



## COURSE OUTLINE

# ANM100 Animal Ecology Field Course

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2021 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast  
USC Moreton Bay  
USC Fraser Coast

**ON CAMPUS**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

*Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.*

## 1. What is this course about?

### 1.1. Description

Animal ecologists are passionate, field-orientated scientists, who work in a broad variety of industries across a diverse range of animal groups and ecosystems. This practical and exciting Field Course will introduce you to the discipline of animal ecology and engage you directly in studying animals in some of the unique coastal ecosystems of Australia. You will spend several days in the field where you will be exposed to hot topics in contemporary animal ecology research and use 'in a hands-on fashion' multiple techniques to survey animals in marine, coastal, and terrestrial habitats.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>ON CAMPUS</b>			
<b>Lecture</b>	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop</b>	2hrs	Week 2	5 times
<b>Fieldwork</b>	24hrs	Week 2	Once Only

### 1.3. Course Topics

TBA

## 2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

## 3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

#### 4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES		GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Demonstrate and apply knowledge about   a) the fundamentals of animal ecology as a scientific discipline; b) the questions it asks; c) the evolutionary processes that shape it; and d) the techniques used to study it.	Knowledgeable
2	Communicate effectively and professionally.	Empowered
3	Systematise and analyse   a) core concepts in animal ecology science; b) the adaptations of animals to their environment, c) biological and ecological levels of organisation, and d) processes that shape the structure of animal communities;	Creative and critical thinker Sustainability-focussed

#### 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

##### 5.1. Pre-requisites

Must be enrolled in SB303, SC320, SC012 or UC103

##### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

##### 5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

##### 5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

#### 6. How am I going to be assessed?

##### 6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

##### 6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

A formative fieldwork notebook is completed, and reviewed, on the field course in week 4, and a formative practice exam is conducted in class in week 10. Feedback will also be given in week 5 via a summative fieldwork quiz.

##### 6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	20%	1 hour	Week 5	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Oral	Group	30%	15 minutes (+/- 10%).	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission
All	3	Examination	Individual	50%	1.5 hours	Week 12	Online Test (Quiz)

##### All - Assessment Task 1: Fieldwork Quiz

<b>GOAL:</b>	Demonstrate your understanding of key research skills and methods that are used to study animals in their environment and the ability to collect and accurately record ecological data.
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Quiz/zes
<b>FORMAT:</b>	An online multiple choice exam based on the research questions, ecological studies and survey methods covered on the field course.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrate your knowledge of field ecology, including research questions and hypotheses, experimental design, and survey techniques and methodologies.
	2	Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes. <span style="float: right;">1 2 3</span>

#### All - Assessment Task 2: Seminar

<b>GOAL:</b>	Demonstrate your ability to communicate professionally and accurately the important facts and concepts associated with research activities and techniques in animal ecology.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Oral	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Oral presentation introducing a chosen research question, describing the research techniques used to answer this question, and summarizing the results of data collected on this topic during the Field Course. This presentation can be in the form of a standard seminar/talk supported by PowerPoint slides, and should be recorded and uploaded to Blackboard via Video Vault.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Introduce the research question and clearly state the aims and objectives of the work
	2	Describe the survey design
	3	Succinctly summarize the key scientific, methodological, and ethical facets of the field activity undertaken
	4	Accurately synthesise the ecological importance or conservation significance of the project;
	5	Communicate your interpretation of the material in a professional manner
	6	Answer questions appropriately in the context of animal ecology and conservation
	7	Make an active contribution to group work

#### All - Assessment Task 3: Exam

<b>GOAL:</b>	Demonstrate your understanding of the key concepts and techniques in animal ecology and support your practice in animal ecology	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Examination	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	An online multiple choice exam based on the material covered in lectures, tutorials and the field course.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Correctly identify and outline the key concepts of animal evolution, adaptations, and ecology as presented in the lectures, tutorials and field course, and contained in supporting readings
	2	Demonstrate your knowledge of animal ecology
	3	Apply knowledge from lectures and readings to solve unseen problems

## 7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

### 8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

### 8.2. Specific requirements

You will be required to undertake field studies for one week. You will be required to wear covered footwear, hat, long-sleeved shirt and long trousers for field safety. Accommodation and travel costs will be covered. Details of management and costs for food will be set out at the beginning of the semester. Discuss any financial hardship that might be associated with the field studies with the Course Coordinator.

## 9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and low to moderate levels of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks may include working in an Australian bush setting, working with people, working outside normal office hours for example. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

## 10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

### 10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

### 10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

#### Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

### 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

### 10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au).

## 10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226.

## 10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [AccessAbility@usc.edu.au](mailto:AccessAbility@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 2890.

## 10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

## 10.8. General Enquiries

### In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

**Tel:** +61 7 5430 2890

**Email:** [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)