ARTS4247

Research Skills in the Humanities

Term One // 2021

School of Humanities and Languages // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Anne O'Brien	anne.obrien@unsw.edu.au	Monday 12-2 or other times by appointment	MB 368	02 9385 2384

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course will help you to develop a range of higher-level research skills. It will cover such areas as research methodology, research questions, the literature review, presentation skills, and academic writing. It will help you to identify and develop your research proposal, articulate its point and purpose, and present it in oral and written form. It will thereby support you in the skills you need to produce a sustained research project such as the Honours thesis. The content is delivered through seminars and workshop.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate the key principles of high-quality quality research in a relevant discipline
2. Locate, analyse and evaluate research relevant to a specific topic
3. Construct and articulate a clear and coherent research proposal
4. Articulate the ethical obligations generated by research in the humanities

Teaching Strategies

This course comprises a two-hour session from Week 1 to Week 9, followed by a six-hour Honours Symposium in Week 13. There is no class from Week 10 to Week 12, which are for self-study and individual consultations on assessments. The two-hour sessions are designed to enable students to learn the skills of conceiving and managing a research project, including locating their research within relevant academic literature, managing the research process, considering appropriate research methods, and communicating research effectively. The seminars will cover topics such as the literature review, online databases, research methodology, and authoring a thesis. At the workshops, students will work with peers from multiple disciplines on specific tasks such as sharpening research questions, brainstorming ideas, understanding their methodologies, fine tuning their timelines, and presenting a critique of completed theses.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research presentation	30%	26/04/2021 10:00 AM	2, 3
Thesis critique	30%	26/03/2021 11:00 PM	1, 4
Research proposal	40%	23/04/2021 11:00 PM	2, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research presentation

Details:

Your research presentation will be 15 minutes in duration, and will provide a summary of your research proposal, covering the research topic, statement, rationale, literature review, and methodology. It will be presented in the format of an academic conference paper. You will receive oral feedback at the presentation and written feedback afterwards.

Assessment 2: Thesis critique

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

1500 words. Your task is to submit a critical evaluation of one recent Honours thesis in your discipline. Your critique should consider the following: a) Thesis topic b) Literature review c) Thesis structure d) Assessment 2: Thesis critique

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Resources will be supplied in class.

Recommended Resources

N/A

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be gathered through MyExperience. It is always analysed and considered in planning for this course.

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, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

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:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
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