

# Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

School of Humanities and Social Inquiry

## Subject Outline

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MIST949

Research Methods and Design

Number of Credit Points: 6cp

Spring Session 2016

Wollongong On-Campus

Pre-requisites: Nil

Co-requisites: Nil

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### Teaching Staff

Position	Name	Room	Telephone	Email	Consultation Times
Subject Coordinator	Dr. Charles Hawksley	19.1023	4221-3087	<a href="mailto:charlesh@uow.edu.au">charlesh@uow.edu.au</a>	Monday 130-230 Thursday 1130-1230
Tutor	Dr Deborah Mayersen	19.1071	4221 4826	<a href="mailto:mayersen@uow.edu.au">mayersen@uow.edu.au</a>	TBA

### Discipline Leader

Position	Name	Room	Telephone	Email	Consultation Times
Discipline Leader – Politics & International Studies	Charles Hawksley	19.1023	4221 3087	<a href="mailto:charlesh@uow.edu.au">charlesh@uow.edu.au</a>	Monday 130-230 Thursday 1130-1230

<p>LHA Central   Location: 19.1050 Ph: (02) 4221 3456   <a href="mailto:lha-enquiries@uow.edu.au">lha-enquiries@uow.edu.au</a></p>
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## Copyright

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# Subject Information

## Subject Description

This course will cover research methods and research design in the social sciences. It is divided into four parts; 1.goals of social science and elements of research design, 2.selection and application of different methodologies for conducting research, 3.collection of primary and secondary data, and 4.analysis and synthesis of qualitative data in the research writing process. The ethical implications of social research will be considered throughout. Social research is a craft and like any other craft, it requires practice. Therefore, the approach will be hands-on from the start. Students will 'learn by doing' in all aspects of the course - in their class meetings, the computer lab and out-of-class assignments.

## Subject Objectives/Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:

1. Synthesize the fundamental principles of applied research, including formulating research questions, situating research questions in the relevant literature, developing methodological procedures and collecting interpreting and employing data;
2. analyse research methods and designs in scholarly articles and reports;
3. create research proposals that lead to the completion of an executable research plan.

## Attendance

This subject requires an 80% attendance at all classes unless this is unavoidable on medical or compassionate grounds and evidence of this is provided through SOLS. Attendance that falls below the 80% requirement, irrespective of the cause, may require you to complete additional written work to complete the subject. If in doubt, consult the Subject Coordinator.

## Timetable

For current timetable information please refer to the online Subject Timetable on the Current Students webpage: <http://www.uow.edu.au/student/timetables/index.html>

## Weekly Outline: Class Type (Lecture/Tutorial/Practical etc.)

Week / Date	Lecture Topic/Description	Tutorial	Task Due
Week 1 Commencing 25/7/2016	Social Sciences and Research Methods: Getting it right	Review Course Guide & pre-Module content. Module 1: Introduction	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 2 Commencing 1/8/2016	Working toward your thesis research questions & final proposal ideas. What's your thesis research topic?	Module 2: Literature Review	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 3 Commencing 8/8/2016	Critical reading and reflection on previous scholarly/industry studies. What's your thesis research question?	Module 3: Research Design	Research proposal - Part 1 1000-words DUE Fri 12 August by 5 pm  MOOC reflection activities.
Week 4 Commencing 15/8/2016	What, how, and why of research design - – examples and critiques. What's your thesis research method?	Module 4: Quantitative & mixed methods	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 5 Commencing 22/8/2016	Real-world quantitative research methods – examples and critiques	Module 5: Qualitative methods	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 6 Commencing 29/8/2016	Real-world qualitative research methods – examples and critiques	Module 6: Data sources and proposal	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 7 Commencing 5/9/2016	Digital research methods in the brave new world. Big data vs. good data.	Going online	Research proposal - Part 2 DUE by Fri 9 September by 5 pm
Week 8 Commencing 12/9/2016	Other research methods: Interviews & focus groups	Presentations of thesis topics and research questions	
Week 9 Commencing 19/9/2016		Presentations of thesis topics and research questions	
26 – 30 September 2016	Mid-Session Recess – NO CLASSES		
Week 10 Commencing 4/10/2016		Presentations of thesis topics and research questions	

