EDST5889

Minor Thesis

Term 2, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jae Jung	jae.jung@unsw.edu.au	Email to arrange an appointment	Morven Brown Building G27	

School Contact Information

School of Education
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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.

Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous UNSW's Indigenous strategy

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Workload

150 hours including class contact hours, readings, class preparation, assessment, follow up activities, etc.

Summary of the Course

In this course, you will have an opportunity to build on or extend interests developed in your specialist area of education by undertaking a self-directed minor thesis, supported by a supervising academic, in your area of specialisation. The minor thesis must demonstrate synthesis and application of knowledge and skills developed in coursework components of your specialisation to address a particular problem or issue.

This is a 12UOC course. You will enrol in 6UOC in two successive terms, with the result for the course reported at the end of the second 6UOC course.

Entry into this course is conditional on the following:

- The achievement of at least a WAM of 75 (or equivalent) in the Master of Education/ Master of Educational Leadership for courses studied up to the term immediately preceding the term in which EDST5889 is commenced (students must have completed 24UOC of study in the Master of Education/Master of Educational Leadership and the approved 6UOC research methods course prior to the commencement of EDST5889). For students who wish to study EDST5889 as part of the Educational Research specialisation of the Graduate Certificate in Education, a WAM of at least 75 (or equivalent) must be achieved in most recently completed degree.
- Successful performance in an interview where questions will be asked about the student's interest in, and commitment to, studies in research
- Availability of a suitable supervisor

The course provides students with the opportunity to complete an individual research project. Upon successful completion of the course and relevant program (i.e., Master of Education, Master of Educational Leadership or the Educational Research specialisation of the Graduate Certificate in Education), students may be eligible to be considered for entry into research degree programs (e.g., Ph.D.) at UNSW and other universities (subject to WAM and any other entry requirements of these research degree programs).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Specify a suitable topic for a minor thesis research project and justify its significance, relevance and feasibility.
2. Locate and critically evaluate a wide range of literature relevant to a topic of interest in education.
3. Use appropriate research methodology to obtain and analyse data in an investigation of a topic of interest in education.
4. Report and interpret the significance of the findings in relation to underlying theory and practice.

Teaching Strategies

Rationale: This course is being offered to provide students with an opportunity to undertake an independent supervised research project (equivalent to an honours thesis) in a specific area of their specialisation in education. The course will also enable students to develop a deeper reflective approach to education and demonstrate the ability to analyse, evaluate, synthesise and apply knowledge and skills from earlier stages of their program.

Teaching strategies: You will work independently and have access to a project supervisor throughout two consecutive terms. One-on-one meetings with supervisors may cover any issues relating to the conduct of an independent research project in your area of specialisation, including a review of the literature, the formulation of research questions, research design, ethical approval, research instruments, data collection, data analyses, interpretation of data analyses, and the write up of research.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Project proposal and report	100%	Refer to Moodle site	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Project proposal and report

Due date: Refer to Moodle site

A. Proposal

Length: 1,000 words

Formative feedback provided by your supervisor.

B. Report

Length: 12,000-15,000 words

Feedback provided within 10 days of submission.

A report in a form appropriate to the nature of the study. The report should be double-spaced and written in APA style.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

The due date will depend on whether this is the first or second term of the EDST5889 (Minor Thesis). For students in their first term, the Project Proposal is due in Week 3. For students in their second term, the Project Report is due in Week 11. Please refer to the Moodle site for precise due dates.

RUBRIC/FEEDBACK SHEET
EDST5889 MINOR THESIS
UNSW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Assessment Task 1: Project proposal and report

Specific Criteria	(-)——————————>(+)				
Understanding of the question or issue and the key concepts involved • understanding of the topic and its relationship to relevant areas of theory, research, and practice • clarity and significance of the aim of the study and the research questions					
Depth of analysis and critique in response to the task • alignment of methodology to the questions posed, including use of relevant ethical protocols • understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the method(s) for data collection and/or analysis in relation to the context and key questions. • credibility and depth of analysis and interpretation					
Familiarity with and relevance of professional and/or research literature used to support response • selection and range of key references in the area of the study • use of the relevant literature (both theoretical and methodological) to support the analysis and investigation of the key problem/issue					
Structure and organisation of response • appropriateness of overall structure of response • clarity and coherence of organization					

Specific Criteria	(-)——————————>(+)				

Presentation of response according to appropriate academic and linguistic conventions
 	
   • clarity, consistency, and appropriateness of conventions for quoting, paraphrasing, attributing sources of information, and listing references
 	
   • clarity and consistency in presenting the research study
 	
   • clarity and appropriateness of sentence structure, vocabulary use, spelling, punctuation, and word length					

General comments/recommendations for next time:					

Recommended: /20 (FL PS CR DN HD)   **Weighting:**   **100%**

NB: The ticks in the various boxes are designed to provide feedback to students; they are not given equal weight in determining the recommended grade. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, lecturers may also contextualise and/or amend these specific criteria. The recommended grade is tentative only, subject to standardisation processes and approval by the School of Education Learning and Teaching Committee.

Attendance Requirements

School of Education Attendance Requirement

The School of Education (SED) requires students meet a minimum attendance requirement of 80% of all scheduled classes (i.1. lectures, tutorials, workshops, seminars) for all courses. Attendance in person is required for tutorials, seminars, and workshops when course are delivered in face-to-face mode. It is the responsibility of students to ensure that their attendance is recorded for the face to face either by electronic means or via an attendance register. Attendance in online or blended mode will be assessed through digital. Further information can be found here.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date/Module	Type	Content
Week 1 of First Term	Module	During Week 1 of the First Term, view the orientation materials in Moodle to become familiar with the nature of the Minor Thesis. On or before Week 1, you will be allocated a supervisor with broad expertise in your area of interest.
Week 3 of First Term	Module	By Week 3 of the First Term, prepare your Project Proposal (1,000 words). The proposal should demonstrate the feasibility of your project in scholarly terms (e.g., conceptual approach, methods, research question) and practical terms (e.g., ability to complete the project within the time frame). Your supervisor will review the project proposal and provide advice on how to proceed.
Week 4 of Second Term	Module	By Week 4 of the Second Term, complete data collection for the proposed Project.
Week 11 of Second Term	Module	By Week 11 of the Second Term, submit the final Project Report.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Suggested resources

- Basit, T.N. (2010). *Conducting research in educational contexts.* New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.
- Cohen, L., Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2011). *Research methods in education.* London and New York: RoutledgeFalmer.
- Denscombe, M. (2002). *Ground rules for good research: A 10-point guide for social researchers.* Buckingham: Open University.
- MacLure, M. (2003). *Discourse in social and educational research.* Buckingham: Open University
- Yin, R.K. (2012) *Case study research: Design and methods.* London: Sage Publications.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback on the course should be forwarded to the course convenor by email.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library has [the ELISE tool](#) available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study. Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

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.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

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