

NRMT40005 Social Research Methods

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	4 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2010, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, Parkville - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: Thirty-five hours of lectures and workshops, offered in block mode Total Time Commitment: Not available
Prerequisites:	Nil
Corequisites:	Nil
Recommended Background Knowledge:	Nil
Non Allowed Subjects:	Nil
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Coordinator:	Assoc Prof Ruth Beilin, Dr Kathryn Williams
Contact:	Dr Kathryn Williams Email: kjhw@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:kjhw@unimelb.edu.au) Phone: 9250 6824 Dr Ruth Beilin Email: rbeilin@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:rbeilin@unimelb.edu.au) Phone: 8344 5009
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 and advances in social research methods are examined.
Objectives:	The aim of this unit is to assist students to develop an: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # understanding of the process of social research # ability to select appropriate methodological frameworks and to match research tools to these approaches # understanding of ethical considerations in social research # ability to prepare research proposals

Assessment:	Assignment: Developing research questions – 250 words, 15% of final mark. Essay: Qualitative and quantitative approaches to a research project–1500 words. 40% of final mark. Research Proposal - 2000 words, 45% of final mark
Prescribed Texts:	Seale, C. (2004). Social Research Methods: A Reader. London/NewYork: Routledge Student Readers. Bryman, A. (2004) Social Research Methods. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2nd edition)
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:	N/A
Related Course(s):	Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours) Bachelor of Agriculture (Honours) Bachelor of Agriculture (Honours) Bachelor of Animal Science and Management with Honours Bachelor of Food Science (Honours) Bachelor of Forest Science (Honours) Bachelor of Horticulture (Honours) Bachelor of Natural Resource Management with Honours