



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA411
Research Methodology
Semester 1

<http://www.utas.edu.au/units/HEA411>

Convenor:	Dr Jenna Mead Room: HUM 545 Phone: 6226 7610 Email: Jenna.Mead@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Monday 1pm - 2pm or by arrangement
Unit Description:	This compulsory unit aims to develop students' research and writing skills to advanced levels, as is appropriate for fourth-year (Honours) work in literary studies. Other staff teaching Honours English may contribute to the teaching of the unit. The specific focus of work in the unit will be on bibliographical methodologies, the practices of critical writing, the stages of a research project, writing up the project and formatting the final draft.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To help students develop research skills relevant to the range of projects included in literary and cultural studies• To identify and analyse the various stages involved in the preparation of the honours research project• To present strategies for developing students' writing and editing skills• To introduce possibilities for postgraduate research and scholarships.
Learning Outcomes:	Students taking this unit will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. build <i>knowledge</i> in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above);2. enhance skills in<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) written <i>communication</i>, through work on the honours research project;b) oral <i>communication</i>, through the presentation of a thesis statement;3. enhance skills in <i>problem solving</i> through the preparation of an annotated bibliography;4. develop their <i>global perspective</i> through the analysis of research methodologies.

Required Texts:	nil
When Taught:	Monday 9am - 12pm; 9 weeks' duration scheduled weeks 1-11 due to public holidays.
Assessment:	<p>There are four assessment tasks that are designed in relation to specific aspects of the unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analysis of the argument in an article supplied (Wk 5; due end Wk 7); • A thesis statement that will take the form of a written presentation to which students will talk and will include an introduction to the research project topic and a concise outline of the argument. (Wk 6; due in seminar Wk 6); • An annotated bibliography of 25 items that may be relevant to the Honours thesis (Wk 9; due end Wk 11); • Editing and formatting of a supplied text (Wk 10; due end Wk 12). <p>Tasks will be distributed during the seminar in each relevant week.</p> <p>Assessment tasks will be due by close of business on the Friday two weeks after the relevant seminar; except for the thesis statement which should be submitted at the seminar in Wk 6. All assessment tasks should be handed in by Friday 9 May. The only fixed deadline is the thesis statement which is scheduled for Week 6.</p> <p>Assessment tasks will be variously marked: the annotated bibliography will usually be marked by the supervisor. The thesis statement and presentation will be marked by two members of staff nominated by the Honours Co-ordinator. The argument for analysis and editing and formatting exercise will be marked by the lecturer in charge who is also responsible for compiling the final grade.</p>

Seminar Schedule

week	day	date	time	venue	Topic; recommended text/s.	staff
1	Mon	27 Feb	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	Introduction; reading your essay proposals.	JM
2		6 Mar	9:00-12:00	Morris Miller Library & Launceston campus Library	Information retrieval; materials provided by Librarians. Session to be confirmed.	Roger Carter & Alison Johnston
3		13 Mar	LABOUR DAY		NO SEMINAR	
4		20 Mar	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	Identifying methodologies; handout provided.	PM
5		27 Mar	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	Argument; articles provided.	JM
6		3 Apr	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	Thesis statement & presentation; written assessment due in seminar.	various
7		10 Apr	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	MLA Style: reference & citation; <i>MLA Handbook</i> ; assessment task for Wk 5 due by Friday.	JM
8		17 Apr	EASTER MONDAY		NO SEMINAR	
9		24 Apr	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	Annotated bibliography.	JM
10		1 May	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	Formatting the long essay; editing & proof-reading; Lynn Truss, <i>Eats, Shoots and Leaves</i> .	JM
11		8 May	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	RHD programs & scholarships; assessment task for Wk 9 due by Friday.	JM
12	Fri	19 May	9:00-12:00	H106/L172	ALL ASSESSMENT TASKS DUE	various
PLEASE CHECK EMAIL FOR UPDATES						

Additional Information

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office. All written assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email or other electronic means) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Student Counsellor
- Careers Adviser
- Disability Adviser

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at

<http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see

<http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/> "

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003).

Marking Scale

Results for Research Methodology will be folded into the research project (long essay) assessment. In practice this means that if the assessment tasks are completed satisfactorily the research project will be marked out of 55%. If not, the research project can only be assessed out of 40%.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the annotated bibliography:

- Breadth and quality of research undertaken
- Accuracy in use of MLA style
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading.

The following criteria apply to assessment of the thesis statement:

- Clarity of the stated aims of the project
- Evidence of effective research
- Evidence of a well-developed and appropriate essay or project plan
- Evidence of independent thinking