BCM 307

Capstone Research Project B

S2 External 2014

Indigenous Studies - Warawara

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Susan Page
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Contact via Email/phone
Room 324 in W3A
Monday 3-4 or by appointment

Credit points
6

Prerequisites
BCM306 and 21cp in BCM units at 100 level and 21cp in BCM units at 200 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Using the learning contract method developed for BCM200, students design, negotiate and undertake an individual study project which is personally and professionally relevant and consistent with the aims of the Bachelor of Community Management.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .

Develop a set of research aims and question for investigation.

Present a research overview and appropriately respond to questions.

Communicate complex research concepts clearly.

Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.

Undertake research that adheres to ethical guidelines of AIATSIS and NHMRC.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Research Proposal (1500 words)	30%	Monday 15th, September
Oral presentation	20%	To be negotiated.
Capstone Project	50%	Monday 17th November 2014

Research Proposal (1500 words)

Due: **Monday 15th, September**
Weighting: **30%**

The research proposal is an integral component to all research projects. This task can be viewed as quite difficult or overwhelming for those who are new to research. Breaking the study down into smaller sections makes the overall task appear less daunting and become more manageable. Designing your research also provides an avenue for you to unpack your ideas and identify areas where there may be gaps in terms of understanding and development. In short, the research proposal is a means of planning and structuring your research.

In your capstone project you will need to demonstrate that you have a good understanding of what it is that you intend to research and most importantly – how you intend to go about it. The following headings should guide your thinking and are standard in most research proposals. However, if there are any additional headings you believe are integral to your research you may include them in the research proposal.

COMPONENTS OF A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

· *Title*

 Provide a short title for your Capstone. If you can, give it a memorable/catchy title.

 e.g. Leading Torres Strait Islander academic Martin Nakata wrote a book called '*Disciplining the savages: Savaging the Disciplines*.'

 You need to also be careful not to use a title that is misleading i.e. the old classic '*The catcher in the rye*' led some people to think it was about baseball. It wasn't!

· *Introduction* (approx. 100 words)

 Provide a brief introduction to the capstone. Provide a brief background about your research topic without going directly into what you plan to do. Here you need to include some references!

· *Research Aim /Questions* (approx. 50 words)

 Describe the key aims of the capstone. What questions do you seek to answer?

 e.g. This study aims to:

1.   Identify successful strategies and practices for the supervision of Indigenous Australian

doctoral candidates.

2.   Establish a model of best practice for the supervision of Indigenous Australian doctoral students.

Hint: Pay particular attention to the first word in each aim i.e. identify, establish, develop.

·   *Significance*(approx. 100 words)

Explain why your research will be significant. All research should anticipate some benefits. This could be through practical benefits such as creating new opportunities for people, or theoretical benefits such as new knowledge that can be shared with communities, scholars, and so on.

·   *Literature Review* (approx. 300 words)

Explain the types of literature you will be looking for – what topic areas will you be covering? List all sources that you believe are relevant to your Capstone Project.

For example if you were to be researching the topic "Capstone projects written by Indigenous Australian undergraduate students" you would need to locate literature in the following areas – Indigenous Australian participation in higher education; capstone projects (including the benefits, processes and evaluation); and perhaps research projects written by Indigenous people throughout the world.

Your literature review needs to convince the reader/examiner that you are well versed in what others have done in your field (in the broader sense).

·   *Methodology* (approx. 150 words)

Here you need to convince the reader that you have a clear process in terms of how you will go about your research. You need to describe in detail the steps you will take in the capstone. For instance:

Ø How will you collect your data? Will you be relying on publicly accessible information (such as literature or archival evidence), stories from the past that have been told to you, your own personal experiences, participants, etc....

Ø Here you also need to mention details relating to participants (if you plan to have any) including recruitment, numbers and demographic .

Ø Data collection – Will you be recording the data, if so how (audio, visual etc)?

Note: Remember the AIATSIS and NHMRC Ethics Guidelines when writing your methodology.

·   *Ethical Issues* (approx. 75 words)

Describe any ethical dilemmas you may have in undertaking your Capstone. Will you be submitting an ethics application? Explain the reasons behind this decision. If you decide not to apply for formal ethics approval, how will you ensure that the research is carried out in an ethical manner?

·   *Timeline* (approx. 75 words)

Provide a detailed summary of your plan to undertake your Capstone project. Include in the timeline aspects such as:

·   The trip to Central Australia (if there are particularly things you would like to achieve or do while in Central Australia make a note of it).

·   Conducting a comprehensive literature review.

·   Data analysis.

·   Writing your Capstone. Here you need to break this down into timelines for each chapter in your capstone.

