

SCHS4100: Societies, Cultures and Human Services Honours II

Callaghan

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 is the second of two Honours level courses that build knowledge and understanding about the history and philosophy of research in the social sciences. This course focuses specifically on the 'practice of research' and explores the idea of 'research as design'. The course enhances digital research skills and capacities in reading and literature reviewing, critical reasoning and argument. The course includes: discussions of pure and applied research methods in the social sciences; ethics; research design; and on-line bibliographic searches and writing techniques. Where appropriate this may involve external stakeholders and Work Integrated Learning (WIL).
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	Students must be active in the Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) [10726] program to enrol in this course. Students who have successfully completed SOCA4100 or SPSW4020 cannot enrol in SCHS4100.
Assumed Knowledge	A major in sociology and anthropology, human services, linguistics or criminology with a minimum credit grade average.
Contact Hours	Callaghan Self-Directed Learning Self-Directed 18 hour(s) per week(s) for 13 week(s) starting Week 1 Seminar Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 13 week(s) starting Week 1
Unit Weighting Workload	20 Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Callaghan Dr Julia Coffey Julia.Coffey@newcastle.edu.au 02 4348 4081 Consultation: By email appointment
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences Social Sciences Building Callaghan HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	SCHS4100 will focus on the practice of research. Topics that will be covered may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research design• Research problem• Hypo deductive reasoning• Inductive reasoning• Literature search• Literature review• Building a library• Data management• Ethics• Analysis• Report Writing
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use advanced features in appropriate reference, data analysis and data management software to systematically manage and organise quantitative and qualitative information.2. Systematically and methodically analyse own and others' assumptions.3. Critically evaluate the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.4. Conduct high quality research at an Honours level.5. Use professional academic writing conventions for the purposes of communicating complex ideas and procedures.
Course Materials	All weekly readings are provided electronically on Canvas; there is no Textbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Seminar topic	Assessment due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to Honours	
2	4 Mar	What is research I? The theory of research: epistemology	
3	11 Mar	What is research II? The practice of research: methodology	Literature database test 10%
4	18 Mar	Project design: Literature review and literature management	
5	25 Mar	Research Ethics I	Research blog 20%
6	1 Apr	Research Ethics II – Starting your application	
7	8 Apr	Criteria for quality	Reflexive journal - formative feedback
Semester recess			
Semester recess			
8	29 Apr	Oral presentations. Proposal writing roundtable and individual consultations	
9	6 May	Oral presentations. Proposal writing roundtable and individual consultations	Literature review 50%
10	13 May	Oral presentations. Proposal writing roundtable and individual consultations	
11	20 May	Basic and applied research	Epistemology essay 50%
12	27 May	Report writing, dissemination and thesis writing	
13	3 Jun	No class	Reflexive journal 30% Research proposal 40%
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	Test - literature database strategies	Thursday 14 th March 11:59 pm	Individual	10%	1
2	Literature review	Monday 6 th May 11:59 pm	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Research proposal	Monday 3 rd June 11:59 pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

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 - Test - literature database strategies

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Description	Completion of online EndNote library. To prepare: watch the 'How to use EndNote X8 in 5/6 minutes (Windows/Mac)' and watch the 'EndNote X8 on Windows: The Short Course' (available: https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/endnote). Create an EndNote library that includes at least five references.
Weighting	10%
Length	Approximately 15 mins
Due Date	Thursday 14 th March
Submission Method	Email
Assessment Criteria	Provided on Canvas
Return Method	Email
Feedback Provided	Email

Assessment 2 - Literature review

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	Conduct a literature review to summarise and synthesise the current research in the field and topic related to your research topic / project.
Weighting	50%
Length	3000 words
Due Date	Monday 6 th May 11:59 pm
Submission Method	Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Provided on Canvas
Return Method	Canvas
Feedback Provided	Canvas

Assessment 3 - Research proposal

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	Create a research proposal for the thesis, following these headings: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Title2. Abstract: an overview summary of the proposed research (300 words)3. Introduction (background): sets the context for the proposed research, establishes why it is important4. Research question(s): a clear and concise formulation (ideally 1-3 questions)5. Literature review: a preliminary review of the relevant empirical and theoretical literature6. Methodology: a brief description of methods and an outline of the rationale for the methodology adopted7. Timeline: a proposed thesis chapter outline and expected completion dates for each stage of the project8. Conclusion: a summary of the research proposal in which you outline potential outcomes and expectations9. References
Weighting	40%
Length	3000 words
Due Date	Monday 3 rd June 11:59 pm
Submission Method	Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Provided on Canvas
Return Method	Canvas
Feedback Provided	Canvas

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:

- 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.

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:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. 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; or
4. 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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