



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND HEALTH

HLTH 521: Research Methods

30 POINTS
TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: Tuesday 25 October 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

SECTION 1: OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Class times and locations

1st School

Dates: Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 July 2016
Times: 0900 - 1630 daily
Venue: CS801, Level 8, Clinical Services Building (CSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

2nd School

Dates: Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 September 2016
Times: 0900 - 1630 daily
Venue: CS801, Level 8, Clinical Services Building (CSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

Important Notice

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health at Victoria University of Wellington, uses all reasonable skill and care in an effort to ensure the information and course content information contained in this outline is accurate at the time of going to print.

Students should be aware, however, that in the event course timetables and venues need to be changed, all attempts will be made to notify the students.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Dr Martin Woods
Ph: 04 463 5034
Email: martin.woods@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Thursdays 1.00 – 4.00pm or by appointment

Administrator

Ph: 04 463 5363
Email: nmh@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Office Hours

The Graduate School office will be open 09.00 – 4.00pm weekdays from Tuesday 5 January 2016 and close on Thursday 22 December 2016.

Please contact the course coordinator directly either by telephone or email should you wish to make an appointment or discuss course related issues.

Postal Address

Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health
Victoria University of Wellington
P O Box 7625
Newtown
Wellington 6242

Physical Address

Level 7, Clinical Services Block (CSB)
Wellington Regional Hospital
Riddiford St, Newtown
Wellington 6021

Communication of additional information

All course information and information on changes that occur during the course will be conveyed to students via Blackboard or student email.

SECTION 2: COURSE INFORMATION

Prescription

This course will focus on modes and methods of scholarly inquiry in health research. The development of skills in formulating questions, research design, research interviewing, questionnaire design and analysis will be included. The course provides a platform for the completion of a research project.

Course content

Particular focus is paid to methods of social and human science inquiry. Methodologies for studying human phenomena of health and illness experiences, nursing interventions, midwifery practice and health outcomes will be introduced. In addition to considering a range of research from practice, students will learn about research processes including applying for ethical approval, interviewing, and data or findings analysis.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Critically examine suitable literature and describe gaps in knowledge/potential research topics in identified areas of health care.
2. Describe and critique a wide variety of research approaches, methodologies and methods.
3. Construct a feasible research proposal which addresses an identified research question and pays particular attention to ethical and Treaty of Waitangi implications.

Teaching format

This course is delivered via 2 face-to-face seminar type block Schools at the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health. The days will be a mix of lectures and small group activities. A distance component supported by Blackboard forms part of the course and supports students achieving their learning objectives.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Attend all Schools unless under special circumstances prior arrangements have been made with the course coordinator. This course has guest presenters with specialist knowledge and experience in research methods, who present and engage in discussion with students, and students are expected to participate in group work which informs their development of a research project.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

As a guide each 30-point course at the Graduate School requires students to allocate approximately 10 hours per point for self-directed study, research, assessments and attendance at Schools. Consequently, 300 hours should be spread evenly over the full year.

This course comprises approximately 40 hours of course contact time for lectures. The amount of time you should notionally assign to the completion for each of the assignments is as follows:

1. Assignment one: Literature review (50%): 130 hours
2. Assignment two: Research proposal (50%): 130 hours.

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Written assignment: Literature review (4000 words)	50%	1, 2	19 August 2016
2	Written assignment: Research proposal (4000 words)	50%	2, 3	25 October 2016

Marking criteria for each assessment will be made available on Blackboard.

Assignment one

Assignment: **Literature review**

Due Date: Friday 19 August 2016

Word Count: Maximum 4000 words including references

This assignment is worth 50% of your final grade

This assignment requires you to identify a potential research topic area and achieve the first steps of the research process.

First, identify your area of interest, explaining why it is of interest to you. Next, search the literature relating to this area of interest, and critically discuss what you find, identifying what is known, and where the gaps in knowledge exist.

Next, generate several researchable questions stemming from the gaps identified in the literature. Discuss these questions with your supervisor in preparation for developing a research proposal/protocol.

This assignment meets learning objectives: 1 & 2.

Please submit this assignment via Turnitin/Blackboard.

Assignment two

Assignment: **Research proposal**

Due Date: Tuesday 25 October 2016

Word Count: maximum 4000 words including references

This assignment is worth 50% of your final grade

This assignment requires you to identify a potential research topic and submit a viable research proposal. Please discuss your research topic with the course coordinator during the first School. The assignment requires that you consider the various initial phases of the research process.