Week 11 Commencing 10/10/2016		Presentations of thesis topics and research questions	Video essay due online by 5pm on Friday 14 October
Week 12 Commencing 17/10/2016		Presentations of thesis topics and research questions	
Week 13 Commencing 24/10/2016		Wrap up	
31 Oct – 4 Nov 2016	Study Recess		
5 –17 Nov 2016	Examination Period		

\* Public holidays for this session are:

- Labour Day – Monday, 3 October

## Recent Changes and Subject Improvements

2016 Spring	Lectures added	Charles Hawksley
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# Subject Assessment Tasks

## Assessment 1: Online contributions and quizzes

Marking	Marked out of 40 - Percentage of total subject mark 40% (equivalent to 1500 words)
<p>Description</p> <p>Participating in this blended learning and teaching subject, which utilises a 6-week intensive self-driven online MOOC site, includes: reading/listening, posting comments that reflect critically upon the online contents in each Module/Learning Pathway, posting follow-up comments that reflect upon your classmates' postings, and summarising relevant scholarly journal articles where indicated.</p> <p>Students are expected to make weekly contributions to all relevant posting areas (in Moodle) – according to the weekly outline and the reflection activities and stimulus questions in each MOOC Module/Learning Pathway.</p> <p>This range of activities will help you to articulate critical ideas and to reflect on the issues addressed in the MOOC, while also achieving the subject's learning outcomes.</p> <p>Your participation specifically requires you to complete the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a weekly series of mandatory but unmarked formative quiz questions in the MOOC;</li> <li>• a series of postings and follow-up comments in the Moodle discussion forums that address the various reflection activities/stimulus questions in the topics under each Module. Initial postings should range between 150 and 250 words. Follow-up comments, which require you to reflect on your classmates' postings, should aim for around 150-words each. There is no magic number of postings.</li> </ul> <p>Students are encouraged to post additional voluntary comments and share pertinent website links, intriguing articles, helpful hints, and other engaging stuff across the Moodle posting forums.</p>	
Due Dates	Ongoing in the MOOC as per each weekly Module requirement
Graduate Quality developed: Informed; Effective communicators	
Format	Online postings in Moodle & completion of formative quiz questions at the end of each MOOC Module
<p>Assessment Criteria: Accumulative posting marks are calculated by the quality and quantity of contributions. (Moodle allows the instructor to compile a student's total discussion postings.)</p> <p>34-40 marks: Excellent - Consistent main postings and follow-up comments demonstrate a solid understanding of the subject material, while also referring to additional related sources and ideas. Participation shows comprehensive and well-focused critical thinking and analysis.</p> <p>28 to 34 marks: Good - Frequent main postings and follow-up comments demonstrate an accurate understanding of subject material, while presenting a reasonable degree of critical thinking and analysis. Comments tend to remain at a general level of understanding &amp; within a predictable domain of subject materials.</p> <p>20 to 28 marks: Adequate/Fair - Main postings and follow-up comments show limited and/or inaccurate understanding of the subject material with little argument and critical thinking. Comments are incomplete and/or vague, and few if any specific source materials are cited.</p> <p>0 to 20 marks: Unsatisfactory - Main postings and follow-up comments are often too short, late, or non-existent. Comments demonstrate a serious lack of understanding of the basic subject material, and they also neglect to engage with the ideas raised by others.</p>	

