



BUSINESS SCHOOL
Te Kura Pakihi

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SCIENCE

Research Methods for Digital Health
DIGH706

COURSE OUTLINE

Semester Two 2023

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Paper Description and Aims

An introduction to all aspects of the process of research, with a special emphasis on study designs common in Digital Health, health informatics and biomedical research.

Prerequisites: None.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this paper, you should be able to

1. Explain what research is, and in particular what research is in the Health Informatics setting
2. Describe the different types of study designs commonly employed in Digital Health research
3. Describe the different types data used in research and how they are collected
4. Describe and explain the different types of error encountered in research
5. Reflect critically on applications of basic statistical analyses
6. Make a critical appraisal of research articles using an appropriate framework
7. Explain what qualitative research is and describe some of the methods it employs.

Teaching Staff

Paper Coordinator

Name: Sander Zwanenburg
Email: sander.zwanenburg@otago.ac.nz

Programme Director

Name: Chris Paton
Email: chris.paton@otago.ac.nz

You should contact Sander with any administrative enquiries about the paper or requests for late submission of assignments. For general feedback, you can approach 1) the class representative (if any), 2) the lecturer, or 3) the programme director. To discuss your enrolment within the Digital Health programme, contact the programme director.

Course Delivery

Lectures: Tuesdays 6-8pm on MS Teams
Tutorial: Wednesday 3-4pm on MS Teams

These times may be subject to change as we will generally attempt to find suitable timeslots for all students.

Lectures present the key conceptual material through discussion and interaction between teaching staff and students. Lectures are supported by readings and/or video material which are to be reviewed prior to the lectures. Lectures contain quizzes about the previous week's content.

Tutorials are student-led Q&A and discussion sessions, to cement concepts presented at lectures and in the materials, with their peers in a supportive environment.

Course Calendar The course calendar (in this outline) details scheduling information. Note that this calendar may change as the course proceeds. Any changes will be announced at lectures and be detailed on Teams.

Students are expected to prepare for and attend all classes to gain full benefit from the course

These activities should be prepared for by reviewing information detailed on Blackboard and completing any assigned readings. Students unable to attend a lecture are expected to catch up on missed material. Unless stated otherwise, all aspects of the course are examinable.

Expectations and Workload

DIGH706 is a 30 point paper which would typically require a total of approximately 300 hours' work including reading of course material, on-line meetings, practice exercises, assignments and competency tests.

Course Learning Resources

Materials are released through MS Teams, and will be discussed in the following week's lecture and tutorial. They are to be read or watched prior to the lecture.

Other material will be released for purposes of the assignments.

MS Teams

You are strongly recommended to set up MS Teams on your devices:

- For mobile devices (smartphone, tablet) it is best to use the MS Teams app. This will help you get notified of any important activity.
- For PCs and Macs, you can either use the MS Teams application or your browser.

Assessment

All material presented is examinable (except where stated otherwise) by assignments and the quizzes. All-important assessment information such as due dates and times, content, guidelines and so on will be discussed at lectures and, where appropriate, detailed on Teams. *Students are responsible for ensuring that they are aware of this information, keeping track of their own progress, and catching up on any missed classes.*

Assessment	Due date	% of final grade	Comments
Quizzes in weeks 2-13	Live during lecture	25%	If you cannot attend a lecture due to special circumstances, contact the lecturer for an exemption.
Assignment 1 (draft)	Friday 4 August, 5pm	10%	To apply for extension due to special circumstances, contact the lecturer.
Assignment 1 (final)	Friday 11 August, 5pm	15%	
Assignment 2 (draft)	Friday 7 September, 5pm	15%	Drafts will be made available to all students, and students are paired to discuss their drafts.
Assignment 2 (final)	Friday 14 September, 5pm	15%	
Assignment 3 (draft)	Friday 5 October, 5pm	10%	Drafts and final versions are marked together (25% for each of the assignments) after final versions are submitted.
Assignment 3 (final)	Friday 12 October, 5pm	15%	

The first assignment will focus on a critical reflection on research philosophy and the last two assignments will focus on a critical reflection of the application of research methods.

Course Requirements

Assignment Submission Procedure

All assignments are to be submitted through MS Teams; they will also be checked through the TurnItIn plagiarism software. All documents submitted must be .doc or .docx format.

Late Assignments

Per departmental standard, assignments submitted late will incur a penalty proportional to 20% per workweek, e.g. an assignment submitted 1 workday late incurs a 4% penalty.

Term requirements

There are no term requirements or paper pass requirements.

Referencing Style and Style Guide

For this paper the recommended referencing style is APA. Any common style is acceptable as long as it is applied consistently. Style guides are available on the University Library website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/library/quicklinks/citation/index.html>

Quality Assurance

At the Otago Business School we monitor the quality of student learning and your learning experience. Your assessed work may be used for assurance of learning processes, such as evaluating the level of achievement of learning outcomes, with the aim of improving the quality of our programmes. All material used for quality assurance purposes will be treated as confidential and the outcome will not affect your grades.

Grading System

The grading scheme used at Otago is:

A+	90-100	C+	60-64
A	85-89	C	55-59
A-	80-84	C-	50-54
B+	75-79	D	40-49
B	70-74	E	<40
B-	65-69		

Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)

Students should ensure that all submitted work is their own. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct (cheating). It is defined as copying or paraphrasing another's work and presenting it as one's own. Any student found responsible for academic misconduct in any piece of work submitted for assessment shall be subject to the University's dishonest practice regulations, which may result in serious penalties, including forfeiture of marks for the piece of work submitted, a zero grade for the paper, or in extreme cases, exclusion from the University. The University of Otago reserves the right to use plagiarism detection tools.

