



SSCI2002

Practising Social Sciences

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor

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By appointment

Lecturer

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

To change the world, social scientists use concepts and data to make arguments to challenge power and inequality and to reveal alternatives. Students will look at primary and secondary sources of data such as statistical information, policy texts, financial documents, first person testimonies, and spatial data to understand how the data was assembled and deployed in order to answer social questions. Students will analyse how we measure, count, survey, interpret, and analyse phenomena to influence social processes. Students will assess appropriate methods of data collection and analysis, apply those methods to a variety of case studies and generate new data themselves. Through this, students will learn to evaluate research design and assess quality of arguments. Students will practise connecting the politics of data with an understanding of the assumptions made by different methods and models of counting social phenomena. On completion, students will have increased fluency with statistical, financial, and discursive data and practise how data can be used to draw conclusions and interrogate claims.

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: Formulate arguments using concepts and data in order to identify a range of testable propositions or solutions to social challenges.

ULO2: Assess methods of research design and analysis to select appropriate options in a range of contexts.

ULO3: Analyse and evaluate secondary data sources in the development of narratives, conclusions and solutions for an identified question.

ULO4: Develop knowledge, skills and experience in conducting analyses using quantitative and other data

General Assessment Information

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is an integral 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

More information is available from *Policy Central* [here](#).

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

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 [here](#).

Late Penalties

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11:55 pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessments (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings, etc). Late submission of time-sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs, etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

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 [here](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Portfolio	40%	No	18/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Report	40%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Mixed methods reflection	20%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **18/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Portfolio of work including quantitative and qualitative tasks.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Formulate arguments using concepts and data in order to identify a range of testable propositions or solutions to social challenges.
- Assess methods of research design and analysis to select appropriate options in a range of contexts.
- Develop knowledge, skills and experience in conducting analyses using quantitative and other data

Report

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Report on secondary data in the social sciences.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and evaluate secondary data sources in the development of narratives, conclusions and solutions for an identified question.
- Develop knowledge, skills and experience in conducting analyses using quantitative and other data

Mixed methods reflection

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Reflection on mixed methods in the social sciences.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Formulate arguments using concepts and data in order to identify a range of testable propositions or solutions to social challenges.
- Assess methods of research design and analysis to select appropriate options in a range of contexts.

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Lectures and Workshops

Recordings of lectures are available on iLearn. Students are required to listen to the lectures before attending workshops.

Workshops take place fortnightly (for details, see the Unit Schedule below). They are held on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in an online Zoom meeting. A permanent link to the Zoom meeting is provided on the unit's iLearn page.

Textbooks

This course has no required textbooks; however, the following books are relevant for studying related topics.

- Vaus, David de (2014) *Surveys in Social Research*, 6th Edition, Allen&Unwin.
- DeCuir-Gunby, Jessica T and Paul A Schutz (2017), *Developing a Mixed Methods Proposal: A Practical Guide for Beginning Researchers*, SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Plano Clark, Vicki L and Nataliya V Ivankova (2016), *Mixed Methods Research: A Guide to the Field*, SAGE Publications, Inc.

These textbooks can be accessed via **Leganto** on the iLearn.

Technology used

The following technologies are used in the course:

iLearn

Important information about the weekly schedule for the course, 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.**

Turnitin and GradeMark

The written assessment for the course 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.

Jamovi

Jamovi is a new “3rd generation” statistical spreadsheet. designed from the ground up to be easy to use, jamovi is a compelling alternative to costly statistical products such as SPSS and SAS. You can download **Jamovi** for free at:

- <https://www.jamovi.org>

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture	Workshop
1	Data and Social Sciences (1)	No Workshop
2	Data and Social Sciences (2)	Workshop 1
3	Mixed Method Research Design (1)	No Workshop
4	Mixed Method Research Design (2)	Workshop 2
5	Collecting Qualitative Data (1)	No Workshop
6	Collecting Qualitative Data (2)	Workshop 3
7	Collecting Quantitative Data (1)	No Workshop
8	Collecting Quantitative Data (2)	Workshop 4
9	Analysing Qualitative Data	Workshop 5
10	Analysing Quantitative Data	Workshop 6
11	No Lecture - Preparation for the Final Report	No Workshop
12	No Lecture - Preparation for the Final Report	No Workshop
13	Reflecting on Mixed Methods	Workshop 7

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)

- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)