



SUBJECT OUTLINE

Subject Name:

Foundations of Critical Enquiry

Subject Code:

SOCQ121

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Award/s:	Total Course Credit Points:	Level:
Bachelor of Health Science (Acupuncture)	128	1 st Year
Bachelor of Health Science (Chinese Medicine)	128	2 nd Year
Bachelor of Health Science (Naturopathy)	128	1 st Year
Bachelor of Health Science (Acupuncture Therapies)	96	2 nd Year
Bachelor of Health Science (Myotherapy)	96	1 st Year
Bachelor of Health Science (Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine)	96	1 st Year
Bachelor of Complementary Medicine	48	3 rd Year
Diploma of Health Science	32	1 st Year
Duration:	1 Semester	
Subject is:	Core	Subject Credit Points: 2

Student Workload:

No. timetabled hours per week: 3	No. personal study hours per week: 2	Total hours per week: 5
Delivery Mode*:		
<input type="checkbox"/> On campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online / Digital	<input type="checkbox"/> Blended
		<input type="checkbox"/> Intensive
Weekly Session^ Format/s - 1 session per week:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eLearning modules:	Lectures: Interactive adaptive online learning modules Tutorials: can include asynchronous tutor moderated discussion forum and activities, learning journal activities or other web-based resources	
<p>*All modes are supported by the online learning management system which will include subject documents such as handouts, readings and assessment guides.</p> <p>^A 'session' is made up of 3 hours of timetabled / online study time per week unless otherwise specified. Each subject has a set number of sessions as outlined above.</p>		
Study Pattern:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Time
Pre-requisites:	Nil	
Co-requisites:	Nil	



SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Subject Rationale

The application of evidence to inform practice in health care requires an understanding of research designs and analytic methods, as well as traditional forms of knowledge. This subject introduces different types and methodologies of research and their strengths and weaknesses as related to the complementary medicine and health sciences. Students will be introduced to the significance of personal values and motivation in the research process. Students will explore the range of clinical research and research methods and become familiar with research literature in relation to specific therapeutic modalities, including the ethics involved, different approaches used, and the assumptions and underlying paradigms. Students will be able to appreciate the importance of the research question, the method appropriate for answering that question and the quality of the research process. This is a foundational subject for the later study of all degrees.

Learning Outcomes

1. Describe research paradigms and associated research design and methodologies taking into account traditional and contemporary research evidence.
2. Identify a professional practice area of interest or an issue and incorporate knowledge of the research process.
3. Describe the nature of research including the ethics involved, different approaches utilised, and the assumptions underlying these approaches.
4. Identify the key features in qualitative and/or quantitative statistical techniques appropriate to a particular research design.

Assessment Tasks

Type	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Session Content Delivered	Due	Weighting
Research Question (750 words)	1 & 2	1-3	Week 5	20%
Review of Quantitative Methodology (1000 words)	3 & 4	4-7	Week 8	40%
Review of Qualitative Methodology (1000 words)	3 & 4	4, 8-12	Week 13	40%

All written assessments are due at 11:55 p.m. (AEST) Sunday and submitted through the LMS.

Students are required to submit all assessment items with a value of greater than 15% to be eligible to receive a passing grade.



Prescribed Reading:

Creswell, J.W., & Creswell, J.D. (2023). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches* (6th ed.). SAGE.

Recommended Readings:

Greenhalgh, T. (2019). *How to read a paper: The basics of evidence-based medicine and healthcare* (6th ed.). John Wiley [[ebook available](#)]

Lewith, G., Jones, W.B., & Walach, H. (2010). *Clinical research in complementary therapies: Principles, problems and solutions* (2nd ed.). Elsevier Health Sciences. [[ebook available](#)]

Patton, M. (2015). *Qualitative research and evaluation methods* (4th ed.). Sage Publications.

