# USC

| Course Outline |
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## Code: SCS225
## Title: Social Research

**School:** Social Sciences
**Teaching Session:** Semester 2
**Year:** 2019
**Course Coordinator:** Dr Peter Innes - pinnes@usc.edu.au
**Course Moderator:** Dr Marcus Bussey

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 equips you with the knowledge and skills you need to evaluate, conduct and commission social research. In order to understand how social data are produced and analysed, the connections between theoretical orientations, methodology and methods of social research are explored. You will examine and also apply popular research methods and develop and evaluate a research proposal. Controversial debates concerning ethics, the relationship of science to social research, issues of validity, and research with minorities are also examined.

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

| Activity | Details |
|---|---|
| Nil | Nil |

## 2.     What level is this course?

200 level Developing – Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and skills to new contexts. May require pre-requisites and introductory level knowledge/skills. Normally undertaken in the 2nd or 3rd 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<br>On successful completion of this course, you should be able to: | Assessment tasks<br>You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s: | Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping<br>Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to: |
|---|---|---|
| Critical understanding of the nature and purposes of social research and its contribution to knowledge and theory in the social sciences. | 1 and 3 | Knowledgeable<br>Empowered |
| Critical understanding of current methodological debates and issues in | 1 | Knowledgeable<br>Ethical |

| Specific Learning Outcomes<br>On successful completion of this course, you should be able to: | Assessment tasks<br>You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s: | Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping<br>Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to: |
|---|---|---|
| social research and the ethical dimensions of research practice. | | |
| Capacity to apply the key methods of social research. | 2 | Knowledgeable |
| Advanced capacity to develop, design and evaluate coherent strategies in social research. | 3 | Knowledgeable<br>Creative and critical thinkers |

## 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

Nil

### 5.2    Pre-requisites

Any 2 courses or enrolled in AR707 or AR708 or enrolled in UU301 or XU301

### 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

Timely and detailed feedback is provided for each assessment. Feedback is provided both within text and general comments to build scholarly skills. Students are able to seek feedback through face-to-face discussion with the course coordinator. Tutorials will include extended discussion and review of the assessment task requirements and scope.

## 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 | Quiz/zes | Individual | 25% | 1 hour | Week 5 | Quiz (Online Test) |
| 2 | Case Study | Individual | 40% | 6 x 1hr sessions | Weeks 6-12 | Quiz (Online Test) |
| 3 | Case Study | Individual | 35% | Structured template/ question response | Week 13 | Quiz (Online Test) |
| | | | 100% | | | |

### Assessment Task 1:  Online test

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| **Goal:** | To demonstrate emerging knowledge of the concepts, theories and issues regarding social research |
| **Product:** | Quiz/zes |
| **Format:** | The multiple choice test will be delivered online through Blackboard in Week 5 for a period of three days. This individual assessment item will test your knowledge and understanding of the key concepts, theories and issues introduced in the first four weeks of the course. Each test will be graded according to the number of accurate answers to the multiple-choice questions you complete |
| **Criteria:** | Each test will be graded according to the number of accurate answers to the multiple-choice questions you complete |

### Assessment Task 2: Workshop exercises

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|---|---|
| **Goal:** | To critically apply and demonstrate your emerging knowledge of social research methods |
| **Product:** | Case Study |
| **Format:** | You will participate in six workshops conducted in Weeks 6-12 tutorials of the course. Each of these will focus on building practical social research skills. The Task 2 assessments focus on design and analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods, and as such, align with key topics (lectures and workshops) of survey design (Part A) and interview question development (Part B) and then quantitative data analysis (Part C) and qualitative textual analysis (Part D). Each of these topic areas will be tested (Parts A/B/C/D) with online quizzes representing your answers to provided questions and case materials. |
| **Criteria:** | Effectively applying theories, approaches, and concepts presented in the lectures, exercised in workshops, to provided