·   *Expected Outcomes* (approx. 75 words)

Here you need to mention details about the expected outcomes. If for instance, you expect that the Capstone will be transformed in a report for your workplace and that this will lead to significant changes in your organisation then list that here.

·   *Communication of Results* (approx. 75 words)

It is normal practice for research results to be disseminated to research participants and academic peers. Explain how you plan to communicate the results of your Capstone project.

·   *References*

Provide at least 10 references.

Note: A one mark per day penalty will apply for late submissions.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .
- Develop a set of research aims and question for investigation.
- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.

Oral presentation

Due: **To be negotiated.**
Weighting: **20%**

You are required to each provide a 10 minute presentation on their Capstone Project. The research proposal (developed for assessment 1) should assist your presentation in terms of sharing key components of the research such as:

- Background
- Aims
- Significance
- Methodology

You are required to provide an interesting and engaging presentation about your research in the allocated time period. Prepare your presentation as if you were giving a presentation at a

conference.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop a set of research aims and question for investigation.
- Present a research overview and appropriately respond to questions.
- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.

Capstone Project

Due: **Monday 17th November 2014**
Weighting: **50%**

Develop a 5,000 - 6,000 word Capstone Project based on your Research Proposal

Task -

This assessment task requires students to undertake a 5,000 - 6,000 word research project in an area that is of interest. Ultimately the choice of topic is up to you, though it is important to discuss your topic with the unit convenor. The research proposal developed in assessment 1 will assist you in the development of the capstone project. Using the headings from your proposal to complete the Capstone report.

Presentation -

The design of the project is important as it needs to flow smoothly from one section to the next. You should make it enticing for someone to read. Think about the overall layout of the project. Be sure to use headings and break the project up into chapters. Include a title page, table of contents etc. Make it look as professional as you possibly can.

Style -

Please ensure that the following format is used:

- 12 point font (unless a heading)
- Double line space (to allow room for markers comments)
- Page numbers
- Times new roman, calibri, or arial font

Content –

Remember to adhere to the ethical guidelines provided by the NHMRC and AIATSIS. Make sure that the research is undertaken in a manner that is culturally and ethically appropriate.

References –

You are required to provide at least 40 - 50 references. This means you need to conduct a detailed literature review and demonstrate that you clearly understand what other people have written about similar topics. Please make sure you take the time to check that you have

reference correctly – both in the main text and also in the reference list!

Finally: This is your chance to undertake research in an area that is of interest to you. Learn lots but make sure you have fun while doing so!

Please note: Late submissions will incur a one mark per day penalty.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .
- Develop a set of research aims and question for investigation.
- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.
- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.
- Undertake research that adheres to ethical guidelines of AIATSIS and NHMRC.

Delivery and Resources

There is not set text for this unit. There will be one-two on-campus days - to be negotiated during the first on-campus day.

Unit Schedule

Unit schedule is in ilearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .
- Develop a set of research aims and question for investigation.
- Present a research overview and appropriately respond to questions.
- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.
- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.
- Undertake research that adheres to ethical guidelines of AIATSIS and NHMRC.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal (1500 words)
- Oral presentation
- Capstone Project

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Present a research overview and appropriately respond to questions.
- Undertake research that adheres to ethical guidelines of AIATSIS and NHMRC.

Assessment task

- Capstone Project

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .

- Develop a set of research aims and question for investigation.

- Present a research overview and appropriately respond to questions.

- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.

- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.

- Undertake research that adheres to ethical guidelines of AIATSIS and NHMRC.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal (1500 words)

- Oral presentation

- Capstone Project

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .

- Develop a set of research aims and question for investigation.

- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.

- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal (1500 words)

- Oral presentation

- Capstone Project

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .

- Develop a set of research aims and question for investigation.

- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.

- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.

- Undertake research that adheres to ethical guidelines of AIATSIS and NHMRC.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal (1500 words)

- Oral presentation

- Capstone Project

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Present a research overview and appropriately respond to questions.

- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal (1500 words)

- Oral presentation

- Capstone Project

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .

- Present a research overview and appropriately respond to questions.

- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal (1500 words)

- Oral presentation
- Capstone Project

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .
- Present a research overview and appropriately respond to questions.
- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.
- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.
- Undertake research that adheres to ethical guidelines of AIATSIS and NHMRC.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal (1500 words)
- Oral presentation
- Capstone Project

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Plan, design and construct an Indigenous research project .
- Communicate complex research concepts clearly.
- Choose appropriate methodological practices to address research question.
- Undertake research that adheres to ethical guidelines of AIATSIS and NHMRC.

Assessment task

- Research Proposal (1500 words)