

CIND4002: Research Methods and Planning

Newcastle City Precinct

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop the research skills that enhance their cultural, creative, and practice-based practice-led research capacity in present and future learning and employment contexts in the Creative Industries. Differing methodologies are examined in the context of the applications of these methods for Communication, Design, Music, Visual Arts and Performing Arts. In this course students deepen their understanding of the nature and importance of research methodology, and further develop the theoretical framework and overall research design of their Honours projects. The subject's interdisciplinary context also encourages students' engagement with diverse approaches to knowledge creation.

Student projects may include, but are not limited to: theoretical explorations and reviews; speculative design practices; professionally oriented projects; work-integrated learning and research-integrated learning opportunities; group / collaborative projects; external stakeholder based projects.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Requisites

Students cannot enrol in this course if they have previously successfully completed: CMNS4100, CMNS4120, DESN4215, MUSI4401, NHIL4001.

Students must be active in
Bachelor of Music (Honours) [10809] or
Bachelor of Visual Communication Design (Honours) [11254] or
Bachelor of Natural History Illustration (Honours) [11532] or
Bachelor of Media and Communication (Honours) [50004] or
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) [40209] or
Bachelor of Music and Performing Arts (Honours) [40310].

Assumed Knowledge

Students should
- have completed the requirements for admission to the relevant Bachelor degree of the University, or to another cognate degree approved by the PVC;
- have completed, in that Bachelor degree, the requirements of an approved major (or double major) in the discipline area, or in a cognate discipline area approved by the PVC, to be undertaken in the Honours program.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au
CRICOS Provider 00109J

Hours	Newcastle City Precinct Seminar Self-Directed 2 hours per week for 13 weeks starting Week 1
Unit Weighting	20
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Newcastle City Precinct Dr Chloe Killen Chloe.Killen@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: Please email to make an appointment.
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences NU Space, Level 4 409 Hunter Street Newcastle HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Topics will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A review and elaboration of the key concepts that underlie thinking about Creative Industries research and practice.• Research methods in both traditional and practice-led modes of research.• Methods and practice of interdisciplinary research.• Critical, interpretative, and imaginative review of written, visual and sonic material.• Production of innovative work in the contexts of research, the Creative Industries and related professional fields.• Consideration of ethical, legal and sustainable professional practices and approaches to research.
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand the theoretical assumptions that underpin different methodologies and practices of Creative Industries research.2. Select and use appropriate Creative Industries research methodologies and methods for a proposed Honours research project.3. Explain the theoretical foundations of their Honours research project.4. Demonstrate an understanding of project management, practical, analytical, and imaginative skills in the development of their Creative Industries research project.5. Produce a comprehensive literature or background review in support of a thesis.
Course Materials	Other Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A list of resources, readings and supplementary information will be provided on Canvas

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to research (Part 1): What is research?	Course Overview What is research. Different approaches to research. Discussion of projects.	
2	4 Mar	Introduction to research (Part 2): Approaches to research and the research process	Building blocks for research. Seminar and class activities Guest Presentation and Discussion: TBA	Learning Journal BEFORE class
3	11 Mar	Ethical, legal and professional practices in research and practice	What is ethics in research? Why is it important? How will you consider ethics in your work? Will your project require ethics approval? Seminar and class activities	Learning Journal BEFORE class
4	18 Mar	Theory fundamentals in creative industries	Why is theory important? Outline of various theoretical approaches within the creative industries. How might theory be applied in your project? Seminar and class activities	Learning Journal BEFORE class
5	25 Mar	Quantitative Research	What is quantitative research? How can this help my project? Seminar and class activities Seminar and class activities	Learning Journal BEFORE class
6	1 Apr	Qualitative Research	What is qualitative research? How can this help my project? Seminar and class activities	Learning Journal BEFORE class
7	8 Apr	Research Proposals	Presentations of Research Proposals	Foundational Research: Presentation of Research Proposal due in class – 9 April
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Creative practice as research (Part 1): Reflective and reflexive writing skills	Introduction to critical reflection. Application of reflections in written work. Seminar and class activities	Learning Journal BEFORE class
9	6 May	Analysing data 1 – quantitative, qualitative and practice based research	Seminar and class activities	Learning Journal BEFORE class
10	13 May	Analysing data 2 – quantitative, qualitative and practice based research	Seminar and class activities	Learning Journal BEFORE class
11	20 May	Creative practice as research	Seminar and class activities	Reflective Learning

		(Part 2)	Library Research Session	Journal due Sunday 26 May.
12	27 May	Putting it all together	Reviewing methodology plans so far.	
			Seminar and class activities	
13	3 Jun	Overview and summary	Overview and summary. Where are you up to?	Foundational Research Document: Methodological Approach, Due Sunday 9 June 11.59pm
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Reflective Learning Journal - weekly blog	Drafted before class, completed by 11.59pm the Friday following the timetabled seminar	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 5
2	Research Proposal (Combined Methodology/Literature review)	11.59pm Sunday 9 June (Week 13)	Individual	45%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Presentation of Reworked Thesis Proposal	Week 7 in class – Tuesday, 9 April	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Reflective Learning Journal - weekly blog

Assessment Type Description

Journal
Students will engage with the weekly topics, readings, suggested readings and their own research to write a journal entry. This journal entry will be drafted BEFORE the weekly class as this will provide foundational material to discuss in the tutorial. Changes can and should be made following class discussion.
Students are to complete FIVE blog posts but can select from 8 topics (weeks 2-10 excluding week 7).

Weighting

35%

Length

4800 words (600 words per week)

Due Date

Drafted before class, completed by 11.59pm Fridays following the timetabled seminar.

Submission Method

Online

Assessment Criteria

Details on Canvas

Return Method

Online

Feedback Provided

Online - Regular feedback will be provided.

Assessment 2 - Research Proposal (Combined Methodology/Literature review)

Assessment Type	Proposal / Plan
Description	Students will submit a 3500-word detailed research proposal including a preliminary literature review and methodology defence.
Weighting	45%
Length	3500 words
Due Date	11.59pm Sunday 9 June (Week 13).
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Details on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Presentation of Reworked Thesis Proposal

Assessment Type	Presentation
Description	Each student will be required to give a presentation based on their work in progress in which they outline and discuss the methodological approach to their project. This will include articulation of ontology/epistemology, theoretical perspective, methodology and methods and their application throughout the project. Students can also briefly showcase their findings, current conclusions, and reflections on the project they are undertaking. Each presentation will run for 15 minutes.
Weighting	20%
Length	15 minutes
Due Date	Week 7 in class – Tuesday 9 April.
Submission Method	In Class
Assessment Criteria	Details on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Within three weeks of submission.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face-to-face meetings or supervision.
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;3. you are requesting a change of placement; or4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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