



UNSW Course Outline

SOSS2002 Quantitative Social Research - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : SOSS2002

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 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

Note: The course code for this course was previously SOSS3001

The ability to conduct high quality quantitative research is a valuable skill for social scientists

and applied social researchers. This course offers you a detailed introduction to quantitative research methods and data analysis. The first part of the course elaborates on major themes in research design (e.g., measuring social concepts, sampling, data collection) and common challenges (e.g., generalisability, bias, non-response, attrition). The second part introduces you to data analysis techniques commonly used by applied social researchers. We cover: basic descriptive statistics; sampling and distributions; comparisons of means; analysis of contingency tables and categorical association; and correlations. Strategies for presenting quantitative social research data are emphasised throughout the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Critically analyse quantitative social research.
CLO2 : Develop quantitative research hypotheses, and design appropriate methods for collective quantitative data.
CLO3 : Perform statistical analyses using statistical software.
CLO4 : Report and interpret descriptive and inferential statistics.
CLO5 : Understand of the limits of quantitative methods from a decolonial perspective

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Critically analyse quantitative social research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutorial Participation• Take-Home Assignment Portfolio• Research Report
CLO2 : Develop quantitative research hypotheses, and design appropriate methods for collective quantitative data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take-Home Assignment Portfolio• Research Report
CLO3 : Perform statistical analyses using statistical software.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutorial Participation• Take-Home Assignment Portfolio• Research Report
CLO4 : Report and interpret descriptive and inferential statistics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutorial Participation• Take-Home Assignment Portfolio• Research Report
CLO5 : Understand of the limits of quantitative methods from a decolonial perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Report

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Review - Assessment/Feedback Tool | Echo 360

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Tutorial Participation Assessment Format: Individual	10%	
Take-Home Assignment Portfolio Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (5 days)	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 4: 17 June - 23 June, Week 7: 08 July - 14 July, Week 8: 15 July - 21 July, Week 10: 29 July - 04 August
Research Report Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (7 days)	50%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 09/08/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Tutorial Participation

Assessment Overview

Tutorial participation is important in this course to enhance familiarity with the SPSS application, the nature of variables, hypotheses listing, and the interpretation of quantitative results. Each week, tutorials will be structured in an interactive format which gives you sufficient time to practice using SPSS on the course dataset or other open datasets of your interest. Grades will be awarded by the degree of participation by the tutors on a weekly basis.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Critically analyse quantitative social research.
- CLO3 : Perform statistical analyses using statistical software.
- CLO4 : Report and interpret descriptive and inferential statistics.

Detailed Assessment Description

Tutorials will be structured as review of key concepts, group activities, and SPSS practice. Tutorials are important for you to keep on track of the course and to have opportunities to practice using SPSS for your assignments. This means that you will be expected to attend tutorials, contribute your thoughts, listen carefully to other classmates and interact thoughtfully and respectfully with others, and respond to questions and raise questions on a regular basis. Students will receive a numerical mark at the end of the term.

Take-Home Assignment Portfolio

Assessment Overview

There will be 4 take-home assignments. Each assignment counts for 10% of the course grade. In each assignment you need to submit IBM SPSS Statistics (Statistical Software) output charts, tables, and interpretations of what the output means. The instructions for each assignment will be posted before the tutorial. Students will receive a numerical grade within two weeks of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Critically analyse quantitative social research.
- CLO2 : Develop quantitative research hypotheses, and design appropriate methods for collective quantitative data.
- CLO3 : Perform statistical analyses using statistical software.
- CLO4 : Report and interpret descriptive and inferential statistics.

Assessment information

There will be 4 take-home assignments (**week 3, 5, 7, 9**). Each assignment counts for 10% of the course grade. The assignment will ask you to submit IBM SPSS Statistics (Statistical Software) output charts, tables, and interpretations of what the outputs mean. The instructions for each assignment will be posted **before the tutorial**. The objectives of the assignments are to help you keep on top of the materials, practice the SPSS software, and facilitate your ability to interpret quantitative data. You will be given **one week** to do the assignment (e.g., **the deadline for the first assignment will be on Friday at 18:00 in week 4, regardless of which tutorial you enrolled**).

