

207-512 Social Research Methods

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| Credit Points: | 12.50 |
| Level: | 9 (Graduate/Postgraduate) |
| Time Commitment: | Contact Hours: 36 hours of lectures and workshops (3 hours per week) Total Time Commitment: Not available |
| Prerequisites: | Eligibility for honours or postgraduate degree |
| Corequisites: | None |
| Recommended Background Knowledge: | None |
| Non Allowed Subjects: | None |
| Core Participation Requirements: | It is University policy to take all steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. This course requires all students to enrol in subjects where they must actively and safely contribute to laboratory activities and field trips. Students who feel their disability will impact on meeting this requirement are encouraged to discuss this matter with the Subject Coordinator and Disability Liaison Unit. |
| Subject Overview: | Understanding of social process and action is critical to effective land management and social research skills are therefore valued by resource management agencies. The subject aims to equip students with knowledge and skills to design social research which can be used to improve management of natural resources, agricultural and food systems. The research process is considered step by step including scoping research issues, the evolution of research questions, and selection of appropriate methods. A number of research strategies are considered in more detail including survey research, case studies and action research. Social research ethics, quality in social research, the relationship between theory and methods, and advances in social research methods are examined. |
| Assessment: | A literature review of 3000 words (40%) – by week 8, a research proposal of 3000 words (40%) – by week 10 and a 15 minute seminar presentation (20%) – week 12 . |
| Prescribed Texts: | None |
| Breadth Options: | This subject is not available as a breadth subject. |
| Fees Information: | Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees |
| Generic Skills: | <p>A profound respect for truth, intellectual and professional integrity, and the ethics of scholarship</p> <p>Capacity for independent critical thought, rational inquiry and self-directed learning and research</p> <p>An ability to derive, interpret and analyse social, technical or economic information from primary and other sources</p> <p>Awareness of and ability to utilise appropriate communication technology and methods for the storage, management and analysis of data</p> <p>Capacity for creativity and innovation, through the application of skills and knowledge</p> <p>Ability to integrate information across a relevant discipline to solve problems in applied situations</p> <p>Highly developed computer - based skills to allow for effective on-line learning and communication.</p> <p>Highly developed written communication skills to allow informed dialogue with individuals and groups from industry, government and the community</p> <p>Highly developed oral communication skills to allow informed dialogue and liaison with individuals and groups from industry, government and the community.</p> <p>Appreciation of social and cultural diversity from a regional to a global context</p> <p>Ability to participate effectively as a member of a team</p> <p>Ability to plan work, use time effectively and manage small projects</p> |
| Related Course(s): | Master of Agricultural Science |

Master of Animal Science
Master of Forest Ecosystem Science
Postgraduate Diploma in Agricultural Science
Postgraduate Diploma in Animal Science and Management