



## UNSW Course Outline

# SOSS2001 Qualitative Social Research - 2024

Published on the 08 Feb 2024

## General Course Information

**Course Code :** SOSS2001

**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 :** Undergraduate

**Units of Credit :** 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

This course explores the key elements of qualitative research to support your understanding of the advantages and complexities of using qualitative methods. You will learn the concepts and challenges associated with qualitative research and develop an advanced capacity to undertake

qualitative social research through practical application of the course content to a class project. By the end of this course, you will have developed skills in research design, data collection, data analysis, and report writing.

## Course Aims

1. This course helps students understand the nature of qualitative research and the way in which it relates to researching problems in the real world.
2. This course develops skills in collecting, analyzing, and writing up qualitative data, and to apply these skills to a real research topic

## Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand the concepts of qualitative research and how qualitative research can be applied to real world problems.
CLO2 : Develop sound research questions and choose the appropriate methodology to answer these questions.
CLO3 : Collect and analyse qualitative data.
CLO4 : Write a high-quality research report involving qualitative data.
CLO5 : Understand the politics and ethics of decolonial research principles.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand the concepts of qualitative research and how qualitative research can be applied to real world problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research proposal</li><li>• Research report</li></ul>
CLO2 : Develop sound research questions and choose the appropriate methodology to answer these questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research proposal</li><li>• Research report</li></ul>
CLO3 : Collect and analyse qualitative data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interviewing exercise</li><li>• Research report</li></ul>
CLO4 : Write a high-quality research report involving qualitative data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research report</li></ul>
CLO5 : Understand the politics and ethics of decolonial research principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research proposal</li><li>• Research report</li></ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Research proposal Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Due Date: 08/03/2024 11:59 PM
Interviewing exercise Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Due Date: 17/03/2024 11:59 PM
Research report Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Due Date: 19/04/2024 11:59 PM

## Assessment Details

### Research proposal

#### Assessment Overview

1000 word research proposal scaffolding the final assessment. A numerical grade and comments is given within two weeks 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 : Understand the concepts of qualitative research and how qualitative research can be applied to real world problems.
- CLO2 : Develop sound research questions and choose the appropriate methodology to answer these questions.
- CLO5 : Understand the politics and ethics of decolonial research principles.

#### Assessment Length

1000

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

### Interviewing exercise

#### Assessment Overview

Students submit an interview transcript and 150 word reflection. A numerical grade and comments is given within two weeks 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**

- CLO3 : Collect and analyse qualitative data.

#### **Assessment Length**

150 + transcribed interview

#### **Assignment submission Turnitin type**

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

### **Research report**

#### **Assessment Overview**

2500 word independent research report. A numerical grade and comments is given within two weeks 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 : Understand the concepts of qualitative research and how qualitative research can be applied to real world problems.
- CLO2 : Develop sound research questions and choose the appropriate methodology to answer these questions.
- CLO3 : Collect and analyse qualitative data.
- CLO4 : Write a high-quality research report involving qualitative data.
- CLO5 : Understand the politics and ethics of decolonial research principles.

#### **Assessment Length**

2500

#### **Assignment submission Turnitin type**

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

## **General Assessment Information**

Students are expected to read the information in this course outline and on Moodle carefully and to follow the advice provided on how to achieve expected standards in completing the assessment tasks.

Rubrics will be available on Moodle. A rubric is a table or grid that lists a number of criteria

against which you will be assessed and descriptors that specify the performance corresponding to each level (FL-HD), to allow assessors to interpret which level has been met. Students are strongly encouraged to look at the rubrics well in advance as they each clearly state what type of work you need to hand in to attain a good grade.

Assessments should be referenced in accordance with the School of Social Sciences Referencing Guide, available at <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>.

#### Submission of written assignments

All assessments will be submitted electronically via TurnItIn on Moodle (no hard copy submission).

Assessments must be prepared in Microsoft Word format (not pdf), using a minimum 2.54cm margins on all sides, 12 point font size (except headings), double spaced, and consistent font and style throughout.

