



COURSE OUTLINE

PSY754 Clinical Health Psychology and Psychopharmacology

Course Coordinator: Andrew Allen (aallen2@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

2021 | Semester 2

Thompson Institute

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

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 provides an overview of neurophysiology. The course then introduces evidence regarding the role of psychological factors in physical health and illness, the biopsychosocial assessment of chronic disease, and evidence-based interventions for prevention and management of serious or chronic illness. Current pharmacotherapy for common psychological disorders is presented. Ethical issues will be addressed as they arise. There is also a focus on neurocognitive disorders within this course. Lastly, somatic symptom and related disorders will be covered.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus workshop - 3 hours	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Course topics encompass theoretical models of healthy psychology, psychopharmacology, chronic disease prevention and management, somatic symptom and related disorders, and neurocognitive disorders.

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?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES		GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
① Demonstrate knowledge of and practice in accessing research regarding the role of psychological factors in the aetiology of and reactions to illness and health maintenance		Knowledgeable
② Demonstrate knowledge of and practice in the use of relevant assessment procedures		Empowered Ethical
③ Demonstrate knowledge of and practice in accessing and applying appropriate evidence-based interventions		Empowered Sustainability-focussed
④ Demonstrate knowledge regarding the nature, modes of action, effects and side-effects of drugs, recreational, social and therapeutic, and an understanding of pharmacotherapy, to facilitate effective communication with medical carers.		Knowledgeable Empowered
⑤ Show awareness of potential ethical issues involved in practising clinical psychology and an understanding of how to use the APS Code of Ethics and its accompanying Guidelines to resolve ethical questions		Empowered Ethical
⑥ Demonstrate logical reasoning skills and objectivity in clinical decision making		Knowledgeable 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. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program AR702 or AR703.

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Ability to write in APA format

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Limited Grading (PNP)

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

Early formative feedback will be incorporated into class activities.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	10 minutes per quiz, 10 quizzes total	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Oral	Group	40 minutes	Refer to Format	In Class

All - Assessment Task 1: Quiz/zes

GOAL:	You will complete weekly online quizzes via Blackboard will ensure your understanding of theory, knowledge, and content in the course.
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes
FORMAT:	Weekly online quizzes comprised of 10 multiple-choice questions aimed at assessing knowledge of issues concerning health psychology and psychopharmacology. The tests will be based on material covered during the lectures (Weeks 1-10) and from the prescribed textbooks. Each quiz will be 10 minutes in duration.
CRITERIA:	<p>No.</p> <p>1 Accuracy of responses.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Learning Outcome assessed</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 2 3 4 5 6</p>

All - Assessment Task 2: Group Seminar Presentation

GOAL:	You will demonstrate an understanding of and communicate about a neurocognitive disorder (e.g., Delirium or neurocognitive disorder associated with Alzheimer's disease, Vascular disease, traumatic brain injury, etc.).
PRODUCT:	Oral
FORMAT:	<p>Submit: Weeks 11 and 12.</p> <p>The aims of the presentation are to provide an opportunity to work closely with colleagues to explore, present, and discuss a neurocognitive disorder.</p> <p>Prepare and present a 40-minute presentation on a neurocognitive disorder (provided and allocated in Week 1). Relevant evidence-based research should be used as the foundation of your presentation.</p> <p>The seminar presentations will occur in class.</p>

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
1 Ability to use evidence based research as the foundation of your presentation.	1	
2 Ability to effectively evaluate research related to the topic area.	1	
3 The use of current resources.		
4 Ability to present the information in a succinct, professional and engaging manner.	6	
5 Demonstration of your knowledge of the topic area.	1	
6 Relevant diagnostic criteria (i.e., DSM-5). and differential diagnosis if applicable.	2	
7 Particular attention to differential diagnosis from other neurocognitive disorders and other mental health diagnoses.	2	
8 Prevalence of the disorder.	1	
9 Primary theoretical model(s) & aetiology.	1 6	
10 Relevant, primary assessment measures.	2	
11 Treatment approaches as indicated by research evidence base. Ability to comment on areas of debate within the topic area.	3	
12 Consideration of the ethical issues relevant to the topic area.	5	
13 Use of appropriate PowerPoint and multimedia resources to aid your presentation.		
14 Ability to generate discussions within the class and ability to respond to questions.		
15 Ability to adhere to 40-minute time allocation (including questions).		
16 General presentation skills: degree of familiarity with the material and level of preparation.		
17 Coherence and clarity with which the content is presented.		

7. Directed study hours

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.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: 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

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

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

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility 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 and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training 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

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 follow the relevant procedure on Blackboard to provide the required documentation if you require an extension or alternative assessment.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. 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>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **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