UNSW Course Outline

SOCW4015 Honours Research Thesis - 2024

Published on the 19 Sep 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : SOCW4015
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 Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
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

The Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) program provides students the opportunity to demonstrate learning in advanced knowledge and skills required for research in social work or a related health/welfare area. The Honours Research Thesis course SOCW4015 is the central

focus of Level 4 Honours in Social Work for those students who select to undertake Honours via a Research Thesis. This course is based on a sustained, in-depth study of research methods and design integrated throughout the BSW (Hons.) program. Students will be individually supported by an academic supervisor to undertake a 12,000 word independent empirical or conceptual research project in their area of interest. The thesis will demonstrate their ability as autonomous researchers and will enable students to proceed to a Professional Doctorate in Social Work or other research degrees.

Course Aims

Honours Research Thesis (SOCW4015) aims to:

1. Increase students knowledge of research principles and methods.
2. Develop cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesize knowledge.
3. Assist students to contribute to the evidence base addressing complex welfare issues and social problems with intellectual independence.
4. Design a research project that demonstrates technical skill in research methods and research design or
5. Facilitate students developing a research project that demonstrates critical thinking and judgement in developing new understanding in the area of social wellbeing, effectively linking theory and practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Formulate a research question for a particular context or research issue and justify the appropriate methodology and research methods
CLO2 : Identify and analyse critically the different theoretical perspectives that may influence the research process and area of study
CLO3 : Demonstrate awareness of how you have implemented an ethical research process
CLO4 : Execute a research project that demonstrates technical skill in research methods and research design or alternatively skill in generating conceptual analyses to reflect on the research issue chosen
CLO5 : Construct a thesis which demonstrates scholarly capability

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Formulate a research question for a particular context or research issue and justify the appropriate methodology and research methods	• Honours Research Thesis
CLO2 : Identify and analyse critically the different theoretical perspectives that may influence the research process and area of study	• Honours Research Thesis
CLO3 : Demonstrate awareness of how you have implemented an ethical research process	• Honours Research Thesis
CLO4 : Execute a research project that demonstrates technical skill in research methods and research design or alternatively skill in generating conceptual analyses to reflect on the research issue chosen	• Honours Research Thesis
CLO5 : Construct a thesis which demonstrates scholarly capability	• Honours Research Thesis

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Honours Research Thesis Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	100%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 15/11/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details
Honours Research Thesis

Assessment Overview

Students are required to undertake a 10 -12,000 conceptual or empirical research project in an area of their interest, related to social work or health/welfare practice. Students will work on this project in either term 2 year 4 (or dual degree equivalent) concurrent with the Fourth Level Placement.

Students will be allocated an academic supervisor who has expertise in the student's research area and/or chosen methodology.

The thesis mark comprises **100%** of the mark for SOCW4015.

Students will be provided with ongoing feedback on their research project by their allocated supervisor. In addition, students will receive feedback from the convener of SOCW4015 during seminars. Each thesis will be marked by two independent examiners. Students will receive a numerical grade and written feedback from the examiners.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Formulate a research question for a particular context or research issue and justify the appropriate methodology and research methods
- CLO2 : Identify and analyse critically the different theoretical perspectives that may influence the research process and area of study
- CLO3 : Demonstrate awareness of how you have implemented an ethical research process
- CLO4 : Execute a research project that demonstrates technical skill in research methods and research design or alternatively skill in generating conceptual analyses to reflect on the research issue chosen
- CLO5 : Construct a thesis which demonstrates scholarly capability

Detailed Assessment Description

Refer to Social Work Honours Thesis Handbook for more information.

Assessment Length

10000 - 12000

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Planning/Design Assistance

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.

If your Convenor has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text or media that have not been sufficiently modified you may be asked to explain your work, but we recognise that you are permitted to use AI generated text and media as a starting point and some traces may remain. 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

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Seminar	Seminar 1 - 13 September 2024, 10:00 - 13:00 Honours Thesis Structure, Research Plan, and Supervision Positionality Library Resources
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Seminar	Seminar 2 - 4 October 2024, 10:00 - 13:00 Use of GenAI
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Seminar	Seminar 3 - 25 October 2024, 10:00 - 13:00 Writing the Thesis - Methods and Findings
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Seminar	Seminar 4 - 1 November 2024, 10:00 - 13:00 Completing the Thesis - Discussion

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

SOCW4015 has been offered for several years now, and feedback from students is always

welcome.

In line with student feedback, we have undertaken consultations with students and linked the preparation for the course more closely with assignments completed in SOCW4011. Students were guided to suggest a single research question or topic to enable suitable allocation of supervisors in Term 1. Content of seminars is enriched by student feedback about topics they would find helpful to cover including developing a research plan, thinking about their positionality or standpoint in the research, and managing competing demands during their candidature. Further feedback will be gathered periodically using UNSW's MyExperience survey and through less formal channels such as email and small group discussion.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Abner Weng Cheong Poon		Room 169, Morven Brown Building	9065 2315		Yes	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

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

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