The assignment will consist of:

1. Introducing the proposed research topic.
2. An analysis of what is known in the area based on a critique of the research/evidence, and should conclude with a summary of knowledge gaps, indicating where further research is needed. It also needs to include outlining the search strategy you have employed for this aspect of the assignment.
3. A clearly articulated justification and rationale for undertaking a research study on the proposed topic.
4. You need to identify a research question or hypothesis, and associated project aims.
5. You need to choose an appropriate research approach for the proposed research project. An outline of at least two possible research approaches should be offered, before a final overview of the chosen research approach for your project where you should provide an explanation and justify your choice.
6. Propose a method or design for your research project. This needs to include: the data collection approach, recruitment strategy, and proposed method of analysis.
7. Discuss the ethical issues that may arise from your proposed research.
8. Consider and discuss the Treaty of Waitangi considerations and obligations.
9. Discuss how you plan to address rigour/validity in your research project.
10. Include a full list of all cited references.

This assignment meets learning objective: 2 & 3.

Please submit this assignment via Turnitin/Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

For submission details, please see individual assessment items. Student coursework assignments submitted by the due date will normally be returned with feedback within three weeks of the due date.

Extensions

An extension to a deadline will only be considered where there are extenuating circumstances. An application for an extension must be made by you in writing/e-mail to the course coordinator at least 24 hours before the due date. When communicating your request you must include the following information:

- name, student number and contact details
- course code
- date of submission and request date for new submission
- reason for extension request.

Upon receipt of your request, course coordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks. Any further request for an extension may require Head of School approval.

Penalties

Late assignments or assignments with extensions may be subject to delays in marking and may not receive comprehensive feedback.

A penalty will be incurred for late submission of work **where no prior arrangement** has been made as follows:

- Work submitted up to 7 days after the due date without an extension will receive a 2 grade penalty. For example a B+ to a B-.
- Work submitted 8-14 days after the due date without an extension will receive a 4 grade penalty. For example a B+ to a C.
- Work submitted more than 15 days late without an extension will not be marked and will receive an 'E' (fail) grade.

Other marking penalties

Assignments may also be penalised for poor presentation and for exceeding or being below the word limit by 10%.

SECTION 4: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Set texts

There is no set text for this course.

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. The most significant change this year is that Assignment Two has been adjusted to reflect the perceived need of students to practice preparing the necessary elements of a research project submission.

Please note: You are also strongly encouraged to submit formal feedback at the end of the trimester. You will be notified of this request in good time via Blackboard.

Existing student feedback on University courses may be found at:

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Ethics conduct

Students are expected to adhere to ethical principles in all aspects of their coursework. This applies to academic integrity and also to the way information about, or from, individuals in the practice setting is managed. Good ethical practice must be maintained in all learning activities. The Human Ethics Committee at Victoria University of Wellington has granted approval for the incorporation of data or observations from patient/client/individuals into coursework from the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, and expects adherence to the instructions below.

Students are expected to adhere to their professional codes of conduct and standards, relevant legislative frameworks and contractual obligations to any employing organisation at all times. In addition, all students in classes where assignments might include observations, reports, images, photographs or descriptions of individuals (patients or colleagues) with whom they have worked in a clinical or practice setting as part of an assignment, must:

1. Read and sign the "Information for using individual data in an assignment: Student agreement statement"
2. Determine whether verbal or written informed consent is required, according to the guidelines provided in the student agreement statement and in consultation with their course coordinator if they are unsure;
3. Provide the patient/client/individual, or the parent/guardian of the child, whose data they intend to use with full information about how they intend to obtain and use the data;
4. Provide written information and obtain written informed consent if required.

Should students have any concerns about ethical aspects of their course requirements they should discuss them with the course coordinator.

Your Course Coordinator will discuss the ethical implications and special requirements (if any) for this particular course.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)

- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Blackboard Information

Students enrolling for this course will need regular internet access to engage with the online Victoria learning platform (Blackboard).

Blackboard is an online environment that supports teaching and learning at Victoria by making course information, materials and learning activities available online. Blackboard provides web-based access to course content, assessment, communication and collaboration tools.

How to log onto Blackboard

- Open a web browser and go to <https://my.vuw.ac.nz/>
- Enter your student username which you will find in your *Confirmation of Study* sent via email. It is usually made up of 6 letters of your last name and 4 letters of your first name e.g. Bart Simpson's username would be 'simpsobart'
- Enter your password. If you have never logged in before your initial password should be 'Vuw' followed by a hyphen and your student ID number e.g. Vuw-123456789
- Click on the Blackboard icon
- Alternatively, if you want to access Blackboard without going through the myVictoria portal, just log on at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>

Off Campus access

Blackboard is available from any location where you can access the Internet. This may be your home, work or an internet café.

Problems with access? Contact ITS service desk **04 463 5050**