



## COURSE OUTLINE

# COU755 Research Project B

**Course Coordinator:** Mark Pearson (mpearson@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Law and Society

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine 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

In this second part of the research project you will collect and analyse the findings on which your research is based. You will subsequently prepare and submit the research in a scholarly article which complies with the style and presentation requirements of the target journal. Your research publication, and presentation of your findings at the annual USC Counselling Conference, is the culmination of training in utilising counselling knowledge and research skills and demonstrating your ability to link practice with research.

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

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – Training and support for research project presentation	2hrs	Week 1	6 times
<b>Independent Study/Research</b> – Regular consultation with individual research supervisor	1hr	Week 1	6 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

#### **Research project progress update** – challenges and rewards

Responses to, and questions about, feedback on introduction and methods sections.

Review of final assessment tasks

Review of structure of final research article

Review semi-structured interview processes

Review of data analysis methods

Practical: Class **analysis of transcripts**

#### **Strengthening your writing skills**

Academic writing should be clear, concise and precise. This workshop outlines effective writing and editing strategies that will assist you to produce a research article manuscript that is coherent, reader-friendly and error-free.

#### **Presenting with Impact**

This workshop discusses how to design and deliver an engaging, memorable conference presentation, including PowerPoint creation tips. It also offers practical tips to help you present your research, use effective body language and respond to audience questions.

**Optional: Presentation practice** and peer feedback

Practice of your presentation and get feedback on your PowerPoint.

The discussion and conclusion sections of your paper

Finalising your abstract – how to limit your abstract word-count

#### **Presentation Practice and peer feedback**

Recommend everyone runs through the complete presentation to gain feedback and to check timing (15 mins).

Attend and present at **USC Annual Counselling Research Conference** – (15 minutes to present; 5 mins Q & A)

## 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?

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 critical advanced theoretical knowledge in counselling.	Knowledgeable
2	Demonstrate competence in analysing and reporting research data	Empowered Ethical
3	Demonstrate presentation skills and the ability to summarise research outcomes	Creative and critical thinker Empowered
4	Produce a substantial counselling based research report ready for publication	Empowered Ethical

#### 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

COU754 and enrolled in AR708

##### 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 class practice sessions will provide ongoing early feedback and research supervisors are available for weekly 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	Oral	Individual	10%	15 minute presentation	Exam Period	In Class
All	2	Thesis	Individual	90%	5000-6500 words	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission

##### All - Assessment Task 1: USC Research Conference Presentation

<b>GOAL:</b>	To prepare and deliver a 15 minute, illustrated oral presentation at the annual USC Counselling Conference in week 14
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Oral
<b>FORMAT:</b>	A 15 minutes oral presentation with accompanying PowerPoint, followed by responding to a few questions from the audience.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Cohesive and logical flow of presentation 3
	2	Clarity of verbal expression 3
	3	Succinct communication outlining the project, findings and implications for counselling practice and/or education 2
	4	Effective use of PowerPoint to enhance the presentation 3
	5	Ability to respond to audience questions. 3

#### All - Assessment Task 2: Research Article Manuscript (Thesis)

<b>GOAL:</b>	You are required to submit a manuscript ready for submission to a journal for publication, online via SafeAssign in Week 12 of the semester. You will format your submission according to APA6 guidelines. To facilitate your receipt of guidance and informal formative assessment, you should work closely with your Research Supervisor throughout this task. This task has been designed to assess your abilities to conduct and present a counselling-based research article
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Thesis
<b>FORMAT:</b>	The research article manuscript will usually be between 5,000 and 6,500 words (not including the abstract, reference list and appendices). The written research article will contain the following in this order: A title page giving the title of the research project in full, that name and degrees of the candidate and the month and year when it was submitted. An abstract that is usually not more than one 250 words in length, written as a single paragraph. An acknowledgment of help given or work carried out by any other person or organisation. The main text, arranged into appropriate sections. This will typically include sections containing an introduction, method, results, and discussion. Sections and subsections should not be numbered. References Appendices. Tables, figures, and other illustrations will be of photo-ready standard and, wherever possible, will be inserted in an appropriate place in the text. Lengthy tables or figures and other illustrations which are not essential for comprehension of the text will appear as appendices. Tables and figures will be appropriately headed and labelled according to the APA6 style, and will normally be designed so that they fit on a single A4 page. References and all appendices must commence on a new page. Page numbering for these sections follows on from the text. Content of the research article manuscript: Abstract - The abstract should be presented as one paragraph and normally fit on one page. The abstract should allow the reader to quickly gain an overview of the contents of the research project. You should refer to the nature of the problem investigated, the methods employed, the results found, and the conclusion that you came to. Introduction - The introduction should include an overview of the research topic and a clear rationale for the research questions to be addressed. The introduction should explicitly state the overall study objectives and the specific aims of the investigation. The literature review should provide a critical review of relevant literature, identify knowledge gaps, and address the relationship of the literature to the research project aims. Method - The method will describe the specifics of investigation design, participant recruitment, ethical approvals, methods or measurements employed, procedures, and data analysis. Results - This section will inform the reader of the research findings. Often it is sound practice to reiterate each research question or hypothesis as you report the results pertinent to that aspect. Figures and tables are frequently useful; if used, make sure you make reference to any table or figure that is presented and that the table / figure is placed appropriately within the text. Discussion - This section attempts to explain the results. The results should be discussed in context of the research questions or hypotheses. This discussion should consider theoretical and methodological explanations, making great reference to previously published literature. This dialogue should provide possible alternative interpretations of the results. Implications of the findings should be considered. Limitations of the research project should also be examined. Based on unanswered questions that the results highlight and methodological weaknesses of the investigation, directions for future research should be stated. References - List all, and only those, sources cited in the text. The reference list should be formatted in accordance with APA6 style. Appendices - Including relevant materials such as questionnaires, etc., and tables of the statistical analyses referred to within the research project

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Overall Presentation of the article: 10%	1 2 3
	2 Abstract: 4%	4
	3 Introduction: 22%	1 3
	4 Method: 20%	2
	5 Results: 20%	1 2 3
	6 Discussion, Implications for Practice and Conclusion: 24%	1 4

## 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](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)