



Course Outline

Code: OES215

Title: Coastal Outdoor Environmental Interpretation

Faculty:	Science, Health, Education and Engineering
School:	Education
Teaching Session:	Semester 2
Year:	2018
Course Coordinator:	Glyn Thomas Email: gthomas2@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator:	Brendon Munge

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

More than 85% of Australians live within 50km of the coast. In this course, you will develop the knowledge and skills to facilitate experiences that can change the way people think and feel about natural coastal environments. You will develop your personal naturalist, bushwalking and paddling expertise and refine your skills and knowledge to lead peers in interpretive experiences in natural coastal environments in South East Queensland. This course shifts the focus from being a capable outdoor participant to becoming a capable outdoor guide/leader.

1.2 Course topics

Coastal geomorphology, natural history, cultural history, coastal ecologies, bushwalking and paddling in coastal environments, land management issues, sustainability and conservation,

2. What level is this course?

200 level Developing - Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and skills to new contexts. May require pre-requisites and introductory level knowledge/skills. Normally undertaken in the 2nd or 3rd 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?

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course you should be able to:	Assessment Tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcome in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:
Develop and apply basic concepts of coastal geomorphology and ecologies in local contexts.	Task 1 Task 2 Task 3	Knowledgeable
Identify the factors important for the sustainable function of marine and estuarine ecosystems and key threats to these systems.	Task 1 Task 2	Sustainability Focused Knowledgeable
Demonstrate naturalist skills in local coastal environments.	Task 2 Task 3.	Knowledgeable Empowered
Plan and facilitate an environmental interpretation activity for novices in a local coastal environment.	Task 3	Creative and critical thinking
Demonstrate appropriate guiding knowledge and skills to lead novices on walking and/or paddling journeys in coastal environments.	Task 3	Knowledgeable Engaged

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

Enrolled in Program ED312, ED112, UU301 or XU301

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

OES104

5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

You'll need to be aware of the physical components and location requirements of the program. If you have a disability, medical condition or any concerns that may affect your potential participation in some of the practical components of the program, you are invited to discuss your options with the course coordinator.

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

Students will engage in self- and peer-assessment processes in tutorials to gain feedback that will assist in preparation for the assessment tasks.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Tasks	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Individual Research Report	Individual	40	1500 words and 1 page interpretive summary	Draft due Week 4 Final due Week 6	Blackboard
2	Environmental Studies Fieldwork Report	Individual	30	1000 words	Week 8	Blackboard
3	Environmental Interpretation Activity	Group	30	2 page lesson plan, handouts, and 20-30 minute session.	Week 11 for plan, Week 12 for the session	Blackboard
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Individual Research Report

Goal:	This task will help you develop the research skills to increase the depth of your knowledge about a particular aspect/species of South East Queensland coastal environments.
Product:	Essay and 1 page interpretive summary
Format:	1500 words - In this task you will be required to conduct a literature search on a particular species of flora and fauna from the SEQ coastal environment. You will also consider sustainability issues and threats to the health and/or survival of that species. The 1 page interpretive summary will follow a provided template that will form the basis of a useful teaching resource. You will hand in a draft essay in Week 4 – for feedback and guidance for your final submission in Week 6.
Criteria:	You will be assessed on your ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and synthesize the literature to identify key information about a particular species of flora and fauna. Develop and apply written communication skills to create an engaging interpretive handout. Apply academic literacy skills including English expression, APA 6th referencing conventions, grammar, and technical accuracy.

Assessment Task 2: Environmental Studies Fieldwork Report

Goal:	You will use basic environmental concepts to explore the environmental health and sustainability issues for a particular coastal environment.
Product:	Short-answer report
Format:	1000 words - In this task you will collect data about a particular environment and conduct introductory level analyses to determine the health and sustainability issues for flora and fauna in that environment. Threats to the on-going environmental health of the environment, particularly in light of global change, will be explored and management strategies identified.
Criteria:	You will be assessed on your ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficiently and accurately collect, analyse, and interpret environmental data using relevant literature. Demonstrate an understanding of the environmental health and sustainability issues of a specific coastal environment

Assessment Task 3: Environmental Interpretation Activity

Goal:	You will plan and facilitate an environmental interpretation activity with peers.
Product:	Interpretive session
Format:	You will facilitate a 20-30 minute environmental interpretation session with peers and provide a 2 page lesson plan (plus handouts). You will work with a group of 2-3 peers to develop the experience. The context will be an outdoor journey using bushwalking and/or paddling in a coastal environment.
Criteria:	You will be assessed on your ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply environmental and ecological knowledge to help peers interpret a particular coastal environment. • Apply principles of effective environmental interpretation • Demonstrate oral presentation skills and engage your peers in interactive workshop activities. • Work collaboratively.

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:
USC Sunshine Coast	The course will be made up of the equivalent of 20hrs of lectures and tutorials spread over the semester, and 6 full days of practical field work.

7.2 Course content

Week # / Module #	What key concepts/content will I learn?
Module 1	Coastal geomorphology and ecologies, natural history, cultural history, coastal ecologies, land management issues, conservation
Module 2	Sustainability of marine and estuarine ecosystems
Module 3	Naturalist studies in coastal environments
Module 4	Environmental interpretation in coastal environments

Please note that the course content may be subject to variation.

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)

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below as they are required:

Author	Year	Title	Publisher
Not applicable			

8.2 Specific requirements

You will need to provide the following items for the practical field trips components of the trip: suitable clothing for all weather contingencies; a day pack suitable for 1 day journeys; a sleeping mat; a sleeping bag. Backpacks, tents and stoves and other activity equipment will be provided to students.

9. Risk management

The risks associated with the field trips in this course are managed through appropriate safety management processes and experienced staff to increase the level of safety for the students participating. The safety management practices to be adopted include: best practice in terms of teacher-student ratios; required use of appropriate safety equipment by all staff and students; appropriate tele-communications use to ensure optimal emergency response; the use of qualified and experienced staff in the activities being conducted. Comprehensive safety management procedures will be documented and followed for all field trips.

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