MN3202 – Research Methods 2

MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER: Junior Honours/Core (20 Credits)/Semester 2

CO-REQUISITE(S): MN3201

MODULE REQUIRED FOR: MN4301

MODULE CO-ORDINATOR: Dr Lisi Gordon

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AIM:
This module builds on the material from MN3201. It consolidates key research competencies in problem definition, literature review, project management and study design. These competencies will be further developed using a combination of class lectures, skills sessions, progress meetings, one-on-one work with members of staff and self-directed research. Students are expected to explore library research techniques, including the use of electronic resources in research; literature analysis and synthesis; research problem formulation; and the preparation of clear and focused proposals. Upon successful attainment of these objectives students may choose to proceed to implement their proposals as dissertations through MN4301 in their final year, provided they have a mark of 14 or above for MN3202.

METHOD OF TEACHING & LEARNING:
There are four two-hour lectures (Weeks 1-4) and one discussion session (Week 9).

From Week 4 onwards: students are expected to meet regularly with their supervisors to discuss the development and progress of their proposals. There will be at least 3 of these meetings to be arranged at mutually agreeable times.

Throughout the 11 weeks of the module, the Module Co-ordinator will be available to students by appointment.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the module, students should be able to:
• Construct and articulate a clear research proposal on a relevant topic: using appropriate methodology and research methods.
• Identify and reflect on ethical issues and responsible conduct in research.
• Communicate confidently and constructively with peers and academic supervisors
• Work autonomously in an effective manner, setting and meeting project deadlines.

**INDICATIVE TOPIC OUTLINE:**

**Lecture Topics:**

Week 1  Introduction to Constructing a Research Project  
*The research process, identifying topics, developing research questions*

Week 2  Building on Relevant Research  
*Finding, reviewing and synthesizing the literature*

Week 3  Identifying Appropriate Research Methods  
*Data Collection, data analysis, ethical considerations*

Week 4  Communicating your Research Findings  
*Writing your dissertation, research impact*

**Self-Directed Learning:**

Week 1  Identify topic of Interest

Week 2  Develop a research question and initial project idea

Week 3  Deadline for submission of draft proposal

Week 4  Contact supervisor to arrange appointment

Week 5  Substantive discussion with supervisor on project scope and key milestones

Week 7  Submission of detailed draft literature review to supervisor

Week 9  Submission of draft methodology to supervisor

Weeks 10  Progress and completion to be discussed with supervisor

Week 11  Submission of research proposal

**ASSESSMENT:**

A 6,000 word research proposal forms 100% of the marks for this module.  
This proposal will incorporate a critically engaged literature review pertinent to the proposed area of research; and a review of the methodological/methods literature, leading to a proposed methodology and methods approach pertinent to the proposed study.  
Your proposal will be first marked by your supervisor and second marked by another member of academic staff.

**CORE READING LIST:**

There is no set textbook for this module. The following texts will give some essential background as well as providing an introduction to many of the areas covered in the course.
However, students are expected to identify additional reading on their own initiative and as guided by their supervisor. Students will also refer to notes from MN3201.


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For those students intending to proceed to MN4301: Research Project, the School acknowledges that the presentation of work for that module will almost certainly contain material previously submitted for MN3202: Research Methods 2, namely aspects of the Literature Review and the Methodology. Students will not therefore be penalised for this inclusion, where it occurs, under the terms of the University’s Academic Misconduct Policy.