## Assessment 2: Research Proposal

Marking:	Marked out of 100 - Percentage of total subject mark 40%
<p>Description</p> <p>This task requires you to develop a research protocol for answering a substantive research question of your choosing. You will not actually conduct this research, but you will be evaluated on the appropriateness, feasibility, and thoroughness of the methodological framework that you use to answer your research question.</p> <p>Part 1 (1000-words) requires three specific elements: Literature Review; Research Design; and Bibliography (not counted in the word length).</p> <p>Part 2 (1000-words) requires the remaining sections: Introduction; Ethical Considerations; Conclusions/ Implications of the Study; PLUS the <u>resubmission</u> of Part 1 with revisions (equalling a total of 2000 words).</p> <p>Guidelines for the Research Proposal Sections:</p> <p>Introduction: What is your general research topic, and why is it important? Catch the reader's interest and convince them of the significant value in your research topic.</p> <p>Literature Review (approx. 600 words): Inform the reader of previous research on your topic. Where does your research fit in the broader knowledge of the area? How is your research similar to or different from other research in the field? What is original in your research? Or if you propose to replicate previous research, then why is such replication necessary and to what end? Use the literature review to offer a narrowly focused critique on the previous research that has direct relevance to your proposed study. Make sure the literature review is current – with at least 50% of all sources published after 1 July 2015.</p> <p>Research Design (approx. 400 words): The research design section is the heart of your research proposal, covering: Research Question(s), Hypotheses, Sample, Methods, and Analytical Technique. Use this key section to explain and justify the design of the proposed investigation.</p> <p>Ethical Considerations (approx. 250 words): What are the core ethical issues to address in your study?</p> <p>Conclusions/Implications of the Study (approx. 750 words): Provide a brief summary that draws out the implications of your expected results for the research questions/hypotheses that you intend to explore/test. What knowledge will your research contribute to the discipline? What policy implications might your research have? In other words, how will your research make a difference?</p> <p>Bibliography (not included in the total word-length): All sources cited in the text must be included in the bibliography at the end of the paper – following Harvard referencing style.</p> <p>Appendices: You can include relevant appendices, such as a consent form if you are proposing to conduct a survey, etc.</p>	
Due Dates:	<p>Part 1 DUE on Friday 4 pm (at the end of week 3)</p> <p>Part 2 DUE on Friday 4 pm (at the end of week 7)</p>
Graduate Quality developed: Informed; Problem Solvers; Responsible	
Submission Format:	Hard copy of this work submitted to LHA Central 19 (19.1050) by the due dates.
<p>Assessment Criteria:</p> <p>8.5-10 marks: Excellent - Detailed understanding of research methods; sound organisation; few or no mechanical mistakes; clear, unambiguous sentences, with a lively touch and intelligent style that clearly explains and justifies an interesting plan.</p> <p>7 to 8.5 marks: Good - Clear research plan, organisation, and continuity; probably some minor mechanical</p>	

errors; proposed research is reasonable and supported – thought has obviously gone into the proposal; it is solid but not striking; the researcher has a definite plan and presents it in an organised and competent way.

5 to 7 marks: Adequate/Fair - A weak, fuzzy research plan and perhaps illogical arguments to support it; some confusion about appropriate research methods; many minor grammatical errors and possibly some major ones (i.e. incomplete sentences); organisation rambles or disappears; words are misused; proofreading is weak– there are research ideas here, but the writer needs help and more work to make them clear to another reader.

0 to 5 marks: Unsatisfactory - Missing consistent and logical arguments; major mechanical problems; poor organisation; serious misuse of research methods. Clearly does not fulfil the assignment; reflects a lack of understanding of subject content.

### Assessment 3: Video Interview

Marking:	Marked out of 100 - Percentage of total subject mark 20% (equivalent to 500 words)
<p>Description and Format:</p> <p>This task requires students to create an original 60-second 'video essay' which is loosely presented in the form of an interview critiquing a topic of your choice. The 60-second video essay – self-made with basic technical skills – has a wider scope for creativity and experimentation than most written types of essays and assignments. Use this task to express your critical thinking and reflection on a current event facing your discipline and/or specific research interests.</p> <p>Your video can take the form of a public service announcement (PSA), micro mashup, rhetorical remix montage sequence, micro-narrative/drama, or satirical news story, etc. Whatever the form and style, your video essay must develop a clear message about a specific topic/issue explored in this subject.</p> <p>Your video essay requires a 500-word explanation of what you did and why.</p> <p>Copyright and user-generated content (UGC) are integral elements of this task, and UOW Copyright Officer, Noel Broadhead, will provide some notes in Moodle about the do's and don'ts of video mashing/remixing.</p>	
Due Date:	Due online by 5pm on Friday 14 October (at the end of week 11)
Graduate Quality developed: Informed; Independent learners; Problem solvers; Effective communicators	
<p>Assessment Criteria: Your video essay mark will be determined by:</p> <p>1) Message/meaning: What are you arguing? Have you developed and illustrated a clear message that is linked to a key relevant issue? Have you used a variety of images/video/audio/text to display your point(s)?</p> <p>2) Technical: Is the video length exactly 60 seconds, not including opening/closing credits? Does the video appear to have a coherent beginning, middle, &amp; end? Have you posted/uploaded the video properly and on time? Have you cited all of your source materials where/when necessary? If needed, did you make a brief argument for fair use in your 500-word description? Did you demonstrate basic technical competencies?</p> <p>A mandatory contextual statement (500-words) about the significant aspects of your visual/auditory elements, style, and overall intention of the piece must accompany your video essay. Add this to the description section of the video in the Moodle forum where you post your representative icon or screen capture of the video.</p>	
Submission Method:	The preferred method is to upload your video to your own YouTube channel and then post a link in the Moodle discussion space – along with your 500-word explanation. Further instructions re: how to do this will be provided in Moodle.



