UNSW Course Outline

SOCF5103 Research Issues in Counselling Social Work - 2024

Published on the 12 Feb 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : SOCF5103
Year : 2024
Term : Term 1
Teaching Period : T1
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : Multimodal
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course in the Master of Counselling Social Work (MCSW) program introduces you to research and the role of research in the development of knowledge and in relationship to clinical social work practice. You will gain an understanding of quantitative and qualitative

methodologies and explore the values and political context of research activity, including evidence based social work practice. You will build on this knowledge to develop and apply skills in information literacy including locating, evaluating and using relevant information for the purpose of research. The interactive style of teaching in this course and the course assessment program will provide opportunities for you to further develop your understanding of core elements of research including the ability to assess and critique various styles of research and, design a research project relevant to your social work counselling practice setting.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify and critique various styles of research used to design and implement a study of counselling/therapeutic practice
CLO2 : Articulate the relationships between social work practice and research and evidence-based practice (EBP)
CLO3 : Locate, evaluate and use relevant information for the purpose of research in practice contexts
CLO4 : Apply the core elements of a research process in order to design your own practice informed research relevant to your workplace setting.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify and critique various styles of research used to design and implement a study of counselling/therapeutic practice	• Assignment 1
CLO2 : Articulate the relationships between social work practice and research and evidence-based practice (EBP)	• Assignment 2
CLO3 : Locate, evaluate and use relevant information for the purpose of research in practice contexts	• Assignment 2
CLO4 : Apply the core elements of a research process in order to design your own practice informed research relevant to your workplace setting.	• Assignment 1 • Assignment 2

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Zoom | Microsoft Teams

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Assignment 1	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 18/03/2024 09:00 AM
Assignment 2	60%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 22/04/2024 09:00 AM

Assessment Details
Assignment 1

Assessment Overview

Students will submit a research essay (max. 1500 words) on a topic relevant to the course material.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and critique various styles of research used to design and implement a study of counselling/therapeutic practice
- CLO4 : Apply the core elements of a research process in order to design your own practice informed research relevant to your workplace setting.

Detailed Assessment Description

Information will be available on Moodle.

Assessment Length

1500 words (max.)

Submission notes

to be submitted via email attachment

Assessment information

Assessment 1 is worth 40% and is due to be submitted via email attachment by **Monday 18 March 2024, 9:00am**.

This assignment assesses the following Course Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and critique various styles of research used to design and implement a study of counselling/therapeutic practice
- Articulate the relationships between social work practice and research and evidence-based practice (EBP)
- Locate, evaluate and use relevant information for the purpose of research in practice contexts

If required, a 2-day automatic Short Extension without documentation is available for this assessment. You can apply by accessing the Short Extension Student Portal on the Special Consideration login page. This will be visible, and open for student applications, from 13 February 2024.

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assignment 2

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

Students will submit a research essay (max. 2500 words) on a topic relevant to the course material.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

This is the final assessment for this course for attendance purposes

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO2 : Articulate the relationships between social work practice and research and evidence-based practice (EBP)
- CLO3 : Locate, evaluate and use relevant information for the purpose of research in practice contexts
- CLO4 : Apply the core elements of a research process in order to design your own practice informed research relevant to your workplace setting.

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

Information will be available on Moodle.

<u>Assessment Length</u>

2500 words (max.)

<u>Submission notes</u>

to be submitted via Turnitin

<u>Assessment information</u>

Assignment 2 is worth 60% and is to be submitted via Turnitin by **Monday 22 April 2024, 9:00am**.

This assignment assesses the following Course Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and critique various styles of research used to design and implement a study of counselling/therapeutic practice
- Articulate the relationships between social work practice and research and evidence-based practice (EBP)
- Locate, evaluate and use relevant information for the purpose of research in practice contexts
- Apply the core elements of a research process in order to design your own practice informed research relevant to your workplace setting.

If required, a 2-day automatic Short Extension without documentation is available for this assessment. You can apply by accessing the Short Extension Student Portal on the Special Consideration login page. This will be visible, and open for student applications, from 13 February 2024.

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Details about the assessments will be provided on Moodle.

All assessments should be referenced in accordance with the [School of Social Sciences Referencing Guide](#).

When you submit an assessment at UNSW, you are:

- acknowledging that you have understood and abided by the University requirements in the preparation of that assessment item, in respect of student academic misconduct outlined in the Student Code Policy and Student Misconduct Procedures, both of which are available at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct;
- declaring that the assessment item is your own work, except where acknowledged, and has not been submitted for academic credit previously in whole or in part.

In addition, you submit the assessment in the knowledge that:

- the course convenor may provide a copy of the assignment to another staff for the purposes of assessment or evaluation; and
- the assessment will be retained in the TurnItIn database or other UNSW data bases and may

be used in evaluations of originality.

