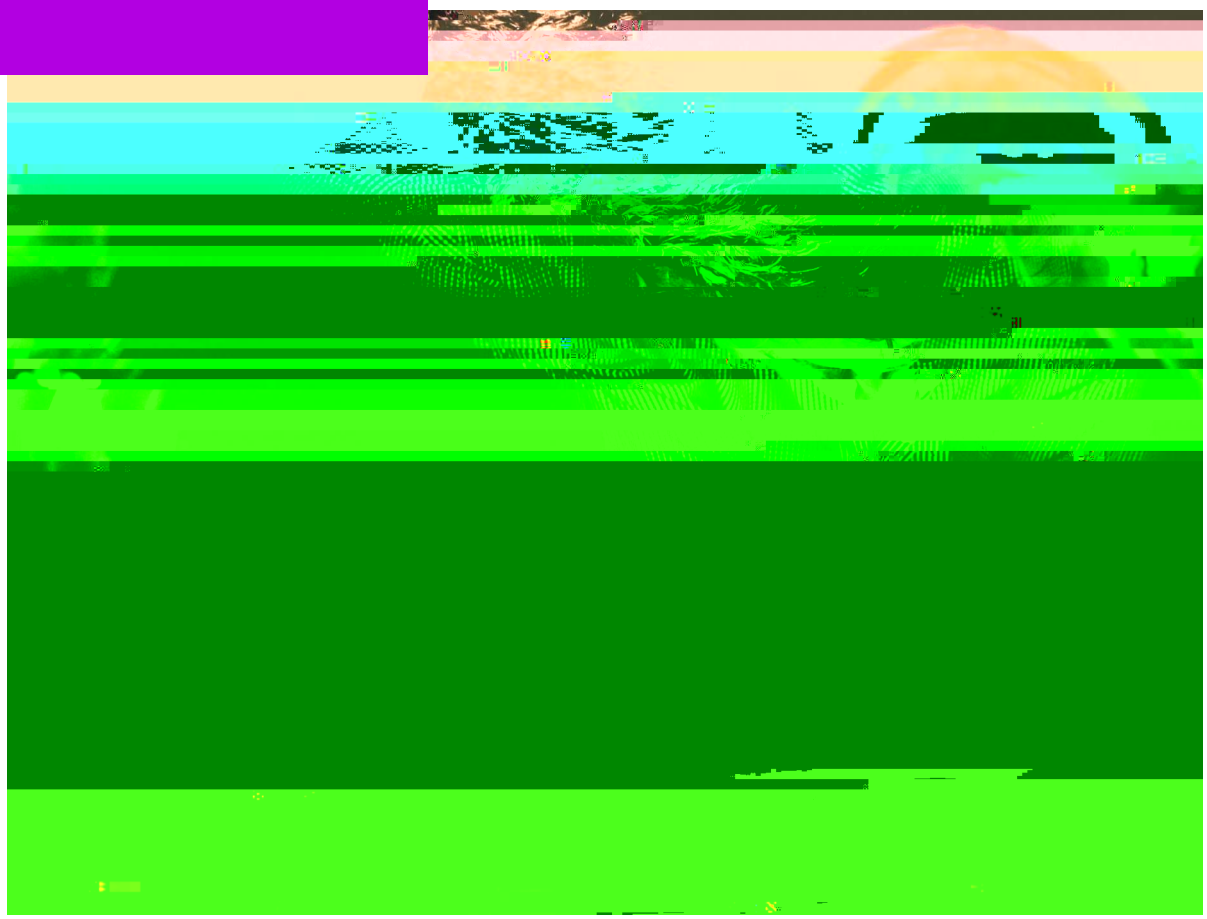

ARTS4266

Puzzles, Planning, and Presentation for Honours in the Social Sciences

Term One // 2020

School of Social Sciences // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

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Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Siobhan O'Sullivan	siobhan.osullivan@unsw.edu.au	Email for appointments	126, Morven Brown	9385 0689

