School of Medicine

MHSA100: Current Issues in Medical & Health Sciences

Subject Outline
Autumn, 2016
On-Campus
Wollongong

Subject Information
Credit Points: 6
Pre-requisite(s): Nil
Co-requisite(s): Nil
Restrictions: Restricted to students enrolled in Bachelor of Medical & Health Sciences Advanced (Honours)
Contact Hours: 2hr Seminar, 2hr Tutorial

Subject Contacts
Subject Coordinator/Lecturer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Dr Kelly Newell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Building 41, Room 331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>61 2 4221 5743 (I am best reached via email)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelly_newell@uow.edu.au">kelly_newell@uow.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation mode and times:</td>
<td>Tuesdays 8:30-10:30 and 2:30-4:30; Other times by appointment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Support and Advice
For general enquiries please contact StudentHub 41:
Location: 41.138B
Telephone: 61 2 4221 3492
Email: smah-students@uow.edu.au
Student Consultation and Communication

University staff receive many emails each day. In order to enable them to respond to your emails appropriately and in a timely fashion, students are asked to observe basic requirements of professional communication:

Please ensure that you include your full name and student number and identify your practical class or tutorial group in your email so that staff know who they are communicating with and can follow-up personally where appropriate.

Consider what the communication is about
- Is your question addressed elsewhere (e.g. in the subject outline or, on the eLearning site)?
- Is it something that is better discussed in person or by telephone? This may be the case if your query requires a lengthy response or a dialogue in order to address. If so, see consultation times above and/or schedule an appointment.
- Are you addressing your request to the most appropriate person?

Specific email subject title to enable easy identification of issue
- Identify the subject code of the subject you are enquiring about (as staff may be involved in more than one subject) put this in the email subject heading. Add a brief, specific query reference after the subject code where appropriate.

Professional courtesy
- Address the staff member appropriately by name (and formal title if you do not yet know them).
- Use full words (avoid ‘text-speak’ abbreviations), correct grammar and correct spelling.
- Be respectful and courteous.
- Allow 3 – 4 working days for a response before following up. If the matter is legitimately urgent, you may wish to try telephoning the staff member or inquiring at the School Office.
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Section A: General Information

Subject Learning Outcomes

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Appreciate the scope of research within the broad field of medical and health sciences;
2. Define and understand common terminology used in medical and health research;
3. Effectively search relevant scientific literature and retrieve information from a variety of scientific journals;
4. Analyse, present and discuss research in context of the broader scientific and consumer literature;
5. Communicate research ideas through verbal and written methods to scientific and non-specialist audiences.

Subject Description

This subject will provide advanced students with an exciting opportunity to learn about current areas in medical and health sciences research. Through interaction with various academics within and external to the School of Medicine, students will identify and discuss some of the main areas of and issues in medical and health research. There will be a broad range of research areas presented in this subject and specific topics will vary from year to year. Examples of research topics to be covered include brain development, dietary influences, biomechanics, metabolic disorders, exercise testing, mental illness, cell membranes, lipids, health policy and promotion. In addition tutorials will provide students with an opportunity to develop key skills in medical and health sciences including literature searching and critiquing, data analysis and interpretation, research ethics, research communication. Students will integrate these skills with the development of mini research literature review.

eLearning Space

This subject has materials and activities available via eLearning. To access eLearning you must have a UOW user account name and password, and be enrolled in the subject. eLearning is accessed via SOLS (student online services). Log on to SOLS and then click on the eLearning link in the menu column. For information regarding the eLearning spaces please use the following link: http://uowblogs.com/moodlelab/files/2013/05/Moodle_StudentGuide-1petpo7.pdf

Lecture, Tutorial, Laboratory Times

All timetable information is subject to variation. Check latest timetabling information on the 'Current Student' webpage on UOW website or log into SOLS to view your personal timetable prior to attending classes. http://www.uow.edu.au/student/index.html

Timetable information can be accessed from http://www.uow.edu.au/student/timetables/info/index.html

Key University Dates can be accessed from http://www.uow.edu.au/student/dates/index.html

Readings, References and Materials

Textbooks

The following text(s) will need to be purchased by students enrolled in this class.

Nil
Prescribed Readings (includes eReadings)
Relevant Readings and eReadings will be provided in class and via the MHSA100 eLearning site during the session

Materials
Nil

Recommended Readings
Students will be directed to recommended readings, primarily in the form of scientific journal articles, throughout the session.