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Reading	Self-directed learning The reading list for this week will be on Moodle when available.
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Intensive	Friday 23.2.2024 In-Person Intensive: Introduction to course and evidence-based practice
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Seminar	Wednesday 28.2.2024 Online: Librarian session (Identifying good evidence)
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Seminar	Wednesday 6.3.2024 Online: Ethics and Stakeholder Engagement
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Seminar	Wednesday 13.3.2024 Online: Qualitative Methods 1 Assessment 1: Due 18.3.2024 (9am)
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Seminar	Wednesday 20.3.2024 Online: Qualitative Methods 2
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Seminar	Wednesday 27.3.2024 Online: Quantitative Methods
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Seminar	Wednesday 3.4.2024 Online: Mixed Methods
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Seminar	Wednesday 10.4.2024 Online: Evaluation for Social Work Practice - How do we know an intervention is effective?
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Seminar	Wednesday 17.4.2024 Online: Meaningful Knowledge Exchange Assessment 2: Due 22.4.2024 (9am)

Attendance Requirements

Attendance requirement

To meet the learning outcomes for MCSW courses, active participation and attendance in all learning tasks, activities, readings, and classes is required. This includes attendance at Intensives and Online Seminars. As per UNSW attendance advice "high attendance correlates with better engagement and success on a course. By punctually attending and actively participating in your classes you not only increase your own opportunities for success, but you also help build a learning community with other students."' https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/attendance.

You are expected to attend all scheduled Intensive and Online Seminars. You are responsible for

keeping track of your attendance.

If you have any concerns about your capacity to meet attendance requirements, please contact Dr Tim Wong - tim.wong@unsw.edu.au and Prof Jan Breckenridge - j.breckenridge@unsw.edu.au to discuss your circumstances as soon as possible.

Please contact Dr Tim Wong and Prof Jan Breckenridge for any concerns or questions and to ensure you can access the support you need to complete the course.

Absence

Attendance for less than 80% of class time (Intensive and Online Seminars) will compromise your ability to meet the learning outcomes for the course. For this reason, it is not generally possible to approve absences of more than 20% of class time. Students who fail to meet attendance or participation requirements, and who do not have approval of their Course or Program Convenor, may receive a failure or reduced marks for the course, and may be referred to academic risk for further support.

Please contact Dr Tim Wong immediately if you are unwell, experience unforeseen circumstances, or are concerned in any other way about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete your course successfully.

Further details about attendance at the Intensive and Online Seminars will be posted on Moodle.

Attending Online Semiars

To achieve the learning outcomes and engage with the class, you should:

- be in a private space
- fully participate - this means ensuring that you have access to and use camera and audio facilities as needed (attendance means being present, capacity to be audible and visible, as if you were in the room) for all the activities and sessions
- have sufficient internet capacity to fully participate
- use equipment (e.g., camera, headphones with microphone) that enable higher video and audio quality/privacy
- have your camera on for small group exercises, and when providing feedback

Recording

While some parts of online classes will be recorded and uploaded to Moodle, where feasible, the

purpose of these recordings is to facilitate revision of content rather than as a primary learning tool. It is also not possible to record practice/small group exercises and discussion. Also please do not attempt to record sessions yourself as this may be a breach of privacy.

General Schedule Information

Week 1: Self-directed learning in preparation for Intensive

Week 2: In-Person Intensive

Weeks 3 - 10: Online Seminars

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The suggested text for this course is Webber, M. (2015) Applying Research Evidence in Social Work Practice, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Copies of the text are available in the High Use Collection in the Main Library.

If you would like to purchase a copy, UNSW Bookshop - https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9781137276100 (the text can also be purchased as an eBook).

Recommended Resources

Additional readings

Students should not feel limited to the text and the literature provided in Moodle via Leganto.

There are numerous additional readings available for use in SOCF5103 assessment tasks in the UNSW library's journal collection.

Students should be familiar with the UNSW Library Website: http://www.library.unsw.edu.au.

If you have not used this previously, you will benefit from becoming familiar with GoogleScholar (http://scholar.google.com) as a key search engine for academic publications and reports. You can set up the preferences to link to the UNSW Library even when you are not on campus: Go to Google Scholar > Settings > Library links, and enter 'University of New South Wales' in the box for "Show library access links for".

You can sign up for Table of Contents (TOC) Alerts from the homepages of relevant journals, to

receive an email whenever new articles are published in that journal. Journal websites will often carry information on the most viewed and most cited articles; these are likely to be interesting and often influential contributions. Google Scholar will also point you to articles that have cited a particular article and hence will be related to the topic.

There are other useful resources on social work research (available as ebooks in UNSW library):

- DeCarlo, M. (2018) *Scientific Inquiry in Social Work*, Roanoke: Open Social Work Education
- Hardwick, L., R. Smith and A. Worsley (eds) (2016) *Innovations in Social Work Research: Using Methods Creatively*, London and Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- Joubert, L. and M. Webber (eds) (2020) *The Routledge Handbook of Social Work Practice Research*, Oxon and New York: Routledge.
- Mauldin, R. L. (2020) *Foundations of Social Work Research*, Arlington: Mavs Open Press.
- McLaughlin, H. (2012) *Understanding Social Work Research (2nd edition)*, London: Sage.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered regularly to inform and improve the structure of the course. The seminars have been designed to address the Course Learning Outcomes and specific aspects of the assignments, and to clarify aspects of the assignments to make them easy to understand.

In addition to the student feedback obtained through myExperience, informal feedback and class-generated feedback are also important to on-going course development. Student feedback is taken seriously and substantial improvements are made to all courses, including SOCF5103 based in part on such feedback.

Students will be able to provide feedback about the course through myExperience at the end of the term.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Jan Breckenridge				Please note: The main contact for this course will be Dr Tim Wong who will provide advice on all course information and student consultation.	No	No
	Tim Wong				By appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

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.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

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

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

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](#).

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Location: Room 159, Morven Brown Building (C20), Kensington campus

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (except public holidays)

Telephone: +61 2 9385 1807

Email: soss@unsw.edu.au

Web: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/social-sciences