BLDG4504 Thesis - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : BLDG4504
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Built Environment
Delivery Mode : Multimodal
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 12

<u>Useful Links</u>

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This is the thesis continuation course, following your satisfactory completion of BLDG4501 Thesis Foundation. Complementing the pre-requisite knowledge gained, this course introduces you to the fundamentals of research implementation, data analysis, and thesis writing to provide you with an integral view of the research process.

You will need to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding on:

(i) the key issues and challenges in undertaking research;

(ii) at least one type of research approach, design, method and an appropriate data collection strategy including quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques

(iii) the research results presentation and thesis writing.

The aim of the thesis is to provide a framework for you to develop advanced critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills through research initiation and development. This course aims to develop your skills in carrying out a scientific research project independently under the supervision of an appointed supervisor.

Relationship to Other Courses

BENV4000

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Produce a literature review on a chosen research topic
CLO2 : Evaluate different types of research designs and methods relevant to your thesis
CLO3 : Analyse and interpret collected data for practical and theoretical applications
CLO4 : Author a research thesis using academic conventions

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Produce a literature review on a chosen research topic	• Thesis
CLO2 : Evaluate different types of research designs and methods relevant to your thesis	• Thesis
CLO3 : Analyse and interpret collected data for practical and theoretical applications	• Thesis
CLO4 : Author a research thesis using academic conventions	• Thesis

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Thesis Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	100%	

Assessment Details
Thesis

Assessment Overview

You will submit a research thesis of approximately 13,000 words. You will have the opportunity for consultation with your supervisor on work in progress, which will receive verbal and written feedback. A thesis examiner will be appointed to undertake assessment and provide feedback.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Produce a literature review on a chosen research topic
- CLO2 : Evaluate different types of research designs and methods relevant to your thesis
- CLO3 : Analyse and interpret collected data for practical and theoretical applications
- CLO4 : Author a research thesis using academic conventions

Detailed Assessment Description

Students will be assessed individually on a written submission of the final thesis (100%). Students are expected to submit a thesis draft to their mentor supervisor for comments before final submission in completing this assessment task.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

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.

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

The student needs to mark at least 50 out of 100 to pass the course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Other	• Evaluating research resources • Update research timeline: Gantt Chart – Justification of time allocation for each task; Risk assessment • Extending the literature. • Methodologies: Overview of quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research • Ethics protocols and forms Consultation with your mentor supervisor (e.g., discuss your timeline and your proposal and complete the ethics forms)
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Other	• Structure of research report (thesis) • Different data types: Textual data, Numeric, Geospatial, Image, Audio/Video, Structured/Unstructured/Semi-structured Metadata, Log, Sensor, Social Media Data, Web Data, Machine-generated data and simulation. Consultation with your mentor supervisor (e.g., discuss your data collection details)
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Other	• How to update the literature review Critical narrative and systematic quantitative literature review, Theoretical and empirical literature review, Integrative literature review and meta-analysis Consultation with your mentor supervisor (e.g., comments on Chapters 1, 2 and 3, and discuss details of your data collection)
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Other	• Non-traditional and digital-based research methods and tools: Open data and platforms, data mining, spatial, and geospatial, GIS, Digital Twins, VR/AR, and BIM (3D, 4D, 5D, 7D) Qualitative, quantitative experimental, ethnography, grounded theory, case study, action research, content analysis, and mixed methods Consultation with your mentor supervisor (e.g., discuss details of your data analysis, and suggestion of specific techniques).
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Other	• Sampling and measurement • Quantitative data analysis: Representation of data and normal distribution. • Analysis of mixed-methods research examples. • Qualitative methods • NVivo (1): coding techniques; automated vs. manual coding, deductive vs. inductive coding. Consultation with your mentor supervisor (e.g., discuss required techniques)
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Other	Non-teaching week
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Other	• Qualitative methods • NVivo (2): coding techniques; automated vs. manual coding, deductive vs. inductive coding. Consultation with your mentor supervisor (e.g., discuss the analysis outcomes)
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Other	• Quantitative methods • SPSS (1) • Discuss case studies and examples. • Overview of validity, reliability, trustworthiness Consultation with your mentor supervisor (e.g., interpret the outcomes together and discuss the draft of your thesis)
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Other	• Quantitative methods • SPSS (2) Consultation with your mentor supervisor (e.g., comments on the final draft)
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Other	• Overview of Validity, reliability and Trustworthiness • Review the research report structure. • Writing up the research report (tips and Q&A) Consultation and submission!

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes 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	Samad Sepasgozar		Anita Lawrence Building (H13)		By appointment, please email	No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

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.

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

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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](#).

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply

for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

School Contact Information

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