



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
Global
University

Built Environment

BENV7020
Research Seminar



Course Outline – Term 2 & 3, 2020

Disclaimer

Information within this document is subject to change. The full and most accurate course outline will be available in Moodle closer to the start of the term in which the course is offered.

1. COURSE STAFF

Course Contact	Robert Freestone
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2. COURSE DETAILS

Credit Points	6 units of credit (uoc)
Workload	Approx. 150 hours including class contact hours, weekly individual and group online learning activities, readings, class preparation, and assessment activities.
Teaching Times and Location	Find details in timetable http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au

Description

This course helps prepare you to undertake research at the postgraduate degree level and is designed for all UNSW Built Environment postgraduate students undertaking research dissertations. The accent is on research design – the overall visioning and operationalization of your project in ways that respect academic best practice and pragmatic constraints on research (including time and resources).

The course is offered to different cohorts of higher degree research and masters coursework students, all of whom together attend several large group briefings alongside working within their degree programs. Robert Freestone (Planning) is the general convenor of the course and the all- student presentations. This work is complemented by small group sessions which are the responsibility of various degree coordinators. Students are advised to check carefully that the documentation and advice they are considering relates precisely to them.

Aims

The aim of the course is to provide a general introduction to research design and the range of methodologies used in built environment disciplines. Lectures provide guidance to students on strategies to identify and/or refine a research topic; articulation of a research problem/aim and research questions/objectives; dealing with the theoretical dimension, the selection and design of appropriate research methods; organising the presentation of your findings; and the importance of research integrity and ethical practices. The course looks for common issues across research disciplines regardless of topic or approach. It is not intended to cover in-depth any one particular research method or field. It is expected that each student will consult with and be ultimately guided by his/her convenor and supervisor as to the approach and methodology appropriate to their research project.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Explain the key rationale and steps of the research design process.
2. Articulate the critical interrelationships between research questions and objectives, literature reviews, conceptual frameworks, methods, and reporting of findings.
3. Justify research methods, data collection and analysis responsive to research objectives.
4. Develop a research proposal according to a formal framework.
Communicate a research proposal in a written statement and visual presentation.
5. Utilise research integrity principles and follow the procedures for securing ethics approvals.

3. ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Weight	CLOs Assessed
1. Draft proposal	25%	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Presentation	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3. Developed Proposal	55%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

4. COURSE IMPROVEMENT AND FEEDBACK

Feedback from students is an integral part of improving courses and teaching approaches. One of the primary mechanisms of feedback is myExperience, which we strongly urge all students to complete at the end of term. Course convenors use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. This is communicated in Moodle in the myFeedback Matters page.