



PICT812

Methods of Research and Writing

S1 External 2014

Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Karina Guthrie

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Contact via karina.guthrie@mq.edu.au

PICT Offices, Level 2, Building Y3A

By appointment

Peita Richards

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MPICT Or PGDipPICT or PGCertPICT or MIntSecStud or PGDipIntSecStud or PGCertIntSecStud or MPICTMIntSecSt

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit teaches students how to select an academically-disciplined research topic and identify and locate the essential primary and secondary source materials. The student is then instructed how to organise and assess this material by completing a primary and secondary source literature review. Finally, the student is taught how to structure and express in writing an academic argument on the thesis topic.

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:

Demonstrate comprehension of the methodological components that facilitate rigorous research, including the role of ethics.

Display the ability to critically assess published research to evaluate its significance and relevance, to synthesize material and present findings logically, rationally and lucidly.

Showcase higher order communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original written arguments cogently and coherently.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Weekly Quizzes</u>	20%	Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
<u>Research Proposal</u>	30%	2 May 2014
<u>Research Essay</u>	50%	30 May 2014

Weekly Quizzes

Due: **Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Weighting: **20%**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehension of the methodological components that facilitate rigorous research, including the role of ethics.

Research Proposal

Due: **2 May 2014**

Weighting: **30%**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehension of the methodological components that facilitate rigorous research, including the role of ethics.
- Display the ability to critically assess published research to evaluate its significance and relevance, to synthesize material and present findings logically, rationally and lucidly.
- Showcase higher order communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original written arguments cogently and coherently.

Research Essay

Due: **30 May 2014**

Weighting: **50%**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehension of the methodological components that facilitate rigorous research, including the role of ethics.

- Display the ability to critically assess published research to evaluate its significance and relevance, to synthesize material and present findings logically, rationally and lucidly.
- Showcase higher order communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original written arguments cogently and coherently.

Delivery and Resources

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

The unit is undertaken entirely online and is structured around 12 weekly modules, each with two 30 minute lectures. Students are required to listen to all unit lectures and engage with the exercises outlined in each.

The unit convenor will be available, either via email, phone or in person to offer guidance and feedback on the unit content and assessment.

REQUIRED READINGS

Information about required and recommended readings for this unit is available on the PICT812 iLearn site.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

Personal PC and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

The unit can only be accessed by enrolled students online through <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

All assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.

Assessment tasks must be submitted either as a PDF or MS word document by the due date.

All assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process.

The granting of extensions of up to one week are at the discretion of the unit convenor. Any requests for extensions must be made in writing before the due date for the submission of the assessment task. Extensions beyond one week are subject to special consideration. The policy for this is detailed under Policy and Procedures.

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

There is a penalty for the the late submission of assessment tasks. If an assignment is submitted late it will initially be marked as if it had been submitted on time. However, **5%** of the weighting allocated for the assignment will then be deducted from the mark the student initially achieves in the assessment task for each day it is late. For example if the assessment task's weighting is 20, 1.00 mark per day will be deducted from the initial mark given per day it is late ie a task initially given 15/20 but which is submitted four days late will lose 4 x 1.00 marks. That means 15/20-4marks=11/20. It is this second mark which will be recorded in gradebook.

Unit Schedule

This unit is conducted entirely online. Students will access the audio files for each of the weekly lectures through the iLearn site. There are two 30 minute lectures each week.

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

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate comprehension of the methodological components that facilitate rigorous research, including the role of ethics.
- Showcase higher order communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original written arguments cogently and coherently.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly Quizzes
- Research Proposal
- Research Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate comprehension of the methodological components that facilitate rigorous research, including the role of ethics.
- Display the ability to critically assess published research to evaluate its significance and relevance, to synthesize material and present findings logically, rationally and lucidly.
- Showcase higher order communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original written arguments cogently and coherently.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly Quizzes
- Research Proposal
- Research Essay

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate comprehension of the methodological components that facilitate rigorous research, including the role of ethics.
- Display the ability to critically assess published research to evaluate its significance and relevance, to synthesize material and present findings logically, rationally and lucidly.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly Quizzes
- Research Proposal
- Research Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Display the ability to critically assess published research to evaluate its significance and relevance, to synthesize material and present findings logically, rationally and lucidly.
- Showcase higher order communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original written arguments cogently and coherently.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate comprehension of the methodological components that facilitate rigorous research, including the role of ethics.
- Display the ability to critically assess published research to evaluate its significance and relevance, to synthesize material and present findings logically, rationally and lucidly.
- Showcase higher order communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original written arguments cogently and coherently.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly Quizzes
- Research Proposal
- Research Essay

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Display the ability to critically assess published research to evaluate its significance and relevance, to synthesize material and present findings logically, rationally and lucidly.
- Showcase higher order communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original written arguments cogently and coherently.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Essay