

Course Outline

Code: PSY750

Title: Ethical Professional Practice of Psychology

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 1
Year: 2020
Course Coordinator: Andrew Allen - aallen2@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Prof Helen Stallman – hstallman@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 introduces you to the ethical and professional standards that apply to work undertaken by a clinical psychologist in professional contexts involving psychological consultation, program evaluation, practice management, maintenance of registration, planned continuing professional development, ethico-legal issues such as privacy, court orders and reporting, and resolution of ethical dilemmas.

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: |
| Show knowledge of ethical conduct in the context of professional psychological practice with vulnerable populations | 1, 2 | Ethical. Empowered. |
| Show knowledge of the organisational and independent contexts of professional psychological practice | 1, 2 | Engaged. 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: |
|--|---|--|
| Show knowledge of, and practice in dealing with, the various legal and regulatory frameworks applying to professional psychological practice | 1, 2 | Ethical. Knowledgeable. |
| Show awareness of personal responsibility for ethical decision making in professional practice situations with vulnerable populations | 1, 2 | Ethical. Empowered. |
| Show awareness of potential ethical problems that arise in practising psychology with vulnerable populations | 1, 2 | Sustainability-focussed. Creative and critical thinkers. |
| Demonstrate ability to resolve ethical problems in accordance with the APS Code of Ethics, APS Ethical Guidelines, and other relevant professional resources | 1, 2 | Ethical. 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 AR702, AR703

5.2 Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program AR702, AR703

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

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

Formative feedback will be provided through the use of short quizzes, which students will have access to after each workshop. The content of the initial quizzes will focus on the APC Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines, allowing students to check their understanding of key areas of the APS Code and APS Ethical Guidelines, which are fundamental to safe practice.

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 | Written Piece | Individual | Pass/Fail | 2000 words | Week 5 | To Supervisor |
| 2 | Oral | Individual | Pass/Fail | 25 minute oral exam with 25 minutes preparation | Examination period | Exam Venue |

Assessment 1: Class Assignment

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|------------------|---|
| Goal: | The assignment will involve consideration of an ethical problem, practice management matter, ethico-legal or legislative matter, which is directly related to the individual weekly topics in the Course Schedule shown below. The assignment requires the preparation of a 2000 word written summary of the key elements of the matter for discussion, which will be submitted in class on the day. Assignments will be distributed by the course coordinator in Week 1 of the Semester. Please note that the Reference List is not to be included in the word count. Demonstrate engagement in the process of ethical decision making |
| Product: | Written Piece |
| Format: | 2000 word written essay in APA format |
| Criteria: | <p>Assignments will be assessed in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate identification of the key issues pertaining to the topic • demonstrated knowledge of the relevant sections of the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines, or legislation, or relevant policies and procedures, or legal constraints on practice • demonstrated knowledge of ethical and professional best practice in the circumstances • professional writing (eg, logical structure and setting out of written work, professional language, and use of APA referencing) |

Assessment Task 2: Oral Examination

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Goal: | Demonstrate sound ethical decision making. |
| Product: | Oral |
| Format: | During the exam period, at a specified time, you will present for an oral examination with the Course Coordinator and / or other Master of Psychology (Clinical) academic. On arrival you will be given a vignette(s) to read and to consider. You will be allowed 25 minutes to read the vignette(s) and prepare for the oral examination. The oral examination will be based on your knowledge of ethical and professional practice issues (including those specifically with people from vulnerable populations) and explore your understanding of the major ethical and professional practice issues that the vignette(s) raise. The oral examination will last no more than 25 minutes. Initially you will be asked to present and summarise your understanding of the case vignette(s) and highlight the ethical dilemmas. Following this, you will be asked a number of questions in regard to the vignette and your summary of it. The oral examination will take place during the examination period. The Course Coordinator will schedule the actual examination after consulting with you on a proposed time. Oral examinations will be recorded for review purposes. |
| Criteria: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a verbal summary of the ethical and professional practice issues that the vignette raises. • Appropriately apply the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulate ethical and professional best practice outcomes in the circumstances. Respond competently to the questions asked of you during the oral examination. |
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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: |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Thompson Institute | Seminar: 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

You are expected to attend all lectures. For any lectures that are missed you will need to demonstrate to your course coordinator that you have covered the required material. This will usually take the form of a detailed summary and reflection of the Directed Study Activities for the missed lecture.

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

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

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