Students are advised to inform themselves about University policies concerning dishonest practice and take up opportunities to improve their academic and information literacy. If necessary, seek advice from academic staff, or the Student Learning Centre. The guideline for students is available at this link: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity/index.html>

Course Calendar

Lecture/ Tutorial Number	Week Commencing*	Topic
1	Monday, 10 July	Introduction & Philosophy of Science
2	Monday, 17 July	Philosophy of science & Epistemology
3	Monday, 24 July	Concepts & Measurement
4	Monday, 31 July	Descriptive Statistics
5	Monday, 7 August	Introduction into Multivariate Statistics
6	Monday, 14 August	Introduction into Advanced quantitative techniques
7	Monday, 21 August	Design of quantitative studies
Mid Semester Break Monday 28th August 2023 – Friday 1st September 2023		
8	Monday, 4 September	Questionnaire & Interview studies
9	Monday, 11 September	Intervention studies
10	Monday, 18 September	Design science
11	Monday, 25 September	Systematic literature reviews & Meta-analyses
12	Monday, 2 October	Ethnographies & Action research
13	Monday, 9 October	Commensurability & Mixed Methods

Lectures end Friday 13 October 2023

The University Exam Period of the second semester begins on Wednesday 18 October 2023 and ends on Saturday 11 November 2023

Student Learning Support and Information

Student Charter

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/about/otago0005275.html>

Guidelines for Learning at Otago

<http://hedc.otago.ac.nz/hedc/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Guidelines-for-Learning.pdf>

<http://hedc.otago.ac.nz/hedc/learning/>

Student Learning Centre

The Student Learning Centre, which is part of the Higher Education Development Centre, provides learning support, free of charge, to ALL enrolled students. Their services include:

- a workshop programme designed to help students to improve their learning strategies and their generic skills;
- individual assistance with learning issues;
- on-line study skills advice;
- a student leadership programme
- a student-led peer support programme for students of all ages and backgrounds.
- conversational English groups for students from a non-English speaking background

The Centre also provides two very helpful study guides, "Guidelines for Writing and Editing" and "Writing University Assignments" and these are available on the SLC website.

<http://slc.otago.ac.nz/>

Library Support

The Library website <http://www.otago.ac.nz/library> provides access to resources and services, including group room bookings, library hours and locations, past exam papers, subject guides, article databases and more.

If you need assistance either check out the self-help guides <http://otago.libguides.com/selfhelp>, or ask Library staff at the ground floor service desks, or email ask.library@otago.ac.nz

Pacific Student Support Facilitators

Malo e lelei

Falaviana (Viena) Faiva works part-time in the Dean's Office at the Otago Business School, Division of Commerce. Viena is of Tongan descent and one of our two Pacific Student Support Facilitators. She is responsible for all second-year Pacific students within the division.

Deans Office, Otago Business School

Division of Commerce

Email: viena.faiva@otago.ac.nz

Cell Phone: 021 279 0914

Bula Vinaka



Jekope Ramala Maiono also works part time in the Dean's Office at the Otago Business School, Division of Commerce.

Maiono is of Fijian descent and our other Pacific Student Support Facilitator. He is responsible for all first-year Pacific students in the division.

Deans Office, Otago Business School
Division of Commerce
Email: jekope.maiono@otago.ac.nz
Cell Phone: 021 279 0871



Kaiāwhina Māori | Māori student support

Ben Sommerville is the Kaiāwhina Māori (Māori student support) for Te Kura Pākihi | Otago Business School. He is able to answer any questions you may have about studying here at the University of Otago. He can provide information about scholarships, campus services, pastoral and financial care. Ben is also here to support those students who are studying away from their whānau, hapū and iwi, to ensure they feel safe and supported. He has a passion for the development of Rangatahi and understands the struggles that can come with academic life.



Tel +64 27 513 6991
Email ben.sommerville@otago.ac.nz

Disability Information and Support

Students are encouraged to seek support if they are having difficulty with their studies due to disability, temporary or permanent impairment, injury or chronic illness. It is important to seek help early, through one of the contacts below:

Website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/disabilities>

65 Albany St, West Lane, ISB, Student Services
Tel: +64 3 479 8235 Email: disabilities@otago.ac.nz

Student Feedback

We encourage your feedback. This can be in the form of contacting staff, participating in course evaluation surveys, and communicating with class representatives. Continual improvements will be made to this course based in part on student feedback.

Class Representatives

The class (or student) representative system is an avenue for encouraging communication and consultation between staff and students. It provides you with a vehicle for communicating your views on the teaching and delivery of the paper and provides staff with an opportunity to communicate information and gain constructive feedback from students. It contributes to the development of a

sense of community within a department and it adds a further dimension to the range of support services offered to students.

Volunteers for the role of class representatives will be called early in the semester. The OUSA invites all class representatives to a training session, conducted by OUSA, about what it means to be a class representative and some of the possible procedures for dealing with issues that arise. They also provide information on the services that OUSA offers and the role OUSA can play in solving problems that may occur. The OUSA provides support to class representatives during the semester. Departmental staff will also meet with class representatives during the semester to discuss general issues or matters they wish to have considered.

Your class representative's name and contact details will be posted early in the semester.

Concerns about the Course

We hope you will feel comfortable coming to talk to us if you have a concern about the course. The Course Co-ordinator will be happy to discuss any concerns you may have. Alternatively, you can report your concerns to the Class Representative who will follow up with departmental staff. If, after making approaches via these channels, you do not feel that your concerns have been addressed, there are University channels that may aid resolution. For further advice or more information on these, contact the departmental administrator or head of department.

Disclaimer

While every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, it is subject to change. Changes will be notified in class and via Blackboard. Students are encouraged to check Blackboard regularly. It is the student's responsibility to be informed.