SSCI2020

Survey Research in the Social Sciences

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Sociology

Contents

Disclaimer

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Notice

As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Hangyoung Lee
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Contact via Contact via Email
By appointment

Tutor
Nicholas Harrigan
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Contact via Contact via Email
By appointment

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
SSCI100 or SSCI1000

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
The unit introduces students to the logic of quantitative social inquiry, with a specific focus on social surveys. Social surveys are widely employed in today's social science workplaces, with an array of uses in policy-making, public debate and social research. Survey methodologies collect systematic information about cases and present this information in a structured 'data grid', which can be used to test theoretically informed hypotheses and inferences. Surveys are used in many different types of studies, from quasi-experiments to cross-sectional and longitudinal studies. Building on SSCI1000 and SSCI2010, the unit focuses on linking quantitative research design to data analysis, including the deductive logic of quantitative research and analysis. Students learn how to develop survey questionnaires and collect other forms of quantitative data, as well as how to use computer software to analyse survey data. The unit aims to show that credible findings from survey research are as reliant on collecting valid and reliable data as they are on applying relevant analytic techniques.

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:

ULO1: Understand the link between quantitative research design, survey procedure and statistical analysis

ULO2: Analyse survey data using appropriate statistical models.

ULO3: Carry out a statistical analysis using SPSS.

ULO4: Interpret statistical outputs in plain language.

ULO5: Conduct original research using quantitative research methods.

General Assessment Information

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is an intergral part of the core values and principles contained in the Macquarie University Ethics Statement. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- All academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim

- All academic collaborations are acknowledged

- Academic work is not falsified in any way

- When the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately

- Self-plagiarism (resubmitting your own work - including past assignments for this or other units - without attribution) is an unacceptable academic activity

University Grading Policy

The grade that a student receives will signify their overall performance in meeting the learning outcomes of the unit of study. Graded units will use the following grades

HD	High Distinction	85-100
D	Distinction	75-84
Cr	Credit	65-74
P	Pass	50-64
F	Fail	0-49

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University.

Return of Marked Work

As per university policy, written assessments will be returned to students within three weeks of the submission date. Early assignments will not be marked early.

Special Consideration (Extensions)

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work
4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

More information about Special Consideration is available in the Policies and Procedures section of the unit guide.

Late Penalties

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Campus Wellbeing

Macquarie University offers a range of wellbeing services (including [but not limited to]: health, welfare, counselling, disability and student advocacy services) that are available to you at any time during your studies. Campus Wellbeing is here to support you and help you succeed, both academically and personally. More information is available in the Policies and Procedures section of the unit guide.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Quiz 1	20%	No	Week 6
Quiz 2	20%	No	Week 12
Data Analysis Report	40%	No	13/11/2020
Active participation	20%	No	Ongoing

Quiz 1

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 4 hours
Due: **Week 6**
Weighting: **20%**

Online quiz in week 6

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the link between quantitative research design, survey procedure and statistical analysis
- Analyse survey data using appropriate statistical models.
- Interpret statistical outputs in plain language.

Quiz 2

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 4 hours
Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **20%**

Online quiz in week 11

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the link between quantitative research design, survey procedure and statistical analysis
- Analyse survey data using appropriate statistical models.
- Interpret statistical outputs in plain language.

Data Analysis Report

Assessment Type [1]: Quantitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task [2]: 42 hours
Due: **13/11/2020**
Weighting: **40%**

1,800 to 2,000 word research report

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the link between quantitative research design, survey procedure and statistical analysis
- Analyse survey data using appropriate statistical models.
- Carry out a statistical analysis using SPSS.
- Interpret statistical outputs in plain language.
- Conduct original research using quantitative research methods.

Active participation

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 11 hours
Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **20%**

Active participation in unit sessions

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the link between quantitative research design, survey procedure and statistical analysis
- Carry out a statistical analysis using SPSS.

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Lecture and workshop times

Lectures are delivered online due to the COVID-19 restriction. Lecture recordings will be uploaded every Monday. Students can access lecture recordings and visual materials on the course **iLearn** page.

The guidelines of Workshops are available at https://methods101.com. Click SSCI2020 at the left sidebar. You will see 12 workshop guidelines. In completing Workshop tasks, students can seek help and advice from tutors via remote workshop sessions (Zoom video-conferencing workshops) and emails.

Textbooks

This course draws on one required textbook:

- Leon-Guerrero, Anna and Chava Frankfort-Nachmias (2018) *Essentials of Social Statistics for a Diverse Society,* 3rd Edition. Sage: Thousand Oaks.

For those who find the required textbook difficult to read, the following textbook(optional) is recommended:

- Wheelan, Charles J. (2014) *Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data*, W.W. Norton & Company.

Technology used

The following technologies are used in SSCI2020:

Email

Make sure that you regularly check your student email for correspondence with teaching staff and course announcements.

iLearn

Important information about the weekly schedule for SSCI2020, course readings and assessment are all available on the course **iLearn** page. If you do not have access, please contact IT help. You are required to check **iLearn** and your student email regularly for course updates and information.

SPSS

SPSS is the primary statistical analytic tool for SSCI2020. Learning SPSS to analyse datasets is an essential component of this unit. SPSS is available in the workshops and some computers in the library and digital lounge (C5C - 17 Wally's Walk). Students can also access remotely **SPSS** through **AppStream** (see below).