Recent Changes to this Subject
i. Nil

List of Topics Covered
The following are examples of the topics to be covered in this course. This is not an exhaustive list and will be subject to change.

- Identifying and analysing consumer sources of knowledge
- Library database search strategies
- An introduction to concepts in research methodology and design
- An introduction to data analysis and interpretation
- Assessing scientific journal article quality
- An introduction to Research Ethics
- The makeup of a research team
- The international nature of research
- Writing a review of a specific research topic

A Timetable of Topics will be available from the eLearning site in week 1 of session.
Section B: Assessment

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Form of Assessment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Return/Feedback Due Dates</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 1</td>
<td>Research Summaries</td>
<td>Thursday of each week following research seminars</td>
<td>Within 21 days of due date</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 2</td>
<td>Consumer/Journal Article Critique</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Within 21 days of due date</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 3</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Within 21 days of due date</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 4</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Within 21 days of due date</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 5</td>
<td>Research Report - Draft</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Within 21 days of due date</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment 6</td>
<td>Research Report - Final</td>
<td>10th June</td>
<td>Release of final grades</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Marks 100%

Details of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks will be marked using explicit criteria that will be provided to students prior to submission.

Assessment 1

Due date: Each Thursday in class following a researcher presentation on the Monday of that week.

Weighting: 10%; 4 summaries will be assessed at a weighting of 2.5% each.

Submission: Hard copy of summary to be submitted in class.

Type of Collaboration: Individual Assessment

Length: 1-2 pages, A4, single space, Times New Roman, 12pt, Normal margins (2.54cm)

Details: Students are required to write a summary of the research area that was presented by the guest researcher.

Style and format: Written assessment

Marking Criteria: Reports will be assessed on their demonstration of the students’ ability to:
1. Concisely and accurately summarise the relevant research area.
2. Present a logical sequence of sentences and paragraphs that is largely free from spelling and grammatical errors. This should be written in a style that is accessible to a non-specialist.

Assessment 2

Due date: Thursday 31st March (Week 5)

Weighting: 20%

Submission: In class

Type of Collaboration: Groups of 2-3

Length: ~2000 words; Times New Roman, 12pt, double spaced, normal margins (2.54cm)

Details: You will be provided with a consumer article on a specific health topic. You need to critique the article that you have been given. The opening of your critique should comprise a summary of the article. The main section of your assessment should be your critique component. As part of this critique you should find the research paper that the article is specifically reporting on, to determine whether the consumer article has selectively included
information from that research paper. You will also need to critique the original research article to determine if the consumer article has used a reliable source. When reading the consumer article, you need to think about how well the article reflects the current knowledge in that particular field. Is it a balanced article or is the author only presenting one side of the story? You will need to search the research literature (peer reviewed journal articles) on the particular topic that your article is reporting on so that you can form an opinion on whether the article reflects the current state of knowledge in that particular area. Finally, you should ensure that you conclude with an overall assessment of the quality/accuracy of the article and the 'knowledge' that it presents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style and format</th>
<th>Written Report;</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marking Criteria</td>
<td>The marking criteria will be made available on your eLearning site by week 1 of session.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment 3**

| Due date | Thursday 14th April (Week 7) |
| Weighting | 10% |
| Submission | Presentation in class |
| Type of Collaboration | Groups of 2-3 |
| Length | 10 mins |
| Details | Using appropriate visual aids, students are required to present their consumer article to the class and discuss their critique of this article in context of the relevant scholarly literature. |
| Subject Learning Outcomes | 1-5 |
| Marking Criteria | The marking criteria will be made available on your eLearning site by week 1 of session. |

**Assessment 4**

| Due date | Thursday 5th May (Week 9) |
| Weighting | 20% |
| Submission | Submit a hardcopy of your quiz at the end of the allocated time |
| Type of Collaboration | Individual |
| Length | TBA |
| Style and format | A combination of multiple choice and short answer questions based on content and concepts covered up to and including week 9. |
| Subject Learning Outcomes | 2,3,4 |
| Marking Criteria | Correct responses to questions. |

**Assessment 5**

| Due date | Thursday 19th May (Week 11) |
| Weighting | Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory |
| Submission | Hard copy in class |
| Type of Collaboration | Individual Assessment |
| Length | ~ 10 pages (double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font) |
| Details | Students are required to submit a draft of their final report for peer assessment. Details of the report requirements are provided below under Assessment 6. |
| Style and format | Written Report |
| Subject Learning Outcomes | 1-5 |
| Marking Criteria | These reports will undergo peer assessment. The peer assessment marking criteria will be made available on your eLearning site by week 1 of session. |
Assessment 6 | Research Report - Final
---|---
Due date | Friday 10th June
Weighting | 40%
Submission | Electronic Submission
Type of Collaboration | Individual Assessment
Length | ~ 10 pages (double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font; ~2500 words)

The research report gives you an opportunity to explore an aspect of medical and health science that fascinates you. You will be allocated a topic within the field of medical and health sciences (or you are free to choose a topic) and you are required to use the scholarly literature (i.e. journal articles) to discuss your particular topic area.

