STAT4010
Managing the Research Process

This course examines the key elements of undertaking a research project with an empirical flavour, and provides guidance on the use of various statistical tools and techniques in the analysis of data. The course is not designed as a replacement for more formal and deeper analysis of specific statistical methods. Rather, it is a refresher for those seeking to revive their basic research skills and also serves as an introduction for those seeking to go onto further study in specific statistical techniques. The course would be of interest to Honours and Postgraduate students and should complement studies that involve statistical method and/or research projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Delivery</th>
<th>On campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>As listed in Programs and Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incompatible Courses</td>
<td>As listed in Programs and Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Convener:</td>
<td>Dr. Anton Westveld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office hours for student consultation:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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SEMESTER 2
2017
http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/STAT4010
COURSE OVERVIEW

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this unit, students are expected to have attained proficiency in the following areas:

- Be able to design and deliver research proposals and reports;
- Be able to appraise research articles and presentations; and,
- Be able to locate and analyse data from a number of well-known sources.

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Date for Return of Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Participate in the Academic Skills workshops</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>See Honours Wattle Site</td>
<td>See Honours Wattle Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Thesis Proposal Presentation</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>See Honours Wattle Site</td>
<td>See Honours Wattle Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Thesis Timeline</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>See Honours Wattle Site</td>
<td>See Honours Wattle Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Written Thesis Proposal</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>See Honours Wattle Site</td>
<td>See Honours Wattle Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Seminar Reports (3)</td>
<td>10% each (30% total)</td>
<td>by August 31; by September 29; by October 27</td>
<td>A few weeks after submission. Graded by the honours advisor.</td>
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</table>

Research-Led Teaching
Through putting together a thesis proposal, as well as critiquing three seminars, students will gain valuable research skills.

Feedback

Staff Feedback
Students will receive both written and verbal feedback from their advisors throughout the semester.

Student Feedback
ANU is committed to the demonstration of educational excellence and regularly seeks feedback from students. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through Student Experience of Learning Support (SELS) surveys. The feedback given in these surveys is anonymous and provides the Colleges, University Education Committee and Academic Board...
with opportunities to recognise excellent teaching, and opportunities for improvement.

For more information on student surveys at ANU and reports on the feedback provided on ANU courses, go to

http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/students/ and
http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/results/learning/

**Policies**

ANU has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University’s academic standards, and implement them. You can find the University's education policies and an explanatory glossary at: http://policies.anu.edu.au/

Students are expected to have read the [Academic Misconduct Rule](http://policies.anu.edu.au/) before the commencement of their course.

Other key policies include:

- Student Assessment (Coursework)
- Student Surveys and Evaluations

**Required Resources**

**Prescribed Texts**

1. Honours Guide
   SANU Academic Skills & Learning Centre
   download

2. RSFAS Honours Guide
   Will be made available on the Honours Wattle site.

**Examination material or equipment**

There are no examinations for this course.

**COURSE SCHEDULE - Rough Schedule**

There is not a formal class schedule. The only point is that students should take care to submit their work on time. Submission of all items related to the thesis will be on the Honours Wattle site, in addition to your advisors. Submission of the three seminar reports will be on this course’s Wattle site, in addition to your advisors.
ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The ANU is using Turnitin to enhance student citation and referencing techniques, and to assess assignment submissions as a component of the University’s approach to managing Academic Integrity. For additional information regarding Turnitin please visit the ANU Online website.

Students may choose not to submit assessment items through Turnitin. In this instance you will be required to submit, alongside the assessment item itself, copies of all references included in the assessment item.

As a further academic integrity control, students may be selected for a 15 minute individual oral examination of their written assessment submissions.

Any student identified, either during the current semester or in retrospect, as having used ghost writing services will be investigated under the University’s Academic Misconduct Rule.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment Task 1: Participate in the Academic Skills & Learning Centre workshops
Details of task: The ANU Academic Skills & Learning Centre will provide three workshops in Semester 1 related to your honours thesis/research. Participation in these workshops is compulsory.