AppStream

AppStream is the university's a new application streaming service which provides students access to existing iLab applications via browser from anywhere, anytime, on any device. Students do not need to install a client on their device to access applications. Google Chrome is recommended browser for AppStream. Login to mq.okta.com with your MQ OneID to access AppStream applications.

Methods101.com

Workshop guidelines are available at https://methods101.com/docs/. The website provides easy-

to-follow instructions on how to use SPSS to analyse data. In the website, click SSCI2020 at the left sidebar. Then, you can access the guidelines for each workshop. If you do not have access, please contact the unit convenor.

Turnitin and GradeMark

The written assessment for SSCI2020 needs to be submitted via **Turnitin**. A link to **Turnitin** is available via the Assessments tab on the **iLearn** page. Please contact the convenor if you cannot find it (do not leave it until the due date of the assessment). Assessments will be marked via **GradeMark** and returned to students electronically.

Leganto

Leganto is the electronic system for accessing unit readings that can be accessed via the iLearn page. Readings are allocated by weekly schedules. As well as the required readings for each week, you will find recommended and optional readings. The required readings are available in pdf or electronic format. If you are not able to access the readings, please contact the unit convenor via email.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture	SPSS Workshop
1	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods	No workshop
2	Quantitative Research Design	Introduction to SPSS
3	Univariate Statistics	Exploratory Data Analysis 1
4	Statistical Charts and Normal Distribution	Exploratory Data Analysis 2
5	Normal Distribution	Normal Distribution and Z-scores
6	Sampling and Sampling Distribution	Random Sampling Experiment
7	Estimating Confidence Intervals	Computing Confidence Intervals
8	Testing Hypotheses	T-test
9	Bivariate Association	Cross-table and Chi-square
10	Correlation and Regression	Correlation and Regression Analysis
11	Multiple Regression Model	Multiple Regression Analysis 1
12	Dummy Variables in Regression Model	Multiple Regression Analysis 2

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy

- Academic Integrity Policy

- Academic Progression Policy

- Assessment Policy

- Fitness to Practice Procedure

- Grade Appeal Policy

- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public

- Special Consideration Policy *(**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment

- Workshops

- StudyWise

- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Additional Information on Assessment Tasks

Quiz 1

Quiz 1 will be administered online via the course iLearn page. It will consist of **20 multiple-choice or true-or-false questions**, and you will have **40 minutes to complete it**. You will be asked to read each question and select the BEST response from the available options. This quiz will draw on course materials from the lectures and workshops from week 1 to week 6.

The online quiz will become available on Thursday 3rd September, and you can undertake the quiz until Friday 4th September (at 11:59 pm EST). It will become available via the SSCI202 **iLearn** page. **The quiz can be taken only once, and it is up to you to ensure that you have time available to undertake the quiz.**

More information will become available in week 5 lecture. Please follow the *Special Consideration* policy when applying for an extension. As per the Faculty of Arts policy, **no late submissions will be accepted for the online quiz without an extension**.

Note) *In the event of technical difficulties, it is your responsibility to contact the unit convenor before the due date and follow the instructions on iLearn in notifying the university. We advise you to ensure that you can access the link to the quiz on Thursday 3rd September (without starting the quiz unless you want to).*

Quiz 2

Quiz 2 will also be administered online via the course iLearn page. Again, students will have **40 minutes to complete the quiz** (which consists of **20 multiple-choice or true-false questions**). It will focus on course materials from week 7 to week 12.

The online quiz will become available on Thursday 29th October, and you can undertake the quiz until Friday 30th October (at 11:59 pm EST). It will become available via the SSCI202 **iLearn** page. **The quiz can be taken only once, and it is up to you to ensure that you have time available to undertake the quiz**.

More information will be provided in week 11 lecture. Please follow the *Special Consideration* policy when applying for an extension. ***As per the Faculty of Arts policy, no late submissions will be accepted for the online quiz without an extension***.

Note) In the event of technical difficulties, it is your responsibility to contact the unit convenor before the due date and follow the instructions on iLearn in notifying the university. We advise you to ensure that you can access the link to the quiz on Thursday 29th October (without starting the quiz unless you want to).

Data Analysis Report

The major assessment for SSCI2020 is a **data analysis report of 1,800 to 2,000 words**. This task is designed to assess students' overall ability to address social science inquiries using quantitative research skills. It will require you to select a research topic (and its related datasets) from the options made available on the **iLearn** page. You will need to do some background reading on the topic, critically reflect on it, formulate research hypotheses, analyse the related dataset, and interpret the statistical outcomes. Using **SPSS** is a must for this task. You will learn all the necessary **SPSS** skills in the workshops throughout the semester.

Both the research topics and related datasets for this task will be provided and become available on the SSCI2020 **iLearn** page in week 8. The report should be submitted via **Turnitin,** and it will be marked via **GradeMark**. Please do not submit hard copies of this task and ensure that you have access to the Turnitin link before the due date. More information will be provided in week 8 lecture.

Active Participation

Students are expected to listen to lecture recordings and review workshop guides (See https://methods101.com. For more details, see the course iLearn page) every week. Also, students are expected to complete **Weekly Participation Activities** which check the understanding of major topics of lectures and the completion of workshop tasks. The links to **Weekly Participation Activities** will be available via the course iLearn page (under the section of each week).

Students' active participation grade will be based on:

- listening to the recording of lectures every week.
- reviewing workshop guides every week.
- completing Weekly Participation Activities.