



## UNSW Course Outline

# ARTS2852 Qualitative Research for Political and Social Problems - 2024

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## General Course Information

**Course Code :** ARTS2852

**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 :** 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

What is qualitative research and how is it carried out to address questions concerning political

and social life? What are the methods and methodologies that have been developed in and across Politics and International Relations to allow researchers to ask questions, and make claims, about the 'political' and the 'social' world? Through the analysis of key scholarly texts centred on pressing global issues, you will be introduced to a range of qualitative methods deployed in political science, and often adapted from other disciplinary contexts. You will ask how these inform and shape research practice in and across Politics and International Relations, using particular examples of qualitative research to think through philosophical, political and economic dilemmas, such as peace and conflict, economic crisis, global social justice and environmental protection. You will be challenged to evaluate the strengths and limitations of particular qualitative methods for certain tasks, and to reflect on the appropriateness of particular methods for the investigation of pressing political and social problems. You will design a qualitative research project with the knowledge learned from the course and discuss the challenges and solutions of the research during weekly seminars.

## **Relationship to Other Courses**

This course is designed for students of the PPE Program and other social science majors/minors.

# Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Explain the circumstances under which the deployment of qualitative methods is useful and appropriate in social and political science research.
CL02 : Distinguish between and evaluate the utility of various qualitative methods for the investigation of pressing political, economic and social problems.
CL03 : Compare appropriate qualitative methods to address a clear research question.
CL04 : Explain the purpose of human research ethics approval procedures and complete relevant forms according to the specific research topic and needs.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Explain the circumstances under which the deployment of qualitative methods is useful and appropriate in social and political science research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Question</li><li>• Literature Review</li><li>• Research Ethics</li></ul>
CL02 : Distinguish between and evaluate the utility of various qualitative methods for the investigation of pressing political, economic and social problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature Review</li><li>• Research Ethics</li></ul>
CL03 : Compare appropriate qualitative methods to address a clear research question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature Review</li><li>• Research Ethics</li></ul>
CL04 : Explain the purpose of human research ethics approval procedures and complete relevant forms according to the specific research topic and needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Ethics</li></ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Research Question Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 22/06/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 06/07/2024 11:59 PM
Literature Review Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 20/07/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 03/08/2024 11:59 PM
Research Ethics Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 10/08/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 24/08/2024 11:59 PM

## Assessment Details

### Research Question

#### Assessment Overview

Students should identify an empirical area of interest and devise an appropriate research question. In 500 words, they should describe the rationale for choosing the question, their research aims in answering the question and how this relates to qualitative research in Politics and International Relations. Written feedback, will be provided within two weeks of submission. Students are strongly encouraged to have an individualized discussion with the instructor about their topics.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Explain the circumstances under which the deployment of qualitative methods is useful and appropriate in social and political science research.

#### Assessment Length

500 words

#### Assessment information

Students should identify an empirical area of interest and devise an appropriate research question. In 500 words, they should describe the rationale for choosing the question, their research aims in answering the question and how this relates to qualitative research in politics and international relations.

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

# Literature Review

## Assessment Overview

Students should identify at least five academic sources relevant to a proposed area of qualitative research. They should produce an literature review of 1500 words outlining the contribution that each of these sources will make to the development of their argument. Of the five sources, at least one could be used as a model for the application of qualitative method in one's own research. Written feedback, will be provided within two weeks of submission.

## Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Explain the circumstances under which the deployment of qualitative methods is useful and appropriate in social and political science research.
- CL02 : Distinguish between and evaluate the utility of various qualitative methods for the investigation of pressing political, economic and social problems.
- CL03 : Compare appropriate qualitative methods to address a clear research question.

## Assessment Length

1500

## Assessment information

Students should identify at least five academic sources relevant to their project. They should produce an literature review of 1500 words which asesess how each source informs their own proposed methodological approach. The sources do not need to be on the same topic as the project, but may used a methodological approach of interest to the topic. The sources may also provide theortical or empirical context to the topic which is relevant to the student methodological decisions. Of the five sources, at least one should be used as a model for the application of qualitative method in one's own research.

## Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

# Research Ethics

## Assessment Overview

Completion of the UNSW human research ethics form (Length 1500 to 2000 words)

Managing risk and ethics-related issues is a critical part of qualitative research in social and political sciences. Students will complete the necessary human research ethics forms and approval requirements. Different forms are required according to the level of risk. A decision on the appropriate forms to complete is part of the assessment task.

Written feedback, including a rubric and numerical grade, will be provided within two weeks of submission. Students will be provided with guidelines on assessment expectations, made available through the course's LMS.

### Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Explain the circumstances under which the deployment of qualitative methods is useful and appropriate in social and political science research.
- CL02 : Distinguish between and evaluate the utility of various qualitative methods for the investigation of pressing political, economic and social problems.
- CL03 : Compare appropriate qualitative methods to address a clear research question.
- CL04 : Explain the purpose of human research ethics approval procedures and complete relevant forms according to the specific research topic and needs.

