Unit of Study Outline

Unit Code BUSS7906
Unit Title Current Topics in Research Seminar

Semester 2, 2014

Pre-requisite Units:
Co-requisite Units:
Prohibited Units: ECOF7906
Assumed Knowledge and/or Skills:

Unit Coordinator: Catherine Welch
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Email: catherine.welch@sydney.edu.au Phone: 9351 6436
Consultation Hours: Please go to Blackboard for details of all staff consultation times.
Class Day(s): Please go to Blackboard for class times and locations

Required Text / Resources:
Required readings will be available via Dropbox.

This unit of study outline MUST be read in conjunction with
The Business School Unit of Study Common Policy and implementation information that applies to every unit of study offered by the
Business School (http://sydney.edu.au/business/currentstudents/policy). All assessment rules, such as standards used, penalties etc, are
covered.

The Business School Student Administration Manual - for information about all processes such as illness, appeals etc ( http://sydney.edu.au/business/currentstudents/student_information/student_administration_manual) When deciding applications and
appeals relating to these matters it will be assumed that every student has taken the time to familiarise themselves with these key policies
and procedures.

The Business School seeks feedback from students and staff in order to continually improve all units offered. For information on previously
collected feedback and innovations made in response to this feedback, please see

1. Unit of Study Information
The purpose of this unit is to introduce doctoral students to the diversity of ways of conducting case study research and to improve their own research practice. After this unit, students will be able to evaluate case research and enhance their own case study design. School to a broad range of philosophical approaches to research. Students will also discover the practical implications for the research design accompanying each of the approaches.
2. Program Learning Outcomes and Unit Learning Outcomes
The Program Learning Outcomes for this Program are located at http://sydney.edu.au/business/learning/staff/leadership/program_directors/outcomes

Unit Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>On the successful completion of the Unit you should be able to:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Demonstrate familiarity with the key literature/issues related to case study methodology by applying them to actual case study examples;</td>
<td>1. Domain Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Critically discuss the main choices that a case researcher faces at each stage of the study, from design to reporting, in seminar preparation and discussions;</td>
<td>1. Domain Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Evaluate the quality of case research;</td>
<td>1. Domain Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Apply methodological insights gained from the readings and seminar discussion to their own research.</td>
<td>2. Research Contribution</td>
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3. Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Name</th>
<th>Individual/Group</th>
<th>Assessment Conditions</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar preparation</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2-3pp</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>16 October</td>
<td>13 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Group</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15 min</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13 November</td>
<td>13 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article analysis</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>3000 words</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>21-Nov-2014</td>
<td>25-Nov-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Honesty</td>
<td></td>
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For the meaning and operation of this table, see policy information in the box on the front page or click here

Assessment details

Seminar preparation

- **Task Description**
  You will be expected to come to three seminars (out of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) having written a brief critique (of 2-3 typewritten pages) of the readings for that seminar (excluding the example/s). In your critique, 1) evaluate the key arguments of each reading assigned for that seminar topic and 2) identify what common (or contrasting) themes or issues link the readings for that week.

  Please upload your seminar preparation to Turnitin (you can find the submission box on the ‘Assessment’ page of the course website). Your preparation needs to be uploaded 5 minutes before the start of class. Please also bring a copy to class so you can discuss your answers.

- **Assessment Criteria**
  Evidence of critical evaluation of the readings
  Understanding of key concepts

- **Feedback - What, when and how feedback will be provided for this assessment**
  Written feedback will be provided, normally within a period of 2 weeks

Presentation

- **Task Description**
Together with another student in the unit, you will be required to present a comparison of two methodology chapters from PhD theses that have used the case study methodology. Ideally, each of you should select a thesis from the same or a related discipline as your own.

Your presentation should address the following issues:
- Which methodology chapter was better overall, and why? (Give each a score out of 10)
- What were the key similarities and differences?
- Did the chapters include everything you consider important?
- Are the thesis authors’ philosophical orientations explicit or implicit?
- What lessons can you draw from this exercise for your own methodology chapter?

Presentations will be held in Seminar 7 (13 November) and should be about 15 minutes in length. Please also submit a copy of your PowerPoint slides at the time of your presentation. Creative and engaging presentations that keep the attention of your audience are strongly encouraged.


Assessment Criteria
- Use of course concepts
- Level of critical analysis
- Demonstration of presentation skills

Feedback - What, when and how feedback will be provided for this assessment
Written feedback will be provided, normally within a period of 2 weeks

Article analysis

Task Description
For this task, you will be required to submit a written report (about 3000 words) that analyses how the case methodology is used and reported in the following article:


Your assignment should address the following questions:
1. How would you characterize the case study approach taken in the paper?
2. What lessons do you draw from this example for your own writing and reporting?

In addressing these questions, you should apply, and show an in-depth understanding of, the key concepts and issues discussed in the weekly seminars.

The assignment is due on 21 November by 5pm. You do not need to submit a hard copy, just submit a soft copy to Turnitin via the course Blackboard site (you can find the submission box on the ‘Assessment’ page of the course website).

Assessment Criteria
- Understanding and application of key concepts
- Critical understanding of text
• Feedback - What, when and how feedback will be provided for this assessment
  Written feedback will be provided, normally within a period of 2 weeks

4. Other Resources for Students

All lectures and seminars are recorded and will be available within Blackboard for student use. Please note the Business School does not own the system and cannot guarantee that the system will operate or that every class will be recorded. Students should ensure they attend and participate in all classes.

Additional readings


Byrne, D. and C.C. Ragin, eds (2009), The Sage Handbook of Case-Based Methods, London: Sage.


Byrne, D. and C.C. Ragin, eds (2009), The Sage Handbook of Case-Based Methods, London: Sage.


Flyvbjerg, B. (2006), ‘Five Misunderstandings about Case-Study Research’, *Qualitative Inquiry*, 12, 2, 219-245


**Other useful qualitative texts (Our Top Picks!):**


## 5. Unit Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Required Reading(s)</th>
<th>Seminar</th>
<th>Assessments Due</th>
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