USC

COURSE OUTLINE

PSY401 Advanced Theoretical Issues in Psychology

Course Coordinator: Prudence Millear (pmillear@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

2021 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast
USC Moreton Bay

`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

This course introduces you to an in-depth analysis of major theoretical issues that have influenced the direction of contemporary psychology, including the scientist-practitioner philosophy of professional practice, the prominence of cognitivism within cognitive developmental, cognitive behavioural and cognitive motivational research and practice, and the emphasis on social and cultural contexts of thought and action. The course provides you an opportunity to explore one or more of these theoretical paradigms in relation to a core psychological interest.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop – On campus tutorial/workshop - 3 hours	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

The topics of the course are based on using psychological theories to understand the complexities of human interactions. These topics will include a psychological understanding of current affairs and everyday life, and understanding the psychological basis of the work of non-psychologists who are involved in assisting individuals to improve their lives, improve mental health outcomes, and improve occupational outcomes.

2. What level is this course?

`400 Level (Graduate)`

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth 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 Articulate and explain a number of theoretical perspectives that are central to the science and practice of psychology, highlighting the relative strengths and limitations of these perspectives.	Knowledgeable
2 Demonstration of critical evaluation of associated research methods, observations, and theoretical developments.	Engaged
3 Postulation of future directions in the field of psychology and potential applied applications.	Creative and critical thinker Engaged

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

Enrolled in Program AR403, AR405 or AR645

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

In Week 3, the draft plan for the presentation will be peer reviewed in your workshop. This formative assessment will help you to prepare for the presentation, by considering the scope of your topic, the literature and theory you are using, and how you structure your presentation.

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	Oral	Individual	30%	25 minutes	Refer to Format	In Class
All	2	Report	Individual	35%	1800 words	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	35%	2 hours	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 1: Oral

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment is to communicate your understanding of a current topic in psychology. The list of topics will be given on Blackboard in Week 1 of the semester. In the first class (i.e., in Week 1), you will form groups for the presentations and topics will be allocated at that time. It is important that you attend this class to be part of this process.
PRODUCT:	Oral
FORMAT:	You and your group will deliver a 25-minute oral presentation to the class in either Week 4 or Week 5. You will use a PowerPoint display to assist with your oral presentation. As part of the assessment, you will submit your PowerPoint slides to the Course Coordinator by email on the day prior to the date of your presentation.

CRITERIA:	**No.**		**Learning Outcome assessed**
	1	Articulation of the key concepts and use of appropriate theory	
	2	Extent and relevance of current research literature used in the presentation	
	3	Critical analysis of the topic, literature, and theory	
	4	Exploration of future directions and potential for applied application	
	5	Logical order and structure of presentation	
	6	Time management	
	7	Quality of delivery, and speakers' use of notes	
	8	Design of slides	
	9	Quality and knowledge contained in responses	
	10	Use of language	
	11	Assessment Criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes	① ② ③

All - Assessment Task 2: Briefing Paper

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment is to demonstrate your ability to consider the theoretical perspectives and literature on a current topic in psychology. You will prepare a Briefing Paper for an organisation to explain one of the topics used for the Seminar Presentations (Task 1). You may choose the same topic as your presentation or chose one of the topics presented by another group. The list of topics will be given on Blackboard in Week 1 of the semester.
PRODUCT:	Report
FORMAT:	The Briefing Paper will be a maximum of 1800 words, excluding the title page and reference list. Whilst there is no minimum word count, be aware that assignments that are much shorter may not cover the topic in sufficient depth. An abstract is not required for this assignment. The Briefing Paper will consist of three sections: first, a statement of the topic, second, theoretical perspective and research literature applied to the topic, and third, solutions and research opportunities on the topic. The first section should include the organisation to which you are pitching your briefing paper (and why topic would be important to the organisation), explain the topic and it's prevalence, and benefits and/or costs to society. The second section should include the relevant theoretical framework and current, peer-reviewed research literature that explain the topic. The last section should include any interventions, solutions, and/or strategies that could change, moderate, and/or improve issues identified about the topic, and possible research opportunities to better understand the topic. It is expected that the word count for the first, second, and third sections will be approximately 300, 1200, and 300 words respectively.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Statement of the topic - Identifies suitable organisation and provides rationale for BP
	2	Statement of the topic - Situation of BP in topic area, definition of key terms, and direction of BP
	3	Theoretical framework and research background - Identification and use of appropriate theory
	4	Theoretical framework and research background - Extent and relevance of current experimental research applied to topic
	5	Solutions and opportunities - Evaluation of processes of change, moderation or improvement
	6	Solutions and opportunities - Outline and justification for future research
	7	Writing style and APA - Evidence of critical analysis and original thinking
	8	Writing style and APA - Careful and accurate use of APA and use of formal academic language

All - Assessment Task 3: Examination

GOAL:	
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled
FORMAT:	The examination will consist of five (5) short answer questions.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Appropriateness of the theoretical perspectives applied to the topics
	2	Accuracy of content and breadth of information used in the answers
	3	Evidence of critical analysis and original thinking
	4	Sophistication and complexity of the written expression

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

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. 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

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.

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 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 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

- ○ **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