



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

**SO222**

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.

<b>Unit code</b>	SO222														
<b>Unit name</b>	Research Methods														
<b>Associated higher education awards</b>	Bachelor of Applied Social Science														
<b>Duration</b>	One semester														
<b>Level</b>	Intermediate														
<b>Core/Elective</b>	Elective Required for Coursework stream														
<b>Weighting</b>	Unit credit points: 10 Course credit points: 240														
<b>Student workload</b>	<p><i>Face-to-face on site</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Contact hours</td> <td>39 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading, study, and preparation</td> <td>59 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assignment preparation</td> <td>52 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>150 hours</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><i>External</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Engagement with study materials</td> <td>90 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assignment preparation</td> <td>60 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>150 hours</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week.</p>	Contact hours	39 hours	Reading, study, and preparation	59 hours	Assignment preparation	52 hours	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 hours</b>	Engagement with study materials	90 hours	Assignment preparation	60 hours	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 hours</b>
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<b>Delivery mode</b>	Face-to-face on site External														
<b>Prerequisites/ Corequisites/ Restrictions</b>	<i>Prerequisites</i> 40 credit points of Social Sciences units														
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Demographic, political, educational, academic and marketing information are often presented in a processed way; where the raw data has been converted into statistics before publication. Increasingly, applied social sciences research publications include data that has been gathered and analysed using qualitative approaches, or mixed methodologies. Social sciences practitioners need to be able to interpret this information in meaningful ways.</p> <p>This unit aims to provide the student with a significant range of quantitative and qualitative analytical skills necessary to understand and evaluate the literature of their respective fields, as well as to experience and reflect upon important dimensions of the research process and the ethics of social sciences research.</p>														
<b>Prescribed text(s)</b>	Creswell, J. (2014). <i>Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches</i> (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.														

<p><b>Recommended readings</b></p>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <p>Kumar, R. (2011). <i>Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners</i> (3rd ed.). Melbourne, VIC, Australia: Addison Wesley Longman.</p> <p>Lukenchuk, A. (2013). <i>Paradigms of research for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Perspectives and examples from practice</i>. Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang International Academic.</p> <p>Rosenthal, J. A. (2011). <i>Statistics and data interpretation for social work</i>. New York, NY: Brooks Cole.</p> <p><b>Journals</b></p> <p><i>The Journal of Social Research</i></p> <p><i>The Journal of Social Research Methodology</i></p> <p>In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as The Holy Bible: The New International Version 2011 (NIV 2011) or The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV).</p> <p>These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at <a href="http://www.biblegateway.com">http://www.biblegateway.com</a>. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.</p>
<p><b>Specialist resource requirements</b></p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p><b>Content</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An overview of the research process</li> <li>2. Ethical issues in Social Sciences research</li> <li>3. Data, variables, and research design</li> <li>4. Sampling, collecting, and presenting data</li> <li>5. Qualitative and quantitative research</li> <li>6. Interpreting and evaluating quantitative research</li> <li>7. Interpreting and evaluating qualitative research</li> <li>8. Beyond the qualitative – quantitative divide</li> </ol>
<p><b>Learning outcomes</b></p>	<p>On completion of this unit, students will have demonstrated that they have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. understood the purposes, stages, and principles of effective research design;</li> <li>2. identified important ethical and Christian worldview dimensions of research practice;</li> <li>3. recognised the role of research methods in ensuring valid, useful and reliable data, and the need for consistency during each stage of the research process;</li> <li>4. applied principles to evaluate the validity, reliability, believability and usefulness of quantitative, qualitative and mixed method research studies;</li> <li>5. developed skills to critically evaluate research papers and reports as a reflective practitioner and for future learning; and</li> <li>6. communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammars, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing, and presentation.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Assessment tasks</b></p>	<p><b>Task 1: Research Proposal</b></p> <p>Identify a social research topic of personal interest and develop an accompanying proposal that includes: an hypothesis or research question, research design, sampling methodology, means of analysis, identification of ethical issues and evaluation of some relevant literature.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1,500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 30%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-3, 6</p> <p>Assessed: Week 7</p>

	<p><b>Task 2: Comparative Analysis</b></p> <p>Choose one quantitative and one qualitative study from the examples on the SO222 Moodle™ page. Review and evaluate each of the studies according to: Logic of the research, the literature review/introduction, research methodology, reporting of results and conclusions drawn.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 2,000 words</p> <p>Weighting: 40%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 2-6</p> <p>Assessed: Week 11</p> <p><b>Task 3: Research Report</b></p> <p>You will be given a description of a research study and all relevant collected data. From this, you are to analyse the data, discuss the results, draw conclusions, and make recommendations for further research.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1,500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 30%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-6</p> <p>Assessed: Week 13</p>
<p><b>Unit summary</b></p>	<p>This unit is designed to provide students with a broad exposure to the principles and forms of social sciences research. It provides students with a foundation in research design, methodology, ethical issues, data collection and data analysis. Students will gain experience in a range of qualitative and quantitative techniques, which can be used to carry out research into issues arising from their own settings, organisations, or wider professional activities.</p>

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