



UNSW Course Outline

PLAN4004 Planning Thesis: Research Design - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : PLAN4004

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Built Environment

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 12

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Planning Thesis: Research Design provides a comprehensive and rigorous foundation for self-directed research. Your final year in the BCP (Hons) provides the opportunity to bring together your specific urban planning interests to design and undertake a major piece of research and

complete a thesis. The course helps you to develop your early research ideas into a well-considered research proposal and commence the research itself. You will be guided through all steps in the research process, including turning areas of interest into feasible research questions, identifying suitable research methods and ensuring consideration is given to ethical research design and conduct. Your research and analytical skillset will be refreshed as you determine an appropriate research approach. Towards the end of term, you will be allocated a thesis supervisor who becomes your primary contact as you start to undertake your research and prepare your thesis.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Develop grounded innovative research questions to guide and structure a research project in the field of planning and urban studies.
CLO2 : Identify suitable research designs and methods to address research questions.
CLO3 : Address ethical considerations relevant to the research process.
CLO4 : Critically review key literature on a chosen research topic.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Develop grounded innovative research questions to guide and structure a research project in the field of planning and urban studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis Proposal• Literature Review• Methods Paper
CLO2 : Identify suitable research designs and methods to address research questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis Proposal• Methods Paper
CLO3 : Address ethical considerations relevant to the research process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis Proposal• Methods Paper
CLO4 : Critically review key literature on a chosen research topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literature Review• Thesis Proposal

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Thesis Proposal Assessment Format: Individual	35%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 14/06/2001 11:59 PM
Literature Review Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 08/07/2024 11:59 PM
Methods Paper Assessment Format: Individual	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 26/07/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Thesis Proposal

Assessment Overview

You will produce a thesis proposal covering the research setting, research question(s) and objectives, theoretical/conceptual context, potential methods, research plan and proposed thesis structure. Grading will be done against assessment criteria accompanied by written feedback.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Develop grounded innovative research questions to guide and structure a research project in the field of planning and urban studies.
- CLO2 : Identify suitable research designs and methods to address research questions.
- CLO3 : Address ethical considerations relevant to the research process.
- CLO4 : Critically review key literature on a chosen research topic.

Assessment Length

2500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Literature Review

Assessment Overview

You will produce a critical review of relevant academic literature in order to establish the theoretical/conceptual framework for your proposed research topic. Grading will be done against assessment criteria accompanied by written feedback.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Develop grounded innovative research questions to guide and structure a research

project in the field of planning and urban studies.

- CLO4 : Critically review key literature on a chosen research topic.

Assessment Length

3500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Methods Paper

Assessment Overview

You will produce a paper focusing on your proposed research methods including data collection and analysis and ethical considerations. Grading will be done against assessment criteria accompanied by written feedback.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Develop grounded innovative research questions to guide and structure a research project in the field of planning and urban studies.
- CLO2 : Identify suitable research designs and methods to address research questions.
- CLO3 : Address ethical considerations relevant to the research process.

Assessment Length

2000 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

General Assessment Information

The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Assessments

For assessment tasks in this course, you may only use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to writing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software in the creation of your submission (note: this is limited to spelling and grammar checking and reference citation generation). You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase or translate passages of text, whether based on your own work or not. Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain 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.

Feedback Strategy

Assignments are marked against a rubric, which indicates the level of your assignments against the marking criteria. These marks, along with brief feedback will be provided within two weeks of submission. Your research proposal will also be regularly reviewed in class, providing further opportunities for feedback. If needed, you can also request further feedback/clarification of marks for your assignments.

Supplementary Assessment Information

In this course, PLAN4004, a Supplementary Assessment may be offered at the end of term, after results for the course are finalised, to students who satisfy the following conditions:

- your final result in PLAN4004 is between 45-49FL.
- your failure of the course is not due to misconduct or lateness (and no other misconduct incidents or academic matters under review).
- you have not failed the course in previous years.
- you have attempted all assessment tasks in the course and met all attendance requirements if and as specified.

Your Course Convener will contact eligible students via email at the end of term.

A satisfactory grade for the Supplementary Assessment will result in a final mark/grade for the course of 50PS. An unsatisfactory grade for the Supplementary Assessment will result in no change to your original mark/grade for course. Once you have agreed to complete the supplementary assessment, you will have no further recourse to an appeal or a request for a review of results.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Workshop	Choosing a research project
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Workshop	Research theory and literature
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Workshop	Research design: Data collection & ethics
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Workshop	Research design: Data analysis & reporting
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Workshop	How to: Policy reviews, interviews & surveys
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Workshop	How to: Fieldwork & related methods
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Workshop	Troubleshooting: data collection

Attendance Requirements

You are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes for the School of Built Environment courses in which you are enrolled. If and where individual courses have specific attendance requirements, these will be stated in the course outline.

If you do not attend, engage, or participate in scheduled class activities, including lectures, tutorials, studios, labs, etc, you run the risk of failing a course.

If illness or unexpected and beyond your control circumstances prevent you from completing a task on time, or substantially disturb your assessment performance, you should apply for [Special Consideration](#), as soon as practicable, accompanied by appropriate documentation.

No special consideration will be provided if you miss out on essential course information and materials, or if you miss assessment tasks and deadlines due to unexplained absences or an unapproved lack of attendance.

You may be advised by the Course Convenor to withdraw from the course if significant learning activities are missed.

Course Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

We encourage and support students to maintain regular contact with the course convenor to provide informal feedback throughout the course. For specific issues or detailed feedback, please arrange a meeting with the course convenor via email.

In this course there is an option for students to provide anonymous feedback via the course's

Moodle page, which is directly sent to the convenor. As a final step, students are invited to share their insights and experiences by completing the MyExperience survey. The feedback gathered each year is integral to the continuous enhancement and development of the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Hazel Easthope		Room 3026, Anita B Lawrence West Wing	(02) 9385 6041	Email to arrange consultation	No	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

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

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