

Course Name	Applied Social Research				
Course ID	013725				
Area & Cat No.	WELF 1011				
Units	4.5	Career	UG	BUGE	No
School	SWP	Campus(es)	Magill, Whyalla	FOE	090301
Components	1 week intensive	Mode	Internal	Final Exam	No
Syllabus Plus	Yes				

Aim

To advance students' knowledge of a range of social research perspectives and techniques, as well as of the theories and values that guide research approaches and methods; and to ensure that students obtain the necessary knowledge and skills required of beginning-level social researchers.

On completion of this course the student should be able to:

- give an account of a range of perspectives on social research and critically evaluate their purposes and application
- demonstrate a knowledge of the methodologies, basic logic, values, theories, concepts, principles and methods of social research
- develop and articulate the logic of research methods and designs, formulate research plans and select designs appropriate to their specific research problem(s)
- achieve adequate knowledge of the statistical computer software used to analyse and present data
- interpret data from a variety of sources in the exploration and explanation of their identified research problem(s)
- demonstrate awareness of ethical issues in the context of social research
- formulate appropriate research designs related to the data generated from social work/community practice

By undertaking this course, students will progress in the development of the following qualities:

Graduate quality	1 Body of knowledge	2 Lifelong learning	3 Effective problem solving	4 Work alone and in teams	5 Ethical action	6 Communicate effectively	7 International perspective
Indicative unit weighting	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.5

Syllabus

Social theories; positivism and post-positivism; critical theory; research design; ethics in research; quantitative and qualitative methods; research methodology; triangulation; data collection; data analysis; communicating research findings.

Teaching and learning arrangements

This course is delivered in a 5 day (1 week) period in February. The course contains 5 (1 hour) lectures and a series of research design activities to develop students' research methodology knowledge and skills. The course requires pre-reading to be undertaken in order for students to be familiar with methodologies and to have a designated area for research that they can develop during the course.

Assessment

Research Proposal (3000 words)	70%
Essay (1500 words)	30%

Textbook

S. Sarantakos (1998) Social Research, 2nd Ed, Melbourne,

References

- Denzin, N. K. (1994) *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, London, Sage
Guba E (Ed) (1990) *The paradigm dialog*, Newbury Park, Sage
Hakim, C. (1987) *Research Design: Strategies and Choices in the Design of Social Research*, London, Allen & Unwin
Kellehear, A. (1993) *The Unobtrusive Researcher: A Guide to Methods*, Sydney, Allen & Unwin
Patton M Q (1996) *Utilization focused evaluation: the new century text* Newbury Park, Sage
Reinharz S (1992) *Feminist Methods in Social Research* New York, Oxford University Press
Seidman S (1994) *Contested knowledge: Social theories in the post modern era* Cambridge, Blackwells
Wenger, G.C. (ed.) (1987) *The Research Relationship: Practice and Politics in Social Policy Research*, London

Course coordinator: Donna Chung