Wallace, B.A. (2006). *The attention revolution: Unlocking the power of the focused mind*. Wisdom Publications. [[ebook available](#)]

Subject Content

Week	Lectures	Tutorials / Practicals
1.	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Subject Outline / Subject Aims / Assessment / Teaching Resources ➤ Overview and expectations of the subject ➤ Types of knowledge and ways of knowing ➤ Introduction to data based searching skills ➤ The Four Fold Vision Quest included 	<p>Activities are developed to allow the students to explore relevant concepts, expand on ideas and have peer and lecturer interaction. Activities also allow for formative assessment and feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Four Fold Vision Quest workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ “This is a secular meditation, designed to cultivate conative intelligence, inspired by principles of Buddhist psychology” (B. A. Wallace, personal communication, May 15, 2019). ➤ Introduction to the assessments
2.	Introduction to a Discipline of Inquiry; Research Problems and Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The importance of Epistemology ➤ Scientific knowledge and the scientific method ➤ Traditional use and evidence ➤ Research approaches ➤ Qualitative methods ➤ Quantitative methods ➤ Mixed Methods ➤ The Hierarchy of Evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The impact of a researcher's training, experience and personal values in the research process ➤ Developing a research question
3.	Introduction to Competing Paradigms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of Research Methodologies ➤ What is Positivism? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nature and purpose of ethical considerations ➤ Evidence sourcing



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Positivist Research; what are its goals ➤ Positivist research; what are its basic assumptions ➤ Positivist Research; what are its methods ➤ What is meant by Interpretivist? ➤ Interpretivist research; what are its goals. ➤ Interpretivist research; what are its basic assumptions. ➤ Interpretivist research; what are its methods. 	
4.	Introduction to Research Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ethics as a requirement for approved research ➤ Introduction to ethics and moral philosophy ➤ Ethics in research ➤ Key elements to consider in ethics ➤ Informed consent ➤ Confidentiality ➤ Minimise harms and risks and maximise benefits ➤ Respect human dignity ➤ Privacy and autonomy ➤ Vulnerable populations ➤ Strive to distribute the benefits and burdens of research fairly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Library Session online (or equivalent in class) narrated presentation ➤ Referencing activity
5.	Evaluating Research Validity and Credibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ P values ➤ Confidence intervals ➤ Standard deviations ➤ Simple statistics ➤ Mean, median and mode ➤ Figures, charts and diagnostic tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Using given criteria, please evaluate competing research article. ➤ Evidence sourcing
6.	Quantitative Research Methods I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research Skill Development (RSD) ➤ Overview of the quantitative research process ➤ Writing research questions ➤ The Literature Review ➤ Methodologies ➤ Pilot Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Workshop quantitative research question and measurements ➤ Evidence sourcing
7.	Quantitative Research Methods II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quantitative research question ➤ Data Collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing criteria check list for evaluating such qualitative research ➤ Evidence sourcing



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data analysis ➤ Results ➤ Conclusions of the research 	
NON-TEACHING WEEK (note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week) Semester 1 – This aligns with the week after Easter so it may fall between Weeks 6 to 8 Semester 2 & Online students – The non-teaching week falls between Weeks 7 and 8		
8.	Qualitative Research Methodology I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of the qualitative research process ➤ Writing qualitative research questions ➤ Answering qualitative research question ➤ Sampling ➤ Negotiating access ➤ Data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student exercise in writing a qualitative research memo ➤ Evidence sourcing
9.	Qualitative Research Methodology II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coding ➤ Content Analysis ➤ Thematic Analysis ➤ Interpretation ➤ Accuracy and Quality ➤ Criteria of Evaluation ➤ Evaluating the method ➤ Evaluating the Results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student exercise in writing qualitative research question ➤ Evidence sourcing
10.	Research into Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The evidence based medical framework and its limitations ➤ Criticisms of complementary medicine ➤ Written communication styles ➤ Complementary medicine and its relation to morality, ethics and the law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scenario based exercise: Assessing appropriateness of methods and research design
11.	Data Collection and Research Results in Small Scale Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Case study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Phenomenological inquiry ➤ Narrative Analysis Hermeneutics ➤ Symbolic Interaction ➤ System Theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scenario based exercise: Case study
12.	Reflection, Insight, and Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Critiques of evidence based medicine ➤ Generating new insight: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Analyse research and interpret research results ➤ Evaluation



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Four Fold Vision Quest included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Four Fold Vision Quest workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ “This is a secular meditation, designed to cultivate conative intelligence, inspired by principles of Buddhist psychology” (B. A. Wallace, personal communication, May 15, 2019).
13.	No teaching – Review week	
14.	Non-Teaching Week/Practical Examination Week 1 Note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week	
15.	Non-Teaching Week/Practical Examination Week 2 Note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week	
16.	Final Examination Week 1 There is no final exam for this subject	
17.	Final Examination Week 2 There is no final exam for this subject	