



COURSE OUTLINE

SGD100 Introduction to Game Design

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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.

Online

ONLINE 1

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

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 examines the role of the game designer by introducing participants to the fundamental skills and knowledge associated with contemporary game design and production. You will gain an understanding of the critical concepts related to gameplay design through the analysis and creation of both tabletop and digital games. Designing games involves rapid prototyping, teamwork and an understanding of gameplay systems and mechanics. You will demonstrate knowledge of these skills through the design and production of games from initial concept to playable prototypes.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Lecture – 1 hour online lecture content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Laboratory – On campus laboratory for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	2hrs	Week 2	12 times
ONLINE 1			
Online – 3 hours online content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Player experience

Introduction to game design theory

Game target audiences

Game impact

Game design and development processes

Playtesting

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 Analyse and describe games in terms of player experience, game design theory, impact, and target audience.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
2 Work as part of a team to iteratively design, develop, and present a game accounting for player experience, game design theory, impact, and target audience.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
3 Document the game design and development process in terms of player experience, game design theory, impact, and target audience.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker

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

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

You need to be computer literate, have experience in online research and have skills in using text editing and presentation software. Experience playing digital and non-digital games is beneficial but not necessary.

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 weeks 1 - 5 students will work in groups on mini game design tasks. Students will produce a mini game design document and play-test reports similar to those produced for task 2. Students will receive formative feedback on these documents. The first document will be submitted in week 3 with feedback given by or during week 4. Prior to week 5, students can email one draft game analysis that they intend to submit for task 1 to the tutor in order to receive formative feedback.

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	Written Piece	Individual	15%	1200 words	Week 7	Online Blog, Wiki or Journal
All	2	Written Piece	Individual and Group	50%	2500 words	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Artefact - Creative, and Oral	Individual and Group	35%	20 minute presentation	Exam Period	To be Negotiated

All - Assessment Task 1: Game Analysis Journal

GOAL:	To analyse games in terms of game design theory presented in the course.	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	Journal entries. Students can email one of their game analyses to their tutor for feedback on or before week 5.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Makes connections between existing games, game design theory, and player experience. 1
	2	Communication: clearly conveying ideas; demonstrates understanding of format, text type, audience and basic conventions of the game design discipline. 1
	3	Reflects on learnings. 1

All - Assessment Task 2: Game documentation

GOAL:	To create documentation associated with designing and developing an original game. Documentation will include a plan for the design and development of an original game, an analysis of the game, and playtest reports.	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	Templates for game documentation will be available on Blackboard. Documentation will be due in week 10, week 12, and week 1 of the exam period. Practice tasks will be done in weeks 1-5 with formative feedback given.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Creates game design documentation relating their original game to game design theory, player experience, impact, and target audience. 1 2 3
	2	Collaboration: identifies and defines roles and responsibilities for group; delivers output to the group that enables the completion of the game design documentation. 2
	3	Communication: clearly conveying ideas; demonstrates understanding of format, text type, audience and basic conventions of the game design discipline. 3
	4	Reflects on learnings. 2
	5	Solves game design problems using playtesting. 2 3

All - Assessment Task 3: Game prototype and presentation

GOAL:	To create, demonstrate, and present a playable game prototype explaining links between the game's design, player experience, target audience and impact.	
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Oral	
FORMAT:	Game prototype will include all materials required to play the game (e.g. game board, dice, cards, game rules). Prototype presentation will occur during the first week of the exam block.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Collaboration: identifies and defines roles and responsibilities for group; delivers output to the group that enables the completion of the game prototype and presentation. 2
	2	Communication: clearly conveying ideas; demonstrates understanding of format, text type, audience and basic conventions of the game design discipline. 2
	3	Conveys links between the game prototype and its player experience, target audience, and impact. 1
	4	Reflects on learnings. 2
	5	Creates a playable game prototype. 2

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 playing and reviewing digital games in your own time. Therefore, it is expected that you will be able to access gaming equipment as required. You will also be required to purchase your own equipment to make your own non-digital game prototypes. This could include board game components, cards or items required for creating prototypes of physical activity games. If studying online, you may also need to purchase boardgame simulation software.

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

To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

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

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the first day (e.g. a task worth 10 marks would attract a 0.5 mark penalty)
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the second day (e.g. a task worth 10 marks would attract a 1 mark penalty)
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day (e.g. a task worth 10 marks would attract a 2 mark penalty)
- 40% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day (e.g. a task worth 10 marks would attract a 4 mark penalty)
- 60% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fifth day (e.g. a task worth 10 marks would attract a 6 mark penalty)
- 80% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the sixth day (e.g. a task worth 10 marks would attract a 8 mark penalty)
- 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.

At the course coordinator's discretion and in consultation with the student, assessment tasks submitted after the fourth day may be marked but will receive a maximum mark of 50% of the assessment task's value. Minimal feedback will be given.

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

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