Students will receive a numerical grade within two weeks of submission.

For take-home assignment #4, students can choose to use either t-test (week 8) or ANOVA (week 9) for the instructed task.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Research Report

Assessment Overview

One important goal of this course is to allow you to have an opportunity to design a meaningful quantitative research project that answers your own research question(s) about the social world. This assessment consists of a research report that includes an abstract/introduction, literature review, hypotheses testing, method/dataset/variables description, quantitative results

presentation, discussion, and conclusion.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of submission.

The feedback sheet/rubric will be provided to students at the start of the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Critically analyse quantitative social research.
- CLO2 : Develop quantitative research hypotheses, and design appropriate methods for collective quantitative data.
- CLO3 : Perform statistical analyses using statistical software.
- CLO4 : Report and interpret descriptive and inferential statistics.
- CLO5 : Understand of the limits of quantitative methods from a decolonial perspective

Assessment Length

3000 words

Assessment information

For the report, you will need to choose a research question that can be answerable with a quantitative dataset (course survey or other datasets available online, your dataset must have **at least 50 cases**), outlining a brief literature review (5 citations at least), clarifying arguments or hypotheses to be tested, introducing research design (including hypotheses, an introduction of dataset and variables), methodology (e.g., chi-square, crosstabs, correlation, t-test, and ANOVA, **at least two statistical tests**), quantitative results, and a written interpretation of your results and discussion. You will be expected to derive meaningful interpretations from your results, and to clearly communicate the **meanings and implications** of what you have discovered.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of submission.

This is the final assessment for this course. The rubric is available on Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Introduction to quantitative social research; conceptualization; operationalization; variables; measurement; validity/reliability
	Tutorial	Warm up: Introducing each other; filling out the course survey; getting access to SPSS.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Sampling and bias; probability.
	Tutorial	Introduction of SPSS; finding independent and dependent variables; levels of measurement; obtaining frequency tables.
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Descriptive statistics; data preparation and cleaning.
	Tutorial	Obtaining descriptive statistics in SPSS; data preparation and cleaning.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Statistical significance (p-value) and hypothesis testing
	Tutorial	SPSS—Presentation/visualisation of data
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Chi-square test and cross-tabulations
	Tutorial	PSS—Chi-square test and cross-tabulation
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Workshop	Flexibility week—an informal workshop on dataset creation and consultation. No lectures or tutorials.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Correlation between variables
	Tutorial	SPSS—Correlation
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	T-test
	Tutorial	SPSS—T-test
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
	Tutorial	SPSS—Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Questionnaire design and survey research
	Tutorial	Review and writing workshop

Attendance Requirements

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

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Babbie, Earl. 2020. *The Practice of Social Research* (15th Edition). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Recommended Resources

Aneshensel, Carol. 2013. *Theory-Based Data Analysis for the Social Sciences*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Booth, Wayne C, Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams. 2016. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Chambliss, Daniel F. and Russell K. Schutt. 2019. *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of*

Investigation. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Green, Samuel. B and Neil J. Salkind. 2016. *Using SPSS for Windows and Macintosh: Analyzing and Understanding Data*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Khan, Shamus and Dana R. Fisher. 2014. *The Practice of Research: How Social Scientists Answer Their Questions*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Knapp, Herschel. 2017. *Introductory Statistics Using SPSS*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Lane, David. 2015. *Online Statistics Education: An Interactive Multimedia Course of Study*.

Houston, TX: Rice University. <http://onlinestatbook.com/2/index.html>

Levin, Jack, James Alan F. and David R. Forde. 2014. *Elementary Statistics in Social Research*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education Limited.

Llaudet Elena and Kosuke Imai. 2023. *Data Analysis for Social Science: A Friendly and Practical Introduction*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Miller, Jane E. 2015. *The Chicago Guide to Writing about Numbers*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Schutt, Russell K. 2015. *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Other useful resources about SPSS:

UCLA SPSS Resources: <https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/spss/>

Princeton SPSS Resources: <https://libguides.princeton.edu/c.php?g=84085&p=544076>

SPSS Online Training Workshop: <http://calcnet.mth.cmich.edu/org/spss/toc.htm>

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Yao-Tai Li		Morven Brown, 123			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.

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)

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