

Course Outline

Code: PSY403

Title: Ethical and Professional Issues in Psychology

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Associate Professor Geoff Lovell - glovell@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Kate Mulgrew – kmulgrew@usc.edu.au
 Dr Tamara de Regt - 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 focuses directly on ethical and professional issues that arise in the professional practice of psychology. The style is dialectical, requiring discernment of the ethical issues, argument about the issues, and knowledge of how to approach new issues in order to engage in ethical best practice.

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 knowledge of the major ethical issues confronting psychologists in professional practice.	1 and 2	Ethical.
Apply that knowledge to analyse and formulate responses in hypothetical practice situations.	1 and 2	Creative and critical thinkers.

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:
Apply ethical decision making approaches to the formulation and analysis of ethical dilemmas.	1 and 2	Ethical.

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 AR403

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

Early formative feedback will be incorporated into class activities.

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	Report	Individual	50%	2000 words	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission
2	Examination	Individual	50%	2 hours	Central Examination Period	Exam Venue
			100%			

Assessment 1: Report: Professional ethics

Goal:	<p>With reference to a specific circumstance (details to be given on Blackboard by the end of week 1), you will critically discuss those circumstances to which the Code is referring to from the point of view of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) psychologist responsibilities (b) tools that psychologists have at their disposal to assist in this context
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) ethical guidelines that have been developed to assist psychologists to act in accordance with the Code (d) relevant research and professional writing in psychology relevant to the context
Product:	Report
Format:	The written summary will adhere to APA publication style. The word length will be 2,000 words, excluding the title page and references section. An abstract is not required.
Criteria:	<p>The essay will be marked according to following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> coverage of psychologists' legal responsibilities (25%) coverage of the tools that psychologists have at their disposal (25%) coverage of Ethical Guidelines that have been developed to assist psychologists to act in accordance with the Code (25%) inclusion of other relevant research and professional writing in psychology (10%) quality of presentation, including the use of APA style (15%)

Assessment Task 2: Final examination

Goal:	You will complete an open book two-hour end of semester examination consisting of four short answer questions and three ethical vignettes. The short answer questions and ethical vignettes will draw on material covered in class as well as in the set reading. This assessment has been designed to assess your ability to analyse ethical situations and propose the right course of action in that circumstance whilst having access to the Code as you would in a real-life situation.
Product:	Examination
Format:	Two hour open book exam; you are permitted to take the APS Code of Ethics and APS Ethical Guidelines into the examination.
Criteria:	<p>The exam short answers will be marked upon accuracy of responses and evidence of critical and original thinking. The vignettes will be assessed upon the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the professional issues called into question by the vignette / question the ethical principles underpinning those issues general principles and/or specific standards in the APS Code of Ethics (2007) that might determine how the psychologist should act parts of any APS Ethical Guidelines that might guide the psychologist's thinking the preferred right course of action in the circumstances

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:

- 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

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