USC

C O U R S E   O U T L I N E

TPP107 Critical Thinking in Society

Course Coordinator: Noni Keys (nkeys@usc.edu.au)   **School:** School of Education and Tertiary Access

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast USC Moreton Bay USC Gympie	ON CAMPUS	Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.
Online	ONLINE	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

Critical thinking is vital for university students as it is the process by which we collect and evaluate evidence to reach rational, informed and ethical conclusions. Using the framework of the sociological imagination, students will investigate contentious issues in contemporary society. You will learn how to debate topics based on fact and logic and to develop respectful, cogent and informed arguments. You will learn how to think, not what to think, but to consider the daily decisions you make and how they shape the world.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1	3hrs	Week 1	13 times
ONLINE 1			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online	3hrs	Week 1	13 times

1.3. Course Topics

The course approaches critical thinking at the scale of the individual and society.

Focus on individual skills: Critical thinking (analysis, evaluation, inference,), argument analysis

Focus on social issues: the influences of history, culture and social structures on social issues and individual experience, aka, sociological imagination

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 Apply the sociological imagination to social issues to identify historical, structural, cultural and critical influences on various social issues.	Empowered
2 Use critical thinking skills to identify, evaluate, develop and present arguments from an ethical perspective.	Creative and critical thinker
3 Distinguish between various sources of information, selecting appropriate authorities to support arguments.	Empowered
4 Analyse, compare and synthesise information representing contested positions on social issues in an academic essay.	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

Must be enrolled in Program TP000

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 preparation for Task 1 Online Quiz, a practice quiz is available in Blackboard. This quiz will familiarise you with the style of questions to be asked in Task 1, and giving an incorrect response directs you to resources to review that material or concept. This practice quiz can be taken as many times as you like and it is available from week 1.

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 4	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	35%	800 words	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Essay	Individual	45%	1000 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Online quiz

GOAL:	Students will focus their attention on applying basic critical thinking skills to recognise patterns, and to identify reasons, conclusions and arguments within a message.
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes
FORMAT:	Students respond online to multiple choice questions relating to those materials. The multiple-choice quiz consists of 20 questions based on workshop content and activities from the first 3 weeks of the semester

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Correct identification of the appropriate response	②

All - Assessment Task 2: Structured critical analysis

GOAL:	Students demonstrate their ability to apply critical analysis skills to a published text related to a current Australian social issue.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
FORMAT:	Students select one current Australian social issue and, using the template provided, identify and evaluate elements of argument structure used by the author(s).

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identify the position and conclusion taken in the text.	②
	2	Identify argument premises.	②
	3	Determine the intended strength of the claim.	②
	4	Evaluate the argument using critical analysis skills	②

All - Assessment Task 3: Discussion essay

GOAL:	Students demonstrate their ability to analyse a topic and produce an academic essay on a contested social issue.
PRODUCT:	Essay
FORMAT:	Students follow the conventions of a discussion essay which examines factors affecting an Australian social issue. At least two different positions on the issue are to be identified.

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Explanation of the selected topic.	①
	2	Demonstration of an enquiry process that involves research, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of current information.	④
	3	Selection, analysis and synthesis of academic and non-academic sources.	③
	4	Use academic language, structure and appropriate referencing in accordance with task directions.	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

Not applicable

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

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.

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