COURSE OUTLINE

SWK709 Advanced Social Research

School: School of Law and Society

2027 | Trimester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

BLENDED LEARNING

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

This course equips you with the knowledge and skills needed to evaluate, undertake and commission social research. In order to critically understand how social data are produced, analysed and interpreted, the connections between epistemological underpinnings, theoretical orientations, methodology and methods are explored. You will formulate and design a research proposal and undertake practical key research methods. Debates concerning the relationship of science to social research, ethics, the power and purposes of research and research with minorities and marginalised groups are examined.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	10 times
Laboratory 1 – Workshops are held in the PC computer labs	2hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Foundations of Social Research: Methodology and Methods
- Sampling
- Human Ethics and Social Research
- Survey design and analysis
- Interviewing Methods and analysis
- Content and Discourse Analysis
- Practice and Evaluation

1.4. Mature Content

Drug Use, Sex/Sexual references, Violence, Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

700 Level (Specialised)

Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING * Australian Association of Social Workers
1 Critical understanding of the nature and purposes of social research and its contribution to knowledge and theory in the social sciences.	Knowledgeable Empowered	1, 5, 9
2 Critical understanding of current methodological debates and issues in social research and the ethical dimensions of research practice	Knowledgeable Ethical	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3 Formulate researchable question and conceptualise and articulate research problems	Creative and critical thinker	5, 6
4 Develop and design a coherent research strategy to answer a research question	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	1, 5, 6
5 Design surveys, analyse and interpret quantitative data using data analysis software	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Applying technologies	5, 6
6 Critical awareness as professionals of the ways in which social research informs professional practice and the ethical, moral and political responsibilities that follow from this	Ethical Engaged	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	
1	Practice Standard 1: AASW Code of Ethics
2	Practice Standard 2: Working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
3	Practice Standard 3: Human rights and social justice
4	Practice Standard 4: Culture, identity and intersectionality
5	Practice Standard 5: Critical thinking in practice
6	Practice Standard 6: Exercising professional judgement
7	Practice Standard 7: Professional identity
9	Practice Standard 9: Professional growth

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the UniSC Glossary of terms for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in a Postgraduate Program

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

SCS725

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Timely and detailed feedback is provided for each assessment. Feedback is provided both within text and general comments to build scholarly skills. Students are able to seek feedback through face-to-face discussion with the course coordinator. Tutorials will include extended discussion and review of the assessment task requirements and scope.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Written Piece	Individual	25%	500 words (excluding references)	Week 5	Online Submission
All	2	Artefact - Professional	Individual	40%	Design and produce a working online survey using Qualtrics. Provide additional short-answer submission to two questions (50-100 words each); one each regarding a quantitative and a qualitative research question example. See assessment Task 2 instructions for required structure and length.	Week 9	Online Submission
All	3	Quiz/zes	Individual	25%	Survey data is provided, and questions to be answered are provided with the data. See assessment Task 3 for detail.	Week 10	Online Submission
All	4	Activity Participation	Individual	10%		Refer to Format	In Class

All - Assessment Task 1: Own Research Concept

GOAL:	To demonstrate your capacity to conceptualise and articulate a research concept.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Written essay, uploaded, format structured as per the assessment Task 1 information in Canvas.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate ability to articulate a general problem/puzzle/question	1 3 4 6
2	Describe a rationale/significance for your research problem/puzzle/question	1 3 4 6
3	Identify and synthesis key literature to support your general problem/puzzle/question	1 3 4
4	Create a specific research question that draws upon course terminology to locate and signpost the epistemological and theoretical orientation of the intended methodology	2 3
5	Ability to generate a reference list using Harvard(UQ) or APA 7th style	1 3 6

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 2: Method (Survey Design)

GOAL:	To critically apply your knowledge to specific method-oriented tasks to demonstrate you understand the basic concepts
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Professional
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	You will complete and submit your work through Cadmus Assignment in Canvas. Cadmus tracks your drafting process to show your authentic engagement, so make sure all your work—including notes, drafts, and final answers—is completed inside the Cadmus submission area. Your submission must include (see Task 2 Information for more detail) : A live, working link to your published online Qualtrics survey. Two short written responses: A quantitative research question linking two survey questions (naming your independent and dependent variables). A qualitative research question, explaining the concept(s) that guided your open-ended questions. All components must be entered and submitted directly within the Cadmus Assignment link.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	1. Demonstrate the ability to generate and publish an aesthetically pleasing online survey with effective technical structure.	5
2	2. Demonstrate the ability to apply key principles of survey question design.	5
3	3. Demonstrate the ability to apply different principles of survey response values design.	5
4	4. Demonstrate the ability to apply key elements of a quantitative research question with specifically identified survey questions.	3 4 5
5	5. Demonstrate the ability to create qualitative survey questions that are theoretically informed and contextually appropriate.	1 3 5

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Applying technologies, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 3: Survey Data Analysis

GOAL:	To critically apply your knowledge to demonstrate your capacity to analyse and interpret research data using data analysis software
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	You are required to correctly complete and submit answers to the data analysis task questions provided. This involves using computer software (either in USC Laboratories, or through online access via USC's virtual machine access). When ready, the answers are to be entered into the online submission area.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate adequate knowledge of quantitative methods of data analysis which include interpretation of statistical output.	2 3 4 5
2	Demonstrate correct application of quantitative data analysis techniques.	4 5

GENERIC SKILLS:	Problem solving, Applying technologies, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 4: Attendance and Participation

GOAL:	Attend and participate in all class activities as part of AASW external accreditation.
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Throughout teaching period
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Attending and participating in all course activities	6

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Applying technologies

6.4. Assessment to competency mapping

PROGRAMME DELIVERY MODE	ASSESSMENT TYPE	TITLE	COMPETENCY	TEACHING METHODS
AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION STANDARDS (ASWEAS)				
All delivery modes	Artefact - Professional	Method (Survey Design)	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Quiz/zes	Survey Data Analysis	5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Written Piece	Own Research Concept	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	Taught, Practiced
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the Library at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Maggie Walter	2019	Social Research Methods	n/a	Oxford University Press, USA

8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:
(a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
(b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:
(a) One day: deduct 5%;
(b) Two days: deduct 10%;
(c) Three days: deduct 20%;
(d) Four days: deduct 40%;
(e) Five days: deduct 60%;
(f) Six days: deduct 80%;
(g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:
Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The Student Charter sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- UniSC Student Central
- UniSC Adelaide Student Central