



COURSE OUTLINE

MUS101 Intro to Songwriting and Performance

Course Coordinator: Briony Luttrell (bluttrell@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Business and Creative Industries

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 course, you will study the foundations of songwriting, live sound, and staged performance. You will be guided by lecturers and industry practitioners as you engage in the basics of lyrics writing, harmony, melody, and musical form. You will apply these skills in a number of music performance tasks including live recording, live sound, stage presence, performance practice and collaborative music making. This knowledge will culminate in a live performance and recording of your original song.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – In-class tutorial	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Songwriting, Performance, Live Sound, Staging, Events and concerts, Basic recording

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 Develop a shared musical vocabulary led by 21st Century popular approaches to music creation	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
2 Build a knowledge of the key elements of songwriting and lyric writing informed by both artistic and industry practice.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
3 Produce music and lyrical works of your own creation as part of an ongoing process of development for a portfolio of creative works.	Engaged
4 Explore songwriting theory in an industry best practice framework according to intellectual property considerations.	Ethical
5 Develop critical listening and self-analysis skills essential to songwriting practice in the 21st Century.	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

Not applicable

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

An opportunity exists in every workshop to produce and perform creative pieces individually and/or in small peer groups. However, in Week 4 students will received feedback from tutors.

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	Artefact - Creative	Individual	20%	2-5 minutes and written lyric sheet	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Artefact - Creative	Individual	40%	3 - 5 minutes and lyric sheet	Week 10	In Class
All	3	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Group	40%	2-5 minutes of original songwriting and 500 word critical reflective written work	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Song Sketch Lyrics and Harmony

GOAL:	This assessment task will develop and evaluate skills in lyric writing and basic songwriting including elements of music theory like harmony and structure.																			
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative																			
FORMAT:	In this task you will engage in industry-led practices in professional songwriting. You will develop a set of lyrics according to the principles taught in class. The lyrics will be accompanied by basic musical element and formed into a 'song sketch', including an outline of basic song structure, harmony, and melody. This song sketch is delivered as recorded artefact and written text.																			
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Demonstration of lyric writing principles discussed in this course</td> <td>1 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Producing novel construction of narrative in song</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Building popular song structures</td> <td>2 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Developing appropriate harmonic elements</td> <td>3 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Producing clear ideas through appropriate delivery format</td> <td>2 3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Demonstration of lyric writing principles discussed in this course	1 4	2	Producing novel construction of narrative in song	3	3	Building popular song structures	2 4	4	Developing appropriate harmonic elements	3 5	5	Producing clear ideas through appropriate delivery format	2 3	
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All - Assessment Task 2: Songwriting to a brief

GOAL:	This assessment task will place your developing songwriting skills into a common industry framework of practice.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative
FORMAT:	In this task you will be provided a mock industry publisher's brief outlining a set of parameters required of your lyric and music making. You will apply your songwriter's toolkit to develop a song that fits those parameters and present a recorded "song sketch" and lyric sheet to demonstrate your creative work.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed	
	1	Producing lyric writing concepts that fit the publisher brief	3 4
	2	Developing arrangement and proposed production to fit the brief	4 5
	3	Developing harmonic devices in appropriate song structures	3
	4	Exploring the constraints of writing to a brief.	1 4

All - Assessment Task 3: Demonstration recording Original songwriting

GOAL:	This assessment task is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your songwriting ability and develop a demonstration recording of your work for your creative portfolio.		
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece		
FORMAT:	In this task you will engage in an industry-guided live production and recording of your original work. This production and recording process will showcase the songwriting toolkit, live sound, and performance knowledge you developed during semester. You will collaborate with peers to coordinate a production and recording schedule for the development of your performance. You will develop a written critical self analysis (500 words) outlining your songwriting intentions and discuss your perception of how effective you were in achieving them.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Developing narrative in lyrical content.	4 5
	2	Exploring basic musical elements and structure as outlined in this course.	4 5
	3	Producing performance outcomes in a collaborative industry model.	3 4
	4	Exploring critical analysis of creative work demonstrating understanding of songwriting, performance and collaboration principles.	4 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 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.

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