### Assessment Length

1500

### Assessment information

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### Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

## **General Assessment Information**

1. What if I go over the word limit?

A +/- 10% leeway is applied to all written assessments. For example, for a 2000-word essay can be anywhere between 1800 and 2200. Essay that are shorter or longer than the allowed range will be penalised at 3% for every 100 words (or part thereof).

2. What is included in the word count?

Everything except your reference list is included in the word count. That means that footnotes, sub-headings and in-text references are included in the word count.

3. What referencing style should I use?

All your written assessments must be formatted according to the Harvard system of referencing, as found in the guidelines in the School of Social Science's Referencing Guide, which is available in Moodle.

Poor referencing and attribution of sources will result in a lower grade and may even constitute

academic misconduct. There is a lot of assistance available to you to help you learn about referencing, attribution and avoiding plagiarism. If you are not sure just ask! See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/support-referencing-assignments>.

If you submit work for this course that you have already submitted for assessment in another course at this University or any other institution, in whole or in part, or if you copy material from another source and do not attribute that material to its original author, your work will be referred to the School Student Ethics Officer for an investigation into a possible charge of academic misconduct. See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>.

4. There is something I do not understand about the assessment, what should I do?

Please make sure you have read the assessment instructions closely. Also have a look at the marking rubric, which explains what we will be looking for when we mark your assessment. If you still have questions, you can ask the convenor or your tutor.

Because I will often field similar questions from multiple students, I ask that you raise your questions in the lecture/tutorial/seminar, if possible.

5. What if I submit an assignment late?

Unless you have an approved extension (see question 6 below), 5% is deducted from the total awardable mark' each calendar day you are late. For example, an assessment that received 70% but is two days late will receive a final grade of 60% - i.e.  $70\% - 10\% (2 \text{ days late} \times 5\%) = 60\%$ .

For work submitted more than five days after the due date a mark of zero will be awarded.

6. What if I need more time to finish my assessment?

You can apply for special consideration if you need more time due to illness, misadventure etc. It is highly recommended that you apply for an extension before the due date passes, if possible.

Special consideration is handled by a centralised bureaucracy. For more information, or to apply for an extension, visit <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

7. I think my grade was too low, what can I do?

The process for appealing grades is available here: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

## Grading Basis

## Standard

# Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Course introduction and “what is qualitative research” The week we examine what qualitative research is, and how it compares to quantitative approaches. We examine the importance of methodology to social/political research, the tasks and challenges of qualitative methods, the varieties of qualitative research, and the relationship between ontology, epistemology and research methodology.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Research Ethics This week we examine the importance of ethics to social/political research and why it matters. We explore ethical issues related to qualitative research, and consider what it means to act ethically.
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Positionality, vulnerability and risk This week we examine the critical concepts and challenges in qualitative research: positionality, intersectionality, reflectiveness, and subjectivity. We will also reflect on the various types of vulnerabilities and risks involved in qualitative research.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Basic skill 1: Discourse analysis This week we examine how to conduct textual and discourse analysis, and consider the advantages and limitations of various techniques.
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Basic skill 2: Interview, focus group, and participatory observation This week we examine how to conduct interview, focus group, and participatory observation, and consider the advantages and limitations of these methods.
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Other	Flexibility week. No class.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Basic skill 3: Fieldwork This week we examine when and why to conduct fieldwork, as well as the preparations required for fieldwork.
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Advanced skill 1: Going to foreign lands This week we examine the purposes, advantages and challenges of conducting fieldwork in a foreign setting, as well as the main preparations and skills required for doing so.
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Advanced skill 2: Meeting “the unusual” This week we examine the complexity of power, vulnerability and knowledge production in advanced fieldwork, and explore the main skills required for fieldwork in areas of conflicts and intense socio-political contention.
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Advanced skill 3: Action research This week we examine the purposes, value and challenges of action-oriented research in studying social/political problems, and explore the main preparations and skills required for conducting action research.

## Attendance Requirements

Students must attend at least seven tutorials. If students fail to meet attendance requirements they may be refused final assessment (which means the Research Ethics assessment, worth 40 per cent in this course, may be marked at zero). You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance and will be contacted directly if your Course Convenor has any concerns.



Attendance of lectures is optional but highly encouraged. Recordings of the lectures will be made available via Moodle, however tutorials will not be recorded.

## Course Resources

### Prescribed Resources

All resources are available via Leganto on the Moodle page.

### Course Evaluation and Development

This course uses the university's MyExperience process to acquire and respond to feedback from students at the end of the course. You are very welcome and invited at any time to submit informal feedback specific to individual tutorials and lectures to the course convenor.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Fengshi Wu		133 Morven Brown Bldg	+61 2 9348 0689	By appointment	Yes	Yes
Tutor	Cara Heaven				by appointment	No	No

## 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](mailto: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)

**Telephone:** +61 2 9385 1807

**Email:** [soss@unsw.edu.au](mailto:soss@unsw.edu.au)

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