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This is a compulsory course for Social Sciences honours students in the School of Social Sciences. It will introduce you to the practice of thesis writing and support you in the early stages of developing your honours argument. This course includes topics such as: using library resources for honours students including research consultation and access to databases; the role of methods in research and the use of theory in framing and conducting a research project in the social sciences; your ethical responsibilities as a researcher; and planning and managing a research project; working effectively with your supervisor; time and data management skills. The course introduces you to the idea of framing your research as an intervention in a disciplinary debate (or series of debates). A particular focus of the course is introducing students to the thesis form. This includes learning about the component parts of a minor-thesis, and thinking about how you might construct your own thesis, for maximum impact.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the features of an outstanding thesis or dissertation.
2. Verbally present material in an engaging and informative way.
3. Work collaboratively with colleagues to share skills and knowledge relevant to producing a minor thesis

Teaching Strategies

The intensive workshop allows you to get working on your research projects quickly. It is designed to both support you, and to efficiently introduce you to the key pieces of knowledge you will need to complete your honours year. This includes information on the ethical application process, data storage, working with a supervisor and library resources. The assessment focus will be on identifying excellence in thesis writing by consulting both the literature, and past honours theses. You will also share their expertise, with others in the class, via your group presentations. Different presentations will be focused on different elements of a minor thesis.

Assessment

Please see Moodle for full information about the assessments.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	60%	06/04/2020 05:00 PM	1
Group presentation	30%	14/04/2020 02:00 PM	2,3
Class Guide - based on presentation	10%	14/04/2020 02:00 PM	3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay

Start date:

Length: 2,500

Details: Students will write a 2,500 word essay focused on identifying and exploring the features of an outstanding research dissertation. Written feedback and a numerical grade will be returned within two weeks of delivery.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Group presentation

Start date:

Length: 30 minute oral presentation

Details: Working in groups, students will present the rest of the class with their analysis of what constitutes an outstanding thesis. Written feedback and a numerical grade will be returned within two weeks of delivery. Grading is collective.

Assessment 3: Class Guide - based on presentation

Start date:

Length: 1,000 words

Details: Each group (based on the presentation groups) will produce a 1,000 word guide for their classmates (those members of the class who did not present with the group). The guide will aid the rest of the class in their thesis preparation work. Written feedback and a numerical grade will be returned within two weeks of delivery. Grading is collective.This is the final assessment for this course.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content	
Week 1: 17 February - 21 February	Seminar		2pm – 4pm
		Week 1 - Tues Feb 18, 2pm – 6pm	Welcome What is your project? Working with past theses
			4pm – 6pm

			3. When does institutional ethics approval need to be obtained? 4. The UNSW Research Code of Conduct
			4pm – 6pm
			Thesis Element 3: What is my literature(s)? 1. Why it is necessary to conduct a literature review 2. Finding the literature(s) you need 3. Purposeful reading of the literature 4. Creating an annotate bibliography 5. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for your literature review
Week 5: 16 March - 20 March	Seminar		2pm – 4pm
		Week 5 – Tues	

			1. Identifying patterns in evidence 2. How to structure your findings 3. How to communicate your findings to the reader 4. How to decide what to include and what to exclude
Week 9: 13 April - 17 April	Seminar		2pm – 4pm
		Week 9 – Tues April 14	Thesis Element 6: So what? (your discussion and conclusions) 1. Developing theory. 2. When is it necessary to present new theory? 3. How to relate your findings back to the existing literature. 4. How to conclude your research project
			4pm – 6pm
			Class presentations: 4pm – 4.30pm Element 1: What is my research question? 4.30 – 5pm Element 3: What is my literature(s)? 5 – 5.30pm Element 4: What is my method(s)? 5.30 – 6pm Element 5: What is my evidence and how do I make sense of it? 6pm: Informal end of term drinks!

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All readings will be in Leganto. Enter via Moodle.

Recommended Resources

All readings will be in Leganto. Enter via Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Your feedback will be used to updated lecture topics and assessments.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please

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 also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information 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 before the due date, or for the purpose of them

- 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

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

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