**Format of report:**
- ~10 pages, not including the abstract or reference list or any figures/tables (figures/tables are encouraged if they assist in the provision of information).
- Must be printed in Times New Roman font, using font size 12 pt, and double-spaced.
- All sources must be cited in the text using the Harvard referencing system.

**Your report should be presented in the following format:**

**Title:** Your title should be informative as to the content of your report, but it should not be too long – it needs to grab the readers’ attention.

**Abstract:** This should be a half page (single spaced) summary of your report. The aim of the abstract is to provide the reader with the key points from your report in a short amount of time. Refer to several journal articles for ideas on how to write an appropriate abstract. NB: The abstract should be on its own separate page after the title page.

**Introduction to the topic:** This should provide the reader with a statement of the scope you intend to cover in the essay. If it is an area involving controversy, the basis for the controversy should be summarised here.

**Review of the area:** This section (the “meat” of the essay) should be subdivided under relevant subheadings. This section should draw together the information you have gathered in doing your research. Make this information as up to date as possible.

**Conclusions/Summary:** This should be ~½-1 page in length.

**You will be marked according to:**

**Organisation:** Organise your essay so that it develops from an overview and becomes more specific and focused. You can achieve this by developing an outline before you begin writing. Include relevant information in the correct part of the outline - this will avoid the problem apparent in many student essays: jumping from one fact to another.

**Abstract:** The abstract is often the most important part of an article as potential readers will read the abstract first to determine whether the rest of the article is worth reading. Your abstract should be a concise summary of your report, incorporating the key points from your article. Also, include in the abstract an overall concluding statement.

**Content:** Don’t cover too broad an area as you will tend to only cover the topic superficially. Decide on the aspects of the topic that interest you.
most and focus on these. Try to get a good balance - avoid oversimplification and "overcomplexification". If you have trouble understanding the literature, please come see me.

Literature Cited: Keep the literature as up to date as possible. A part of your mark will reflect apparent depth of your research and the citing and referencing of the literature.

Beware of plagiarising: Direct plagiarism is grounds for immediate failure. It will be very tempting at times to simply paraphrase the elegant prose from the papers/books you read. Avoid this temptation and try to use your own words. The use of more than a few direct quotations should be avoided. For more information about Plagiarism, see below (page 7).

Minimum Requirements for a Pass in this Subject
To receive a clear pass in this subject a total mark of 50% or more must be achieved. In addition, failure to meet any of the minimum performance requirements is grounds for awarding a Technical Fail (TF) in the subject, even where total marks accumulated are greater than 50%.

The minimum performance requirements for this subject are:
- attempt all assessment tasks
- pass all assessment tasks

Minimum Student Attendance and Participation
It is expected that students will allocate 12 hours per week to this subject, including any required class attendance, completion of prescribed readings and assessment tasks.

Student attendance at all classes is compulsory and students must attend 100% of classes. Absences will require the submission of an application for Academic Consideration via SOLS and the presentation of suitable documentation, for example a Medical Certificate, to Student Central as soon as practical. For further details about applying for academic consideration visit the Student Central webpage: [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html)

Scaling
Scaling will not occur in this subject.

Late Submission
Late submission of an assessment task without an approved extension of the deadline is not acceptable. If you are unable to submit an assessment due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. medical grounds or compassionate grounds), you can make an application of academic consideration. Not all circumstances qualify for academic consideration. For further details about applying for academic consideration visit the Student Central webpage: [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html)

Late Submission Penalty
Marks will be deducted for late submission at the rate of 5% of the total possible marks for that particular assessment task per day. This means that if a piece of work is marked out of 100, then the late penalty will be 5 marks per day (5% of 100 possible marks per day). The formula for calculating the late penalty is: the total possible marks x 0.05 x number of days late. For the purposes of this policy a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) will be regarded as two days.

