USC

Course Outline

Code: NUR713
Title: Independent Study

School: Nursing, Midwifery & Paramedicine
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Dr Lauren Kearney   Email: lkearney@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Marc Broadbent

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 will provide you with the opportunity to explore in depth an area of interest relevant to your professional and clinical work. You will work closely with an academic mentor to develop a proposal for the study, and to develop a learning portfolio that demonstrates your learning and achievement in the course.

1.2   Course topics

Course topics will be determined by the selected topic for independent study.

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 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 you becoming:
Critically reflect on your professional practice.	1,3	Creative and critical thinkers.
Engage with key concepts and evidence in a chosen topic	1,2,3	Creative and critical thinkers.
Synthesise your learning about the chosen topic in an appropriate written format	3	Knowledgeable.
Analyse and explain the implications of your learning about your chosen topic for practice	3	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

Students must be enrolled in Program SC711, SC723, SC742, SC423 or SC420

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)

N/A

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

Your first assessment task submission follows negotiation of your study plan in this course and enables the course coordinator to give you feedback to support your development of tasks 2 and 3

6.3   Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Tasks	Individual or Group	Weighting	Duration / length	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Proposal for Independent Study	Individual	0% (Formative Assessment)	500 words	Week 4	Blackboard (SafeAssign)
2	Literature Review related to proposal	Individual	80%	5000 words	Week 8	Blackboard (SafeAssign)
3	Learning Portfolio/report	Individual	20%	1000 words or Negotiated	Week 14	Blackboard (SafeAssign)
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Proposal for Independent Study (Formative Assessment)

Goal:	You will develop and design a proposal for your independent project topic in consultation with an academic mentor/ course coordinator
Product:	Proposal of 500 words. The proposal should identify the topic for independent study and set out the plan for and its development into a literature review and the learning portfolio/report. This is a formative assessment point designed to assist you design your schedule of study and learning goals
Format:	Online submission
Criteria:	• Critical reflection on chosen topic in professional practice • Ability to engage with key concepts and evidence relevant to the chosen topic • Substantiation of planned project activities (Assessment 2 and 3) with relevant sources • Communication including: written expression, structure, integration of literature, citations and referencing (APA 6th ed.)

Assessment Task 2: Literature Review

Goal:	The goal of this assessment is for you to critique the available literature that is relevant to your chosen topic
Product:	Literature Review
Format:	On Line submission of a 5000 word Literature review using a recognised review protocol appropriate to your topic and plan.
Criteria:	- Engagement with key concepts and evidence in the chosen topic - Information literacy skills: Systematic approach to conduct of review including. Selection, access, use of sources and citations - Synthesis of literature and reasoned argument - Critical reflection of literature findings to your topic and plan - Communication including: written expression, structure, integration of literature, citation and referencing (APA 6th ed.)

Assessment Task 3: Learning Portfolio/report

Goal:	The goal of this assessment is for you to critically review your learning in your chosen topic and against your goals and learning plan)
Product:	The format of this submission will be negotiated with the course coordinator. It may take the form of a report or portfolio digital or hard copy. It will be approximately 1000 words in length.
Format:	You will draw on your negotiated learning goals and plan and the findings from the literature review you conducted in assessment task 2 to develop and report on your learning. The final criteria and standards against which your work will be assessed will be negotiated between you and your coordinator. However you will need to demonstrate engagement with the key concepts, and learning against the goals; critical reflection on your plan and learning, synthesis of your learning on your chosen topic
Criteria:	Criteria and standards for grading to be negotiated and finalised into a rubric with your course coordinator but accounting for the following: - Application of key concepts with key concepts and evidence in the chosen topic - Critical reflection on practice - Synthesis of learning on the chosen topic - Analysis and explanation of implication of the learning for practice - Information literacy skills: use of sources and citations - Communication including: written expression, structure, integration of literature, citation and referencing (APA 6th ed.)

7.   What are the course activities?

7.1   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: Specific Campus(es) or online:	Directed study hours for location:
Sippy Downs	Online learning.

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)

N/A

8.2   Specific requirements

N/A

9.   Risk management

Health and Safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to research and understand the 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 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 South Bank** - 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