# Assessment Information

## Assessment

The Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts reserves the right to scale marks in accordance with the University's *Assessment Guidelines - Scaling*. Marks are not final until declared by the Faculty Assessment Committee.

## Referencing

Referencing is an essential component of academic writing or presentation since it enables the reader to follow up the source of ideas and information presented in your work, and to examine the interpretation you place on the material discovered in your research. Reliable referencing clearly indicates where you have drawn your own conclusions from the evidence presented. Importantly, much of the material you will use is covered by copyright, which means that you must acknowledge any source of information, including books, journals, newsprint, images and the internet.

It is obligatory for students to reference all sources used in their written work including electronic material.

Students must use the Politics Style Guide on the Moodle Site for this subject.

Different programs use different referencing styles to reflect the needs of their discipline. It is the student's responsibility to check which referencing style is used.

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

The University's Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy, Faculty Handbooks and subject guides clearly set out the University's expectation that students submit only their own original work for assessment and avoid plagiarising the work of others or cheating. Re-using any of your own work (either in part or in full) which you have submitted previously for assessment is not permitted without appropriate acknowledgement. Plagiarism can be detected and has led to students being expelled from the University.

The use by students of any website that provides access to essays or other assessment items (sometimes marketed as 'resources'), is extremely unwise. Students who provide an assessment item (or provide access to an assessment item) to others, either directly or indirectly (for example by uploading an assessment item to a website) are considered by the university to be intentionally or recklessly helping other students to cheat. This is considered academic misconduct and students place themselves at risk of being expelled from the University

Students should refer to:

- Student Conduct Rules  
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058723.html>
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy  
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058648.html>

## Submission, Receipt & Collection of Assessment Tasks

Assessments are to be submitted on the due dates and via the submission method specified in each assessment task listed in this Subject Outline. Penalties apply for late submission.

### Submission of Assessment Tasks

Unless otherwise indicated in this Subject Outline, written assessments must be submitted through LHA Central in building 19, room 1050, by 4pm on the due date.

All assessments submitted must have attached an individualised cover sheet with a bar code. Instructions on how to create and submit the cover sheet can be found at the Faculty's webpage:

<http://lha.uow.edu.au/current-students/UOW154553.html>

If an extension is not granted, any assessment lodged after 4pm on the due date will be considered late and will incur late penalties (see 'late submission' section below).

### Receipt of Assessment Tasks

At LHA Central 19, assessments submitted with an individualised cover sheet and barcode will automatically receive an electronic receipt as evidence of submission; this receipt will be issued to your University email account.

Please note that you will need to print the cover sheet on a laser printer (use the library or computer lab printers if necessary) because ink jet printers may not print to the quality needed to make the barcode readable by the scanners.

It is the responsibility of the student to keep a copy of all work submitted for assessment to the Faculty.

In the case where a student submits an assessment that does not incorporate an automated electronic receipt as evidence of submission, the student may request a paper receipt as proof.

### Assessment task submission via post, fax or e-mail

Assessments submitted via post, fax or e-mail will only be accepted with the written prior approval from the subject's coordinator.

As a general rule, assessments will not be accepted or marked if submitted by fax except in special cases where the Subject Coordinator has given prior approval. Students that are given prior approval to submit an assessment via fax must have the relevant coversheet attached and clearly address the fax to the Subject Coordinator via fax number 02 4221 5341.

Students that are given prior approval to submit an assessment via email must have the relevant coversheet attached with the assessment and email the Subject Coordinator directly and copy the LHA Central email [lha-enquiries@uow.edu.au](mailto:lha-enquiries@uow.edu.au).

Students that are given prior approval to submit an assessment, with the relevant coversheet attached, via Australia Post must use registered mail – this will ensure that there is an official receipt of mailing the assessment on the due date. Students must retain the evidence of posting the assessment.

The envelope should be addressed to:

The subject coordinator or tutor's name,  
Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts  
University of Wollongong,  
Northfields Avenue, NSW 2522

### Collection of Assessment

The University's Code of Practice Teaching and Assessment requires that at least one assessment be assessed and returned before Week 9 of session.

