



COURSE OUTLINE

GEO100 The Changing Planet

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2022 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast
USC Moreton Bay

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

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

If you are interested in exploring how the planet works then this is the course for you! This introductory physical geography course will investigate the lithosphere, hydrosphere, weather and climate and the biosphere and how humans are impacting these ancient physical systems. You will develop "writing the earth" report writing skills using professional geographical tools and datasets.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Weekly introduction and preparation material	1hr	Week 1	13 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On Campus Tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	11 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Weekly introduction and preparation material	1hr	Week 1	13 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Synchronous tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	11 times

1.3. Course Topics

Geographers tool kit
The big picture: Climate Change
Lithosphere – the history of the earths crust
Atmosphere – weather and climate
Hydrosphere – found everywhere
Biosphere – biodiversity under threat
Physical geography investigation

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 MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Australian Learning & Teaching Council
1 Describe and apply foundational geographical concepts and principles of place, space, scale, interaction, environment and sustainability.	Knowledgeable	1 - Knowing: Demonstrate a coherent geographical understanding of trends, processes and impacts that shape Australian and other environments and/or societies at different spatial and temporal scales.
2 Demonstrate spatial and temporal thinking and awareness.	Empowered	1 - Knowing: Demonstrate a coherent geographical understanding of trends, processes and impacts that shape Australian and other environments and/or societies at different spatial and temporal scales. 3 - Thinking: Apply geographical thought creatively, critically and appropriately to specific spaces, places and/or environments.
3 Describe and explain core physical geography systems and processes	Knowledgeable	1 - Knowing: Demonstrate a coherent geographical understanding of trends, processes and impacts that shape Australian and other environments and/or societies at different spatial and temporal scales. 3 - Thinking: Apply geographical thought creatively, critically and appropriately to specific spaces, places and/or environments.
4 Apply geographical knowledge to evaluate the sustainability of human-environment interactions in a region/place.	Sustainability-focused	3 - Thinking: Apply geographical thought creatively, critically and appropriately to specific spaces, places and/or environments.
5 Search, select, analyse and structure information to communicate geographical perspectives and knowledge using different textual forms including maps.	Engaged	6 - Communicating: Communicate geographical perspectives and knowledge effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences using appropriately selected written, oral and visual means.

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

ENP100

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

There is an early (Week 3) low weighted quiz that sets the tone and the types of material covered in the course.

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	15%	2 hour window and should take less than an hour.	Week 3	Online Submission
All	2	Report	Individual	40%	Four reports (10% each) 500 words each Figure titles, tables and references not included in word count	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Submission
All	3	Report	Individual	45%	1200 words	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Climate Change and COP26

GOAL:	This foundational quiz is designed for you to demonstrate your understanding of key IPCC scientific findings and related UN working groups.	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	online multi choice and short answer	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Understanding geographical concepts 1
	2	Understanding of human-environment interactions 3

All - Assessment Task 2: Physical Geography Systems

GOAL:	The purpose of this task is for you to demonstrate your competency to describe and apply knowledge of physical geography systems.	
PRODUCT:	Report	
FORMAT:	Each of the four exercises will be introduced in the tutorial. Each system description will be produced using relevant communication methods including maps, images, graphs and text. Lithosphere due Week 4 Friday Atmosphere due Week 6 Friday Hydrosphere due Week 10 Friday Biosphere due Week 12 Friday	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Description and application of geographic concepts ①
	2	Use of spatial and temporal thinking ②
	3	Communication of scientific data (including maps) ⑤

All - Assessment Task 3: Queensland Globe Investigation

GOAL:	You will evaluate the sustainability of environment-human interactions in a region or place. You will draw on primary data of the four physical systems and describe key relations, impacts, drivers of change and implications of climate change on your landscape.	
PRODUCT:	Report	
FORMAT:	Academic Report 1200 words – this is a sharp and concise piece of work. Harvard or APA referencing Primary data used All referencing, tables or figure titles are not included in the word count	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Description and application of geographic concepts ①
	2	Evaluate the sustainability of human-environment interactions ④
	3	Spatial and temporal thinking ②
	4	Communication of scientific data ⑤

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 Canvas 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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

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. SafeUSC

USC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. 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.

10.6. 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.

10.7. 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.

10.8. 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: <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

USC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. 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