

## Course Outline

**Code: PSY707**

**Title: Research Project 1**

<b>School:</b>	Social Sciences
<b>Teaching Session:</b>	Semester 2
<b>Year:</b>	2020
<b>Course Coordinator:</b>	Prof Ken Greenwood – kgreenwoo@usc.edu.au
<b>Course Moderator:</b>	Dr Marcus Bussey - MBussey@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

The USC postgraduate psychology programs are committed to maintaining the primacy of public safety in the delivery of the program within the education and placement environments. This course involves the first stage of the research project and thesis component of the Master of Psychology (Clinical) degree. Working with a research supervisor, you will complete a literature review, identify suitable research question/s, design a research study, and, if necessary, submit the research proposal to the Human Research Ethics Committee for approval.

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

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

### 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	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:
Present psychological evidence to support proposed study.	1	Empowered.
Design a psychological research study on recent developments in the discipline or professional practice.	1, 2 and 3	Empowered.

<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:
Show awareness of potential ethical issues involved in psychological research and understanding of and practice in using the APS Code of Ethics and its accompanying Guidelines, and other relevant sources, to resolve ethical questions	1, 2 and 3	Empowered. Ethical.
Communicate research and justify and interpret theoretical propositions, methodologies, findings and conclusions.	1, 2 and 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

Must be enrolled in AR703

### 5.2 Pre-requisites

Successful completion of, or concurrent enrolment in, PSY704

### 5.3 Co-requisites

PSY704

### 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

Limited – Pass (PU), Fail (UF). All assessment tasks are required to be passed for successful completion of the course.

### 6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

weekly supervision meetings which constitutes an ongoing formative appraisal of the students performance.

### 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	Pass/Fail	20 minute presentation	Mid-semester date to be posted on	In Class

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					Blackboard in Week 1	
2	Written Piece	Individual	Pass/Fail	3000-4000 words	Week 12	To Supervisor
3	Report	Individual	Pass/Fail	As set by USC HREC and other permission bodies	Week 12	To Supervisor

**Assessment 1: Thesis presentation**

<b>Goal:</b>	The goal of this assessment is to describe the methods and proposed data analysis for a thesis or research project
<b>Product:</b>	Oral
<b>Format:</b>	You will be required to present a research proposal for your thesis and to lead a workshop designed to identify potential ethical, methodological and logistic issues associated with the proposed research and to refine the proposed methodology. The workshop must include a review of the relevant literature, research questions and hypotheses, the proposed methodology, sampling and participant recruitment strategies, potential sample size, appropriateness and adequacy of the proposed data analysis, and ethical concerns. In addition, potential problems must be identified, and alternative strategies discussed and explored.
<b>Criteria:</b>	<p>This task will be assessed according to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the research question/s and the issues relating to it/them</li> <li>• Sophistication and viability of the proposed research</li> <li>• Thoroughness of the proposed research design and proposed hypothesis/es</li> <li>• Ability to clearly explain the rationale, theoretical basis and proposed methodology underpinning the proposed research</li> <li>• Understanding of the ethical, methodological and statistical issues associated with the proposed research</li> <li>• Ability to initiate and facilitate group discussion</li> </ul>

**Assessment Task 2: Detailed dissertation proposal**

<b>Goal:</b>	For you to produce a research design proposal for your dissertation topic that will be used in PSY753.
<b>Product:</b>	Written Piece
<b>Format:</b>	<p>The proposal should be between 3000-4000 words in length.</p> <p>The dissertation proposal shall include the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A thorough review of the relevant research literature;</li> <li>• Formulated research questions and specific hypotheses that will be tested as part of the dissertation research;</li> <li>• The research design that will be used;</li> <li>• The proposed research sample, including specific details of how the sample will be obtained; and</li> <li>• Consideration of ethical issues relating to the proposed research and how the welfare of research participants will be respected and protected.</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria:</b>	<p>The dissertation proposal will demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the research question and issues relating to it;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of research design and how the design that has been selected might be applied to the proposed research topic;</li> <li>• Knowledge of appropriate methods of data collection, recording and scoring;</li> <li>• Knowledge of appropriate methods of data analysis, including relevant statistical methods available through statistical packages such as SPSS;</li> <li>• Consideration of ethical issues relating to the proposed research and how the welfare of research participants will be respected and protected;</li> <li>• Statement of a realistic timeframe for completing the research;</li> <li>• A sound knowledge of APA Publication Style;</li> <li>• Show clear and articulate thinking demonstrated in clear communication skills;</li> <li>• Timely submission of the dissertation proposal.</li> </ul>
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### Assessment Task 3: HREC and other permissions

<b>Goal:</b>	You are expected to meet the requirements of the relevant University ethics committee and to receive approval for the proposed research before the research can proceed. You are also expected to obtain such other permissions as are required to conduct the research. It is your responsibility to prepare applications for permission to conduct the research as well as for ethical clearance.
<b>Product:</b>	Report
<b>Format:</b>	National Ethics Application Form
<b>Criteria:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the research question and issues relating to requirements of HREC and other permission bodies;</li> <li>• Formulation of research questions and specific hypotheses that will be tested as part of the dissertation research;</li> <li>• Knowledge of research design that will be used and how the design that has been selected might be applied to the proposed research topic;</li> <li>• Understanding the proposed clinical research sample (and control group, if applicable), including specific details of how the sample will be obtained;</li> <li>• Knowledge of appropriate methods of data collection, recording and scoring;</li> <li>• Knowledge of appropriate methods of data analysis, including relevant statistical methods available through statistical packages such as SPSS;</li> <li>• Completion of HREC forms and other permission body forms to the satisfaction/approval of those bodies;</li> <li>• Statement of a realistic timeframe for completing the research;</li> <li>• Timely submission to meet HREC and other permission body deadlines.</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.

There are no formal weekly class contact hours for this course. Weekly or fortnightly meetings with the dissertation supervisor as per the schedule of meetings agreed on by the supervisor in consultation with the student. The total weekly workload associated with this course is approximately 10 hours per week, including meetings with your supervisor, the oral presentation and the preparation and submission of the Dissertation.

## 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

***If standard graded course, add:***

#### **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

***If Limited graded course, add:***

#### **Limited Graded Course:**

This course will be graded as Pass in a Limited Grade Course (PU) or Fail in a Limited Grade Course (UF) as per clause 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 of the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) - Institutional Operating Policy of the USC.

In a course eligible to use Limited Grades, all assessment items in that course are marked on a Pass/Fail basis and all assessment tasks are required to be passed for a student to successfully complete the course. Supplementary assessment is not available in courses using Limited Grades.

### 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](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

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- **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)