ISN403
Research Methods

Unit Description

Research Methods introduces students to quantitative advanced research methods including: ANCOVA, MANOVA, discriminant function analysis, regressions and structural equation modelling, and data reduction via factor and cluster analysis. Qualitative research methodologies such as grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnographies, feminist approach and other advanced techniques will be taught. Students will demonstrate the ability to use established data sets to complete various quantitative and qualitative analysis, and complete a mixed method analysis and complete a report integrating both data sets. Critical decision making and understanding the issues of statistics and design is required to ensure completion of appropriate qualitative and quantitative analyses.

Required Textbooks and Readings

Giles, D. (2008). Advanced research methods in psychology. NY: Routledge.s.

*Textbooks may be subject to change prior to the start of semester

Administrative Details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Core or Elective	Level	Unit Coordinator	Other Teaching Staff
Bachelor of Psychology	One semester	Core	Fourth year, Semester 1	TBA	TBA

Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Learning outcomes for Unit	Assessment tasks		
	Type	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)
Understand quantitative advanced research methods including: ANCOVA; MANOVA; discriminant function analysis; regressions and structural equation modelling; and data reduction [factor and cluster analysis]	Exam [60 item multiple choice items and 5 short answer test items]	Year 4, semester 1, week 14	40%
Understand qualitative research methodologies including: grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnographies, feminist approach and other advanced techniques [including self-generated data; Q method and meta-analysis]	Exam – see above		
Demonstrate the ability to use established data sets to complete various quantitative and qualitative analysis	Written lab report [total = 1500 words]	Year 4, semester 1, various weeks	40%
Demonstrate the ability to complete a mixed method analysis and complete a report integrating both data sets	Written lab report – see above		

Learning outcomes for Unit	Assessment tasks		
	Type	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)
Understand issues of statistics and design and demonstrate critical decision making to ensure completion of appropriate qualitative and quantitative analyses on various data sets	Tutorial activities covering issues including ethics, appropriate research design, correct statistical decision making and issues related to mixed methodologies	Year 4, throughout semester 1	20%

Delivery mode

Face to face on site with E-learning (online) components;

Full-time or Part-time study

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Pass grade or higher in all Year 1, 2 and 3 units.

Other Resource and Requirements

None.

Unit weighting as a percentage of the year

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
12.5	100

Student workload

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
4 (1x2 hour lecture; 1x1 hour face-face tutorial and 1x1 hour online activities)	6	10

**Unit outlines may be subject to change. The most up-to-date outlines will be provided to students once the semester commences*