UNSW Course Outline

CVEN4961 Higher Honours Research Thesis A - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : CVEN4961
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Engineering
Academic Unit : School of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Delivery Mode : Research
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 is the first of three parts and is undertaken prior to CVEN4962/CVEN4963 Higher Honours Research Thesis B/C. Successful completion of Parts A/B/C are required to obtain an honours degree. The higher honours thesis may describe a higher level directed research work

on an approved topic and will be completed under the guidance and supervision of a member of the academic staff. The research may involve a directed laboratory or field investigation, analytical or numerical modelling, a detailed design or such other individual research project approved by the Head of School. Part A involves the formulation of the research project, problem statement (draft Thesis Chapter 1), completion of an extended literature review (draft Thesis Chapter 2), and preparation of a draft chapter-by-chapter thesis outline.

Course Aims

The purpose of the Higher Honours Research Thesis courses CVEN4961 ‘Part A’ CVEN4962 "Part B' and CVEN4953 ‘Part C’ are to engage the participation of top-performing students with current and leading-edge research activities across the School. Together, the courses promote higher-level independence in learning to prepare students for their professional and/or research careers; with a particular emphasis on the development of research, writing and presentation skills that would assist their participation in further (postgraduate) research and for a career in industry.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Undertake scholarly enquiry by attempting to achieve a specific topic objective within a defined period of time
CLO2 : Review literature to promote independent and reflective learning as well as increased capacity to develop information literacy
CLO3 : Develop the ability and confidence in the written and oral communication of technical information

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Undertake scholarly enquiry by attempting to achieve a specific topic objective within a defined period of time	• A1: Draft Literature Review & Problem Statement
CLO2 : Review literature to promote independent and reflective learning as well as increased capacity to develop information literacy	• A2: Expanded Literature Review, draft Introduction Chapter, draft thesis outline • A1: Draft Literature Review & Problem Statement
CLO3 : Develop the ability and confidence in the written and oral communication of technical information	• A2: Expanded Literature Review, draft Introduction Chapter, draft thesis outline

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Additional Course Information

WHY WRITE AN HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS?

- Satisfy your intellectual curiosity This is the most compelling reason to write a research thesis. You have studied courses during your degree that perhaps really piqued your interest. Now's your chance to follow your passions, explore further, and contribute some original ideas and research in your field.
- Develop transferable research skills Whether you choose to pursue further research (e.g. complete a PhD) or not, the process of developing and crafting a feasible research project will polish skills that will serve you well in almost any future job. After all, most jobs require some form of problem solving and oral and written communication. Writing an honours thesis requires that you:

- Ask smart questions Acquire the investigative instincts needed to find answers

- Navigate libraries, laboratories, archives, databases, and other research venues

- Develop the flexibility to redirect your research if your initial plan flops

- Master the art of time management

- Sharpen your argumentation skills

- Organize a lengthy piece of writing Polish your oral communication skills by presenting and defending your research to academic staff and students

- Work closely with academic staff At large research universities like UNSW, you have likely taken classes where you barely got to know your lecturer. Writing a thesis offers the opportunity to work one-on-one with an academic supervisor. Such relationships can enrich your intellectual development and later serve as invaluable references for postgraduate degree and employment.
- Open windows into future professions An honours research thesis will give you a taste of what it's like to do research in your field. It also might help you decide whether to pursue that field in your future career.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
A1: Draft Literature Review & Problem Statement Assessment Format: Individual	0%	Due Date: 4pm Friday, WEEK 7
A2: Expanded Literature Review, draft Introduction Chapter, draft thesis outline Assessment Format: Individual	100%	Due Date: 4pm Friday WEEK 10

Assessment Details

A1: Draft Literature Review & Problem Statement

Assessment Overview

Draft Literature Review & Problem Statement submitted to Supervisor in week 7 for review & feedback

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Undertake scholarly enquiry by attempting to achieve a specific topic objective within a defined period of time
- CLO2 : Review literature to promote independent and reflective learning as well as increased capacity to develop information literacy

Detailed Assessment Description

Assessment 1: Component A1 - Literature review and problem statement

Assessment length: As advised by supervisor

Submission notes: To be submitted on Moodle by due date, marked by supervisor

Due date: 4:00pm Friday, WEEK 7

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.
If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct &

Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.
For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

A2: Expanded Literature Review, draft Introduction Chapter, draft thesis outline

Assessment Overview

Expanded Literature Review, draft Introduction Chapter (expanded Problem Statement) draft thesis outline (Chapter headings & major subheadings) submitted to Supervisor in week 10 for feedback and marking

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Review literature to promote independent and reflective learning as well as increased capacity to develop information literacy
- CLO3 : Develop the ability and confidence in the written and oral communication of technical information

Detailed Assessment Description

Assessment 2: Component A2 - Expanded Literature Review, draft Introduction Chapter, draft thesis outline

Assessment length: to be advised by supervisor
Submission notes: To be submitted on Moodle by due date, marked by supervisor
Due date: 4pm Friday WEEK 10

