

Course Outline

Code: PSY402

Title: Professional Practice of Psychology

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Dr Tamara de Regt - tderegt@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Kate Mulgrew – kmulgrew@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 provides you with practical training that leads to the acquisition of knowledge about, and skills and experience in, conducting psychological assessment. This includes knowledge concerning the administration, scoring, and interpretation of psychological tests, theoretical and practical elements of clinical history taking, and professional report writing. The course is designed to build your knowledge of, and skill in, formalised assessment, interviewing and listening, the conduct of a clinical interview and technical report writing.

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:
Demonstrate professional and ethical practice regarding the rights of clients who participate in a psychological assessment or intervention	1 and 2	Ethical.

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:
Comprehend, explain, and select from a range of psychological assessment techniques	1, 2 and 3	Knowledgeable. Empowered.
Demonstrate appropriate listening and verbal interaction skills when interacting with a client	1 and 2	Empowered.
Understand and appreciate the social and cultural factors that might influence the outcome of a psychological assessment	1, 2 and 3	Knowledgeable. Ethical.
Create a case formulation from client interview data and communicate your findings	1 and 2	Empowered.
Identify an evidence based intervention and monitoring treatment plan.	1 and 2	Empowered. Sustainability-focussed.

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 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

Regular case discussions and opportunities to practice skills will be provided in class. Please use these opportunities to track your learning, and raise any questions or concerns with your course coordinator.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Practical / Laboratory Skills	Individual	20%	10 minutes	Week 5	In Class
2	Report	Individual	40%	1000 words	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission
3	Examination	Individual	40%	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.

Assessment 1: Client interview, history taking and initial report

Goal:	This task is designed for you to demonstrate appropriate clinical micro-skills in interviewing.
Product:	Practical/Laboratory Skills
Format:	The role play is 10 minutes See Blackboard for further information on the assessment
Criteria:	The interview will be assessed on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of appropriate interviewing skills, including listening and recording skills; • appropriate coverage of the topic area assigned

Assessment Task 2: Assessment report and treatment plan

Goal:	You will be provided with a client history of an anonymous client in week 5. Having watched the video, you will complete two of the critical elements of a psychological report – the mental state examination (MSE) and the formulation.
Product:	Report
Format:	1000 word Standard report format
Criteria:	The report will be marked according to the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct summary of the client's mental state, using appropriate and accurate terminology that properly reflect the observed phenomena • Theoretically coherent and well explained formulation • Quality of written expression and presentation.

Assessment Task 3: Final examination

Goal:	This exam allows you to integrate the theory and practice taught over the program with regard to psychological assessment knowledge, process of information gathering, selection of appropriate tests, formulation and evaluation of treatment.
Product:	Examination
Format:	2-hour written examination in the formal examination period.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate description of a range of psychological assessment techniques • Accurately preparing a psychological report • Use of psychological assessment data to formulate psychological intervention and plans to monitor such an intervention

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the social and cultural factors that might influence the outcome of a psychological assessment |
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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	Workshop: 3 hours 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

If standard graded course, add:

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.

If Limited graded course, add:

You must contact your Course Coordinator and provide the required documentation if you require an extension or alternate assessment.

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 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