

Information Sciences Research Methodology - 6797

Unit Outline Semester 2, 2009

Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering

University of Canberra

*Australian Government Higher Education (CRICOS)
Registered Provider number: #00212K*

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This Unit Outline must be read in conjunction with:

- a) *Studying at the University of Canberra: A Guide to Policies and Procedures*, which sets out University-wide policies and procedures, including information on matters such as plagiarism, grade descriptors, moderation, feedback and deferred exams, and is available at <http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services>
- b) *Guide to Student Services at the University of Canberra*, and is available at <http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services>
- c) Any additional information specified in section 6f.

1: General Information

- 1a Unit title:** Information Sciences Research Methodology PG
- 1b Unit number:** 6797
- 1c Semester and year offered:** Semester 2 2009
- 1d Credit point value:** 3
- 1e Unit level:** P
- 1f Name of Unit Convener and contact details (including telephone and email)**
A/Prof John Campbell, Room 11C14
T: 62015478
E: John.Campbell@canberra.edu.au
- 1g Administrative contact details (including name, location, telephone and email)**
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2: Academic Content

2a Unit description and learning outcomes

Syllabus

This unit introduces the nature of research and examines the various research approaches, methods and techniques that are applicable in information sciences research. It discusses the scientific, interpretivist, engineering and non-empirical forms of research; techniques of data collection (experiment, field work, survey, case study, artefact construction) and data analysis; and research issues such as research validity, reliability, triangulation, generalization and limitations.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit students will be able to discuss issues of research and knowledge creation. They will be able to evaluate the appropriateness of research methodologies to various research problems and design a research program. They will be able to evaluate research proposals.

2b Prerequisites and/or co-requisites

Nil - enrolment with permission of unit convenor

3: Delivery of Unit and Timetable

3a Delivery mode

This unit will be delivered in on campus in standard semesters with a weekly seminar & discussion session.

3b Schedule of topics/lectures/tutorials/practicals/field classes by week

See Study Guide on the website.

4: Unit Resources

4a Lists of required texts/readings

Nil - See website for references.

4b Materials and equipment

No special requirements.

4c Unit website

The unit website is accessible from <http://learnonline.canberra.edu.au/>
Students are advised to regularly check the subject website for the latest information on the subject material and other information including important announcements.

5: Assessment

5a Assessment overview

Assessment Item (including exams held in the exam period)	Due Date of Assignments	Weighting (total to equal 100%)
1. Review of Research Method	To be agreed	25%
2. Critique of the Method used in a Project	"	25%
3. Methodology Chapter of your Thesis	"	50%

5b Details of each assessment item

See unit website for details.

5c Special assessment requirements

Your grade is determined by the sum of your marks for each of your assessment items. Your final grade for the unit will be determined as follows:

Overall Mark	Grade
50% or greater	At least Pass (P)
65% or greater	At least Credit (CR)
75% or greater	At least Distinction (DI)
85% or greater	High Distinction (HD)

5d Supplementary assessment

There will be no supplementary assessment / examination in this unit.

5e Text-matching software

Text-matching software from an external service (such as Turnitin) may be used to check for plagiarism.

6: Student Responsibility

6a Workload

The amount of time you will need to spend on study in this Unit will depend on a number of factors including your prior knowledge, learning skill level and learning style. Nevertheless, in planning your time commitments you should note that for a 3cp Unit the total notional workload over the fifteen week semester is assumed to be 150 hours or an average of 10 hours per week. These hours include time spent in classes. The total workload for Units of different credit point value should vary proportionally. For example, for a 6cp Unit the total notional workload over a fifteen week semester is assumed to be 300 hours or an average of 20 hours per week.

6b Special needs

Students who need assistance in undertaking the unit because of disability or other circumstances should inform their Unit Convener or the Disabilities Office as soon as possible so the necessary arrangements can be made.

- 6c Attendance requirements**
You are strongly advised to attend all lectures and fully participate in seminars.
- 6d Required IT skills**
You are expected to be a competent computer user.
- 6e Costs**
Nil
- 6f Additional information**
Sources of other information will be announced in lectures and the unit website. Announcements made at lectures or posted to the subject website are deemed to have been made to all students.

7: Student Feedback

All students enrolled in this Unit will have an opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on the Unit at the end of the Semester via the Unit Satisfaction Survey which will be presented to you on OSIS. Your lecturer or tutor may also invite you to provide more detailed feedback on their teaching through an anonymous in-class questionnaire administered through the University's Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC).

8: Authority of this Unit Outline

Any change to the information contained in Section 2 (Academic content), Section 3 (Delivery of Unit and timetable) and Section 5 (Assessment) of this document, will only be made by the Unit Convener if the written agreement of staff and a majority of students has been obtained; and if written advice of the change is then forwarded to each student enrolled in the Unit at their registered term address. Any individual student who believes him/herself to be disadvantaged by a change is encouraged to discuss the matter with the Unit Convener.