

Course Outline

Code: COU750

Title: Ethics and Reflective Practice

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 1
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Dr Trudi Flynn – tflynn@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Mark Pearson – mpearson@usc.edu.au

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 aims to sensitise you to a wide range of ethical and legal issues in the practice of counselling and psychotherapy and to provide you with resources upon which you can rely to help you deal responsibly with these crucial issues. You will learn about culturally relevant ethical decision making and understand the historical and philosophical underpinnings of current ethical standards. Professional Codes of Ethics will be analysed; practical and concrete examples will be examined and you will reflect on your values and beliefs which may impact on your ethical decision-making process. The reflective practice stream of the course aims to increase your awareness of the value of critical reflection in counselling practice; and how this process may be used by counsellors as a tool for personal and professional growth.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

2. What level is this course?

700 level Specialised - Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

Specific Learning Outcomes	Assessment tasks	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Analyse critically and reflect on the complex theories, principles and practices of ethics in relation to counselling practice.	1 and 2	Knowledgeable. Ethical.

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Critically analyse counselling case scenarios and apply sound ethical decision making to those cases and articulate and defend your ethical decision.	2	Ethical.
Understand and discuss ethical dilemmas that may arise in counselling and synthesise appropriate responses for diverse contexts and multicultural cases.	1 and 2	Empowered. Ethical.
Identify personal values and beliefs and biases that may have an impact on your ethical decision in counselling practice.	2 and 3	Empowered. Ethical.
Understand and practice critical professional reflective practice in counselling; Analyse outcomes from reflective practice and deduce implications for practice based on personal learning.	3	Creative and critical thinkers. Empowered.

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 Enrolment restrictions

Must be enrolled in AR708

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Nil

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

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

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Students will be requested to complete an online test in Week 5, assessing uptake and comprehension of material presented during the first third of the course.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Quiz/zes	Individual	20%	1 hour	Week 5	Quiz (Online Test)
2	Case Study	Individual	40%	2000 Words	Week 11	Online Assignment Submission
3	Reflective Practice Report	Individual	40%	2500 Words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission
			100%			

Assessment 1: Ethics and Reflective Practice Quiz

Goal:	You will demonstrate knowledge of key concepts of ethical and reflective practice as taught to Week 5.
Product:	Quiz/zes
Format:	An online multiple-choice test that examines ethics and reflective practice knowledge disseminated during the first five weeks of the course.
Criteria:	Accuracy in understanding communicated concepts of counselling ethics and reflective practice.

Assessment Task 2: Case Studies

Goal:	Critically analyse two case scenarios and apply sound ethical decision making to those cases and articulate and defend your ethical decision.
Product:	Case Study
Format:	Two case scenarios will be posted on Blackboard. You are to analyse each case and discuss the ethical dilemma posed and then use your Ethic Decision Making Model to argue how you will approach the case. Literature relevant to your decisions must be cited.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding of the ethical principles involved • knowledge of the ethical decision making process • relevant literature related to your argument • identification of personal values and beliefs • clarity and logic of argument • accurate use of APA6 referencing and formatting style

Assessment Task 3: Reflective Practice Report

Goal:	To develop understanding and capacity in relation to professional reflective practice;
Product:	Report
Format:	Throughout the course of the semester, you will be invited to engage in a series of reflective practice activities. The Task 3 assignment consists of a reflective report that will draw from your experiences to consider the value of reflective practice for counsellors. The report will incorporate: an introduction to professional reflective practice, reflections on three reflective journal exercises completed during the course, and a discussion section describing i) what was learnt via the reflective process, ii) perceived value of the process, iii) implications for future practice, and iv) a comment on the utility of reflective practice in counselling. The approximate word limit for the assignment is around 2500 words.

Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidenced understanding of reflective practice as it pertains to counselling; ▪ Demonstrated capacity to effectively utilise reflective practice models; ▪ Ability to analyse outcomes from reflective practice and deduce implications for practice based on personal learning; ▪ Ability to draw meaningfully from literature within each stage of the report.
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7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. 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.

Location:	Directed study hours for location:
Sippy Downs	7 workshops of 4hours each (fortnightly) = 28 hours + 7 x 1hour online meetings – fortnightly - in alternate weeks = 7 hours

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

Please note that 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

Information regarding prescribed texts or other associated resources will be made available on the BlackBoard site prior to commencement of study

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 as a student 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. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module 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:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will 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 and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 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>

10.6 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **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