Assessments submitted during session will be returned to you by your lecturer or tutor. LHA Central does not hold any assessments during session.

Assessments submitted at the end of session will be held at LHA Central 19 up until the end of Week 3 of the following session. After this time, assessments will be returned to the respective Subject Coordinator.

## Late Submission of Assessments

In the absence of an approved request for Academic Consideration (see the *General Advice Guide* for information about, and links to, the *Academic Consideration Policy*) in the form of an extension, assessment tasks must be submitted by 4pm (unless otherwise specified in the Assessment Task information) on the due date. Late work (i.e. any work required for assessment that has not been given an extension) will be subject to a 10% penalty per calendar day. The penalty is applied to the mark awarded. Work submitted after seven calendar days will not be marked and will be given a mark of 0.

An assessment task that is submitted after 4pm on any day will be deemed to have been submitted on the next working day. Penalties accrue on each day that the assessment task is late, including Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

For assessments that are required to be submitted in hard copy via LHA Central in building 19, submission must be made by 4pm on weekdays to be recorded as submitted on that day.

Only with the written prior approval from the subject's coordinator, students may submit their assessment on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in electronic format via email to the Subject Coordinator's email address. This is on the condition that they submit the hard copy of this assessment task by 4pm on the next working day with a completed statutory declaration (in the form available at <http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@gov/documents/doc/uow060608.pdf>) to the effect that they confirm that the electronic and hard copies of the assessment are identical in all material respects. Where this is done, the submission date will be deemed to be that of the electronic submission for purposes of calculation of the late penalty.

In the absence of an extension having been granted pursuant to the Academic Consideration Policy, work submitted beyond seven (7) days of the due date will be accepted only if submission of that assessment is necessary to pass the subject but a mark of 'zero' will be recorded.

## Electronic Submission of Assessments

Where assessments must be submitted electronically (i.e. through an eLearning site) the procedures for doing so will be in accordance with the Code of Practice — Teaching and Assessment, and specified in each assessment task listed in this Subject Outline. It is important that students retain receipts of materials submitted electronically.

## Retention of Assessments

Assessment work (with the exception of theses) will be retained at least until the end of the academic appeal period. The appeal period is 21 days after distribution of marks or release of final grades. For further information please refer to Academic Grievance Policy - Coursework & Honours Students on the UOW website.

- Academic Grievance Policy - Coursework and Honours Students  
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058653.html>

Theses submitted or completed by students for the purposes of assessment or evaluation will be retained for a minimum of 3 years after date of submission. For further information please refer to Academic Grievance Policy (Higher Degree Research Students) on the UOW website.

- Academic Grievance Policy (Higher Degree Research Students)  
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058652.html>

## Student Review of Mark / Grade

A student may request an explanation of a mark for an assessment task or a final grade for a subject consistent with the student's right to appropriate and useful feedback on their performance in an assessment task under the Code of Practice – Teaching and Assessment. The student should do so by contacting the Subject Coordinator or another member of the subject teaching team within TEN working days after notification to the student of the mark or grade.

For more information refer to Clause 6.1 of the Coursework Student Academic Complaints Policy: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058653.html>

## Supplementary Assessment

Supplementary assessment may be offered to students whose performance in this subject is close to that required to pass the subject, and are identified as meriting an offer of a supplementary assessment. The precise form of supplementary assessment will be determined at the time the offer of a supplementary assessment is made. Students who satisfactorily complete a supplementary assessment will be awarded a grade of 50% (Pass Supplementary)

## Subject Resources and Materials

All relevant materials are available in the MOOC.

## Set Texts

There are no other set texts for this subject.

Students are encouraged to use the Library catalogue and databases to locate additional resources and supplement the recommendations with resources you discover through your own research, both online and in hard copy. UOW Library website: [www.library.uow.edu.au/index.html](http://www.library.uow.edu.au/index.html)

Subject materials, such as Subject Readers and Textbooks, can be purchased through the UniShop.

## General Advice Guide

Each session the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts produces a guide to Faculty and University policies, programs and resources.

Students are encouraged to access a copy of the General Advice Guide at the start of each session.

The General Advice Guide can be accessed from the website at <http://lha.uow.edu.au/hsi/current-students/UOW061165.html>