Assessment Task 2: Thesis Proposal Presentation
Details of task: Students are required to make a 10-15 minute presentation outlining their thesis/research essay topic, with a particular focus on the question being asked, the motivation behind the study, as well as the contribution of the research. The primary purpose of the presentation is to facilitate feedback to the student. For this reason, following each presentation, staff will be given 5 minutes to ask questions pertaining to the previous proposal.

Assessment Task 3: Thesis Timeline
Details of task: There are a number of distinct stages involved in the completion of an Honours thesis/research essay. The length of time required to complete each stage varies considerably by the topic area. Due to this variation, it is often difficult for students themselves, but also for supervisors, to gauge progress. To provide an indication of progress it is a requirement that students construct, in conjunction with their supervisor, a mutually agreeable timeline. Timelines should be submitted online via Wattle as well as to individual advisors. This will be graded as 5% or 0% depending on whether a student appropriately completes the task.

Assessment Task 4: Written Thesis Proposal
Details of task: Students are required to write a thesis proposal. Proposals should be no longer than 10 pages in length, double spaced and Times Roman size 12 font. The content of the thesis proposal must cover the following items:

- Introduction to the research topic question being asked, the motivation behind the study, as well as the contribution of the research
- Preliminary literature review
• Proposed methodology and data sources

Thesis proposals should be submitted online via Wattle as well as to individual advisors. Your advisors will grade them.

**Assessment Task 5: Seminar Reports (3)**

**Details of task:** Over the semester you should attend seminars in your field (either finance or statistics). For three of the seminars you attend, you are required to write a 1-2 page(s) report discussing the research presented. The reports should include the motivation and contribution of the work, the strengths and weaknesses of the work, and discussion of the data used. The reports should be submitted online via Wattle and to your advisor. Your advisor will grade the reports.

**Examination(s)**

There are no examinations.

**Assignment submission**

**Online Submission:** Assignments are submitted using Turnitin in the course Wattle site. You will be required to electronically sign a declaration as part of the submission of your assignment. Please keep a copy of the assignment for your records.

**Extensions and penalties**

Extensions and late submission of assessment pieces are covered by the Student Assessment (Coursework) Policy and Procedure.

The Course Convener may grant extensions for assessment pieces that are not examinations or take-home examinations. If you need an extension, you must request it in writing on or before the due date. If you have documented and appropriate medical evidence that demonstrates you were not able to request an extension on or before the due date, you may be able to request it after the due date.

No submission of assessment tasks without an extension after the due date will be permitted. If an assessment task is not submitted by the due date, a mark of 0 will be awarded.

**Returning assignments**

Your honours’ advisor(s) will return your assignments to you.

**Resubmission of assignments**

Assignments may not be resubmitted.
Referencing requirements

Appropriate referencing will be necessary for the presentations. For more information see: http://www.anu.edu.au/students/learning—development/academic—integrity/how—referencing—works

Scaling

Your final mark for the course will be based on the raw marks allocated for each of your assessment items. However, your final mark may not be the same number as produced by that formula, as marks may be scaled. Any scaling applied will preserve the rank order of raw marks (i.e. if your raw mark exceeds that of another student, then your scaled mark will exceed the scaled mark of that student), and may be either up or down.

Privacy Notice

The ANU has made a number of third party, online, databases available for students to use. Use of each online database is conditional on student end users first agreeing to the database licensors terms of service and/or privacy policy. Students should read these carefully.

In some cases student end users will be required to register an account with the database licensor and submit personal information, including their: first name; last name; ANU email address; and other information.

In cases where student end users are asked to submit content to a database, such as an assignment or short answers, the database licensor may only use the student’s content in accordance with the terms of service including any (copyright) licence the student grants to the database licensor.

Any personal information or content a student submits may be stored by the licensor, potentially offshore, and will be used to process the database service in accordance with the licensors terms of service and/or privacy policy.

If any student chooses not to agree to the database licensor’s terms of service or privacy policy, the student will not be able to access and use the database. In these circumstances students should contact their lecturer to enquire about alternative arrangements that are available.

Tutorial Seminar Registration

There are no tutorials for this course.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

The University offers a number of support services for students. Information on these is available online from http://students.anu.edu.au/studentlife/