For example:
• Student A submits an assessment which is marked out of 100. The assessment is submitted 7 days late. This means that a late penalty of 35 marks will apply (100 x 0.05 x 7). The assessment is marked as per normal out of 100 and is given a mark of 85/100, and then the late penalty is applied. The result is that the student receives a final mark of 50/100 for the assessment (85 (original mark) – 35 marks (late penalty) = 50/100 (final mark)).

• Student B submits a report which is marked out of 20. The report is submitted three days late. This means that a late penalty of 3 marks will apply ((20 x 0.05 x 3). The report is marked as per normal out of 20 and is given a mark of 17/20, and then the late penalty is applied. The result is that the student receives a final mark of 14/20 for the report (17 (original mark) – 3 marks (late penalty) = 14/20 (final mark)).

No marks will be awarded for work submitted either after the assessment has been returned to the students or more than two weeks after the due date, whichever is the sooner. This does not apply to situations where a particular assessment task is undertaken by students at different times throughout the session, but where the assessment is based on experiments or case studies specific to a student. In this case no marks will be awarded for work submitted more than two weeks after the due date.

Notwithstanding this, students must complete all assessment tasks to a satisfactory standard and submit them, regardless of lateness or loss of marks, where submission is a condition of satisfactorily completing the subject.

Supplementary Assessments
This subject has been identified as unsuitable for supplementary assessment, and no supplementary assessment will be offered.

System of Referencing Used for Written Work
The Author-Date (Harvard) referencing system should, unless otherwise specified for a particular assessment (check Details of Assessment Tasks), be utilised. A summary of the Harvard system can be accessed on the Library website at: http://public01.library.uow.edu.au/refcite/style-guides/html/

Use of Internet Sources
Students are able to use the Internet to access the most current information on relevant topics and information. Internet sources should only be used after careful critical analysis of the currency of the information, the role and standing of the sponsoring institution, reputation and credentials of the author, the clarity of the information and the extent to which the information can be supported or ratified by other authoritative sources.

Plagiarism
The full policy on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism is found in the Policy Directory on the UOW website.

“The University's Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy, Faculty Handbooks and subject guides clearly set out the University’s expectation that students submit only their own original work for assessment and avoid plagiarising the work of others or cheating. Re-using any of your own work (either in part or in full) which you have submitted previously for assessment is not permitted without appropriate acknowledgement. Plagiarism can be detected and has led to students being expelled from the University.

The use by students of any website that provides access to essays or other assessment items (sometimes marketed as 'resources'), is extremely unwise. Students who provide an assessment item (or provide access to an assessment item) to others, either directly or indirectly (for example by uploading an assessment item to a website) are considered by the university to be intentionally or recklessly helping other students to cheat. This is considered academic misconduct and students place themselves at risk of being expelled from the University.”
Submission of Assessments
Refer to the submission requirements under the details of the individual assessments. Students should ensure that they receive a receipt acknowledging submission. Students will be required to produce this in the event that an assessment task is considered to be lost. Students are also expected to keep a copy of all their submitted assessments in the event that re-submission is required.

Assessment Return
Students will be notified when they are able to view their marked assessment. In accordance with University Policy marked assignments will usually only be held for 21 days after the declaration of marks for that assignment.
Section C: General Advice

Students should refer to the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health website for information on policies, learning and support services and other general advice.

University Policies

Students should be familiar with the following University policies:

a. Code of Practice – Teaching and Assessment

b. Student Charter

c. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

d. Student Academic Consideration Policy

e. Course Progress Policy

f. Graduate Qualities Policy

g. Academic Complaints Policy (Coursework and Honours Students)

h. Policy and Guidelines on Non-Discriminatory Language Practice and Presentation

i. Intellectual Property Policy

Student Support Services and Facilities

Students can access information on student support services and facilities at the following link. This includes information on “Academic Support”, “Starting at University,” “Help at University” as well as information and support on “Career’s and Jobs”.


Student Etiquette

Guidelines on the use of email to contact teaching staff, mobile phone use in class and information on the university guide to eLearning ‘Netiquette’ can be found at


Version Control Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version Control</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Author/Reviewer</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20160229</td>
<td>Kelly Newell – Subject Coordinator</td>
<td>Sonia Losinno – ADE nominee</td>
<td>Final MHSA100 Autumn 2016 Subject Outline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20151223</td>
<td>Prof Dennis Taaffe – HOS</td>
<td>Sonia Losinno – ADE nominee</td>
<td>Final MHSA100 Autumn 2016 Subject Outline</td>
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