

## Course Outline

**Code: PSY401**

### Title: Advanced Theoretical Issues in Psychology

**School:** Social Sciences  
**Teaching Session:** Semester 1  
**Year:** 2019  
**Course Coordinator:** Dr Prudence Milliar - [pmilliar@usc.edu.au](mailto:pmilliar@usc.edu.au)  
**Course Moderator:** Dr Kate Mulgrew - [kmulgrew@usc.edu.au](mailto:kmulgrew@usc.edu.au)  
 Dr Tamara de Regt - [tderegt@usc.edu.au](mailto:tderegt@usc.edu.au)

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 introduces you to an in-depth analysis of major theoretical issues that have influenced the direction of contemporary psychology, including the scientist-practitioner philosophy of professional practice, the prominence of cognitivism within cognitive developmental, cognitive behavioural and cognitive motivational research and practice, and the emphasis on social and cultural contexts of thought and action. The course provides you an opportunity to explore one or more of these theoretical paradigms in relation to a core psychological interest.

##### 1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

#### 2. What level is this course?

400 level Graduate - Independent application of graduate knowledge and skills. Meets AQF and professional requirements. May require pre-requisites and developing level knowledge/skills. Normally taken in the 4th 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	Assessment tasks	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Articulate and explain a number of theoretical perspectives that are central to the science and practice of psychology,	1, 2, and 3	Knowledgeable.

<b>Specific Learning Outcomes</b> On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	<b>Assessment tasks</b> You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	<b>Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping</b> Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
highlighting the relative strengths and limitations of these perspectives		
Demonstration of critical evaluation of associated research methods, observations, and theoretical developments.	1, 2, and 3	Engaged.
Postulation of future directions in the field of psychology and potential applied applications.	1, 2, and 3	Creative and critical thinkers. 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

Must be enrolled in AR403, AR405 or AR645

### 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)

Nil

## 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

In Week 3, the draft plan for the presentation will be peer reviewed in your workshop. This formative assessment will help you to prepare for the presentation, by considering the scope of your topic, the literature and theory you are using, and how you structure your presentation.

### 6.3 Assessment tasks

<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Assessment Product</b>	<b>Individual or Group</b>	<b>Weighting %</b>	<b>What is the duration / length?</b>	<b>When should I submit?</b>	<b>Where should I submit it?</b>
1	Oral	Individual	30%	25 minutes	Weeks 4 to 5	In Class
2	Essay	Individual	35%	2500 words	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission

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3	Examination	Individual	35%	2 hours	Central examination period	Exam Venue
			100%			

\*Work of submissions 10% over the word count will not be read and will not contribute to the final grade for the task. This does not include Reference lists.

**Assessment 1: Seminar presentation**

<b>Goal:</b>	The goal of this assessment is to communicate your understanding of a current topic in psychology. The list of topics will be given on Blackboard in Week 1 of the semester. In the first class (i.e., in Week 1), you will form groups for the presentations and topics will be allocated at that time. It is important that you attend this class to be part of this process.
<b>Product:</b>	Oral
<b>Format:</b>	You and your group will deliver a 25-minute oral presentation to the class in either Week 4 or Week 5. You will use a PowerPoint display to assist with your oral presentation. As part of the assessment, you will submit your PowerPoint slides to the Course Coordinator by email on the day prior to the date of your presentation.
<b>Criteria:</b>	<p>The presentation will be assessed on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Content (50%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulation of the key concepts and use of appropriate theory</li> <li>• Extent and relevance of current research literature used in the presentation</li> <li>• Critical analysis of the topic, literature, and theory</li> <li>• Exploration of future directions and potential for applied application</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Organisation (20%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logical order and structure of presentation</li> <li>• Time management</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Presentation skills (20%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of delivery, and speakers' use of notes</li> <li>• Design of slides</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Responses to questions (10%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and knowledge contained in responses</li> <li>• Use of language</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Although this is a group presentation, marks will be allocated on an individual basis.</p>

**Assessment Task 2: Essay**

<b>Goal:</b>	The goal of this assessment is to demonstrate your ability to consider the theoretical perspectives and literature on a current topic in psychology. The essay will be based on the topics used for the Seminar Presentations (Task 1). You may choose the same topic as your presentation or chose one of the topics presented by another group. The list of topics will be given on Blackboard in Week 1 of the semester.
<b>Product:</b>	Essay
<b>Format:</b>	The essay will be a maximum of 2500 words, excluding the title page, abstract and reference list. Whilst there is no minimum word count, be aware that essays that are much shorter may not cover the essay topic in sufficient depth.
<b>Criteria:</b>	<p><b>Abstract</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informative and concise summary of the purpose and content of the essay</li> </ul> <p><b>Essay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situation of essay in topic area, definition of key terms, and direction of essay</li> <li>• Identification and use of appropriate theory</li> <li>• Extent and relevance of current experimental research applied in the essay</li> <li>• Correctness and accuracy of relevant information that is without omission</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of critical analysis of the research literature and demonstration of original thinking</li> <li>• Structure and cohesion of argument established throughout the essay</li> <li>• Careful and accurate use of APA referencing and style</li> <li>• Use of formal, academic language</li> </ul>
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### Assessment Task 3: Examination

<b>Goal:</b>	The goal of this assessment is to assess your ability to apply theory and literature to practical scenarios, which will be based around the guest lectures given in the second half of the semester. The outline of these scenarios will be discussed in class in Week 13.
<b>Product:</b>	Examination
<b>Format:</b>	The examination will consist of five (5) short answer questions.
<b>Criteria:</b>	<p>The exam will be assessed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriateness of the theoretical perspectives to the topics</li> <li>• Accuracy of content and breadth of information used in the answers</li> <li>• Evidence of critical analysis and original thinking</li> <li>• Sophistication and complexity of the written expression</li> </ul>

## 7. 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:	Directed study hours for location:
Sippy Downs	Lecture: 2 hours per week. Tutorial: 1 hour per week

## 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) or course reader

Information regarding prescribed texts or other associated resources will be made available on the BlackBoard site prior to commencement of study.

### 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 as a student 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. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module 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:

- 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](mailto: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 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](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)