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.
If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.
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General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Other	Milestones: Confirm Thesis Topic and Enrolment
	Seminar	Suggested: Attend Orientation Session
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Other	Milestones: Arrange regular supervision meetings with Supervisor(s) Suggested Activities: Attend Workshop – 'How to Write a Literature Review"
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Other	Milestones: Complete mandatory student health and safety training
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Other	Suggested Activities: Work on statement of the problem and literature review with Supervisor
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Other	Suggested Activities: Work on statement of the problem and literature review with Supervisor
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Other	Milestones: Prepare Draft for Component A1 Suggested Activities: Work on statement of the problem and literature review with Supervisor
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Other	Suggested Activities: Work on statement of the problem and literature review with Supervisor
	Assessment	Component A1 Due – submit on Moodle by 4.00 pm on Friday
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Other	Milestones: Receive review of Component A1 from Supervisor(s) Suggested Activities: Revise Statement of the Problem and Literature Review. Consult on your proposed Research Methodology with Supervisor.
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Other	Milestones: Complete additional student health and safety training (if applicable) Suggested Activities: Revise Statement of the Problem and literature review and prepare draft project skeleton. Consult on your proposed Research Methodology with Supervisor.
	Assessment	Component A2 Due – submit on Moodle by 4.00 pm on Friday
Week 11 : 18 November - 24 November	Other	Suggested activity: Finalise Research Plan and Methodology for Thesis B with Supervisor.

Attendance Requirements

Research Thesis is a research-based course and does not have any regularly scheduled classes (lectures, workshops, labs, etc.). The course schedule provided is suggested framework for what we recommend that you do each week.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Babak Shahb odaghkhan					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

I. Special consideration and supplementary assessment

If you have experienced an illness or misadventure beyond your control that will interfere with your assessment performance, you are eligible to apply for Special Consideration prior to, or within 3 working days of, submitting an assessment or sitting an exam.

Please note that UNSW has a Fit to Sit rule, which means that if you sit an exam, you are declaring yourself fit enough to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration.

For details of applying for Special Consideration and conditions for the award of supplementary assessment, please see the information on UNSW's Special Consideration page.

II. Administrative matters and links

All students are expected to read and be familiar with UNSW guidelines and polices. In particular, students should be familiar with the following:

- Attendance
- UNSW Email Address
- Special Consideration
- Exams
- Approved Calculators
- Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
- Equitable Learning Services

III. Equity and diversity

Those students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their teaching or learning environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to, or at the commencement of, their course, or with the Equity Officer (Disability) in the Equitable Learning Services. Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional exam and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.

IV. Professional Outcomes and Program Design

Students are able to review the relevant professional outcomes and program designs for their streams by going to the following link: https://www.unsw.edu.au/engineering/student-life/student-resources/program-design.

Note: 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 or your primary learning management system (LMS) 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/Moodle/LMS, the description in the Course Outline/Moodle/LMS applies.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. *Plagiarism at UNSW is defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own.*

Plagiarism is a type of intellectual theft. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement. UNSW has produced a website with a wealth of resources to support students to understand and avoid plagiarism, visit: student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism. The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how not to plagiarise. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

You 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 the proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment tasks.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an honours thesis or contract cheating) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here:

www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Work submitted late without an approved extension by the course coordinator or delegated authority is subject to a late penalty of five percent (5%) of the maximum mark possible for that assessment item, per calendar day.

The late penalty is applied per calendar day (including weekends and public holidays) that the assessment is overdue. There is no pro-rata of the late penalty for submissions made part way through a day. This is for all assessments where a penalty applies.

Work submitted after five days (120 hours) will not be accepted and a mark of zero will be awarded for that assessment item.

For some assessment items, a late penalty may not be appropriate. These will be clearly indicated in the course outline, and such assessments will receive a mark of zero if not completed by the specified date. Examples include:

- Weekly online tests or laboratory work worth a small proportion of the subject mark;
- Exams, peer feedback and team evaluation surveys;
- Online quizzes where answers are released to students on completion;
- Professional assessment tasks, where the intention is to create an authentic assessment that has an absolute submission date; and,
- Pass/Fail assessment tasks.

Faculty-specific Information

Engineering Student Support Services – The Nucleus - enrolment, progression checks, clash requests, course issues or program-related queries

Engineering Industrial Training – Industrial training questions

UNSW Study Abroad – study abroad student enquiries (for inbound students)

UNSW Exchange – student exchange enquiries (for inbound students)

UNSW Future Students – potential student enquiries e.g. admissions, fees, programs, credit transfer

Phone

(+61 2) 9385 8500 – Nucleus Student Hub

(+61 2) 9385 7661 – Engineering Industrial Training

(+61 2) 9385 3179 – UNSW Study Abroad and UNSW Exchange (for inbound students)

School Contact Information

For assistance with enrolment, class registration, progression checks and other administrative matters, please see the Nucleus: Student Hub. They are located inside the Library – first right as you enter the main library entrance. You can also contact them via http://unsw.to/webforms or reserve a place in the face-to-face queue using the UniVerse app.

For course administration matters, please contact the Course Coordinator.

Questions about the this course should normally be asked during the scheduled class so that everyone can benefit from the answer and discussion.