubric is available on Moodle.

Assessment 2: Group presentation

Assessment length: 20 minutes + 5-10 minutes for questions
Submission notes: No written element is required to be submitted for the assessment.
Due date: Week 10 Seminars

This task involves developing and presenting a 20 minute group presentation on the results and conclusions of a particular aspect of the research project. An additional 10 minutes is provided for questions.
Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of the presentation. The rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Research report

Assessment length: 3000 words
Due date: 24/04/2023 11:59 PM

This task involves writing a 3000 word report drawing on the research that has been conducted throughout the semester. This is the final assessment in the course for attendance purposes. Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten days of submission. The rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

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

Additional details

Assessment template and rubric is available on Moodle.

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
Week 1: 13 February - 17 February	Seminar	Developing a research agenda, or a program of research. You will be introduced to the specific research topic you will be working on throughout the term. You will begin to think about research questions to focus on. You will be introduced to concepts such as: • How to develop a research question • How to narrow your research question to make it manageable • How to identify if your research question is workable • How to identify if your research question will have policy relevance and/or impact • How to identify an overarching research aim • How to identify key concepts relevant to your research question This week, you will form groups for Assessment 2 (the group work component of the course).
Week 2: 20 February - 24 February	Group Activity	There is no formal seminar in Week 2. You will meet with your group independently to decide on the research direction you would like to take, and finalise a research question or aim. By the end of Week 2 (Friday, 4pm), one person will email the group's draft research question or research aim to their seminar leader, who will provide written feedback on the question and the direction the group has chosen.

Week 3: 27 February - 3 March	Seminar	Structure of a research proposal and literature review. You will work on the structure of a research proposal and what a literature review entails. You will make strategic decisions about the literature you need to consult before beginning data collection and analysis. • What is the structure of a research proposal? • What should be in it? • Why it is necessary to conduct a literature review? • Inclusion and exclusion criteria for your literature review • Finding the literature (and other sources) you need • Purposeful reading of the literature • Creating a reference list, tools for managing references
Week 4: 6 March - 10 March	Seminar	Working with data and meeting your ethical requirements. You will consider the ethical issues associated with your research methods and think about data: • Research methods • What is 'data'? • Where do you find data? • How do you manage and protect your data? • What is ethics in research? • What are the ethical dimensions of the research you propose to undertake? • When does institutional ethics approval need to be obtained?
Week 5: 13 March - 17 March	Seminar	Data analysis and research findings. In this seminar, you will be introduced to concepts such as: • How to analyse data • How to present findings • How to describe your findings • How to decide what to include and what to

		exclude
	Assessment	Assessment 1 due!
Week 6: 20 March - 24 March	Group Work	No seminar (Flexibility Week). Keep working with your group on your research.
Week 7: 27 March - 31 March	Seminar	Discussion and reaching a conclusion. You will start the process of relating your findings back to the literature: • How to relate your findings back to the existing literature • How to conclude your research project
Week 8: 3 April - 7 April	Seminar	Translating research into policy. • How can research be used to influence policy? • How do you come up with good recommendations?
Week 9: 10 April - 14 April	Seminar	Communicating research. • What is meant by research impact? • How does academic research get published? • What are 'non-traditional research outputs'? • How can research be shared via the mass or social media? Prepare for your group presentation in Week 10: Do a test-run of your presentation.
Week 10: 17 April - 21 April	Group Work	Group presentations (Assessment 2) will take place during your allocated seminar time.
	Assessment	Assessment 3 due!

Resources

Prescribed Resources

You will be given access to resources via the Moodle website. This will include mandatory readings on Leganto.

Recommended Resources

Please make use of the resources posted on Moodle to support your learning.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be sought through informal and formal evaluation throughout the term, and acted upon to improve the student learning experience.

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, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

This course outline sets out the description of classes at the date the Course Outline is published. The nature of classes may change during the Term after the Course Outline is published. Moodle should be consulted for the up to date class descriptions. If there is any inconsistency in the description of activities between the University timetable and the Course Outline (as updated in Moodle), the description in the Course Outline/Moodle applies.

Image Credit

Image by Isabela bela from Pixabay

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