USC

MHN706 Neurocognition and Mental Health

Course Coordinator: Christina Driver (cdriver@usc.edu.au) **School:** Thompson Institute

2021 | Semester 2

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

Neurocognition is the understanding of how thinking skills, such as attention, memory and decision making, are specifically linked to underlying brain regions, networks and processes. Thus, neurocognition has been utilised as a means to better understand the functional impacts of various mental illnesses, including in their very early stages. In this course you will learn how a diverse range of cognitive functions such as affective regulation, metacognition and social cognition, play key roles in mental health and how these measures provide insights into the underlying neurobiology.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ONLINE 1			
Online – This course will take approximately 12.5 hours per week and may include a combination of: webinar, peer to peer collaboration, asynchronous online materials, and synchronous lecturer and peer zoom meetings.	2hrs	Week 1	13 times

1.3. Course Topics

Module 1	What is neurocognition and what has shaped our knowledge of brain function? Part 1
Module 2	What is neurocognition and what has shaped our knowledge of brain function? Part 2
Module 3	Neuropsychological assessment
Module 4	Factors impacting neurocognitive performance
Module 5	Neurocognition and its role in clinical research
Module 6	Neurocognition in developmental disorders
Module 7	Neurocognition in emerging mental disorders
Module 8	Neurocognition in severe mental disorders
Module 9	Neurocognition in ageing and dementia
Module 10	Cognitive therapies
Module 11	Gamification
Module 12	Cognitive enhancers
Module 13	What is the future of neurocognition in mental health?

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 On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	GRADUATE QUALITIES Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Identify most recent theories on how cognitive functions and domains specifically link to underlying brain regions, networks and processes.	Knowledgeable
2 Justify the most appropriate use of neurocognitive intervention by differentiating and evaluating current neurocognitive treatment approaches in a mental health population.	Creative and critical thinker
3 Evaluate and justify recent research and research methodology, assessing the effectiveness of neurocognitive interventions in the context of mental health and proposing implications for future directions.	Engaged
4 Articulate evidence and conclusions in an appropriate scholarly writing style.	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. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program AR602

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

You will be given practice questions within the first 4 modules to receive early feedback and to help you to become familiar the type of questions to be answered in task 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?
Online	1	Examination	Individual	20%	1 hour	Week 4	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
Online	2	Portfolio	Individual	40%	400 words each week for 4 weeks and 1000-word summary	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
Online	3	Written Piece	Individual	40%	2500 words	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

Online - Assessment Task 1: Open book exam

GOAL:	You will be assessed on your ability to identify recent theories on how cognitive functions and domains specifically link to underlying brain regions, networks and processes. You will complete an open book, take home (online) exam to respond to a series of questions including multiple choice, fill in the blank and one word response answers.
PRODUCT:	Examination
FORMAT:	Open book, take home exam (online) to respond to a series of questions including multiple choice, fill in the blank and one word response answers. Individual work You will have 1 attempt.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Identification of how cognitive functions specifically link to underlying brain regions, networks and processes.	1

Online - Assessment Task 2: Cognitive domains reviews and summary

GOAL:	This assessment will require you to understand and differentiate between various cognitive functions and domains and their relevance to different mental health populations. Each week as you are presented with a particular population, you will write a short review piece justifying which cognitive intervention is most relevant and why. In the last week, you will write a summary, comparing and contrasting the range of interventions, and looking for similarities and differences in population groups.
PRODUCT:	Portfolio
FORMAT:	400 words each week for 4 weeks, 1000-word summary Individual work Guidelines will be provided in your task folder

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identification of relevant cognitive functions and domains.	①
	2	Differentiation of interventions between different populations.	②
	3	Evaluation and justification of cognitive interventions chosen for a specific population.	① ②
	4	Articulation of evidence and conclusions in an appropriate scholarly writing style.	④

Online - Assessment Task 3: Critical literature review of neurocognitive intervention research

GOAL:	This assessment has been designed to enhance your evaluation skills by critically engaging with research and research methodology in the context of neurocognitive interventions for mental health. You will be required to select 5-10 original research articles using a specific neurocognitive intervention. You will critically evaluate the articles from a methodological perspective to determine the effectiveness of the chosen intervention, consider the implications for research, and propose future directions.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
FORMAT:	2500 words Individual Guidelines will be provided in your task folder

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Evaluation of current neurocognitive intervention research methodology	③
	2	Assessment of effectiveness of neurocognitive interventions.	③
	3	Proposal of new or innovative ideas for future research.	① ③
	4	Articulation of evidence and conclusions in an appropriate scholarly writing style.	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

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Required	n/a	0	No prescribed text. Key readings will be provided each week through the library course readings.	n/a

8.2. Specific requirements

All work submitted for assessment is to be word processed and submitted electronically. It is expected that

students will have ready access to a computer with common productivity software and reliable Internet

access. Students will be able to participate in video conferencing, and therefore it is recommended to have computer capabilities to join these sessions (e.g. webcam, microphone).

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 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

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