**YOUR ASSESSMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BY MIDNIGHT ON THE DUE DATE TO AVOID A LATE PENALTY.**

Moodle will accept late assessments but aim to submit early.

Please check the School rules and policies in relation to requests of extensions and late submission of assessed work: <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

You are also 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.

It is your responsibility to keep a copy of your work in case of loss of an assignment. You are also responsible for checking that your submission is complete and accurate before you submit it via TurnItIn on Moodle.

#### Feedback

Grades will be entered and feedback returned through Moodle once marking is complete on assessments with extensions, between two to three weeks from the due date. Extensive feedback and discussion of assessments will be provided during tutorials and lectures.

## Grading Basis

Standard

# Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Lecture	Introduction to qualitative research
	Tutorial	The 'messiness' of the qualitative research process From research topics to research questions
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Lecture	Literature reviews: Types and purpose
	Tutorial	Interview questions
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Lecture	Ethics, sampling and recruitment Key concepts relating to ethics, sampling and recruitment
	Tutorial	Tips for Assessment 1 Preparing proposal abstracts
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Interviewing
	Tutorial	Develop interview schedule Select interview partner
	Assessment	Assessment 1 due! Please note due date in assessments tab.
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	Document Analysis/ What's the Problem Represented to Be? Tips for Assessment 2
	Tutorial	Interview practice Transcription tips
	Assessment	Interview Exercise due Sunday 17th March
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Other	No classes (Flexibility week) - use this time to interview your research partner and transcribe your interview.
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Appraising quality in qualitative research Evaluating qualitative research Commencing qualitative analysis & identifying categories and themes
	Tutorial	Steps in thematic analysis 1: Intro to coding using example transcript
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Interpreting qualitative data Understanding different approaches to interpreting data
	Tutorial	Nvivo 2: Start coding ten course interview transcripts
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	'Writing up' qualitative research
	Tutorial	Finding themes from data
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Communicating qualitative findings Strategies for cohesive and punchy research reports
	Tutorial	From Nvivo to your research report Tips for Assessment 3
	Assessment	Assessment 3 due!

# **Attendance Requirements**

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

# **Course Resources**

## **Prescribed Resources**

Clark, T., Foster, L., Bryman, A. and Sloan, L., 2021. *Bryman's Social Research Methods*. Oxford university press.

You can access via the UNSW library (High Usage Collection).

If you have the 5th edition (for an earlier class), that's fine. If you wish to purchase the 6th edition:

Hard copy: <https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9780198796053>

E-book: <https://unswbookshop.vitalsource.com/products/bryman-39-s-social-research-methods-6th-edition-tom-clark-liam-foster-luke-v9780192636614>

## **Recommended Resources**

Bryman companion site: <http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/sociology/brymansrm5e/>

Silverman, D. (2013) Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook (4th ed), Sage Publications.

Clarke, V. and Braun, V. (2013) Successful Qualitative Research: A Practical Guide for Beginners, Sage Publications.

Glesne, C. (2010) Becoming Qualitative Researchers: An Introduction (4th ed), Pearson.

Morris, A. (2015) A Practical Introduction to In-Depth Interviewing, Sage Publications.

Saldaña, J. (2012) Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers, Sage Publications.

### Access to NVivo

You will be able to access NVivo on your own device outside of seminars using myAccess. myAccess means that you can use NVivo in your own time, on your mac, PC or tablet device in any location with an internet connection. Go to [myaccess.unsw.edu.au](http://myaccess.unsw.edu.au) to find out more information on how to login and use the service, there are quick reference guides, frequently

asked questions and who to contact if you need more help.

## Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using, among other means, UNSW's MyExperience process. Informal feedback and class-generated feedback are also important. Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based in part on such feedback.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Claire Wilkinson		John Goodsell Level 1 Room 122		Appointment required	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 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

## 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.

### [Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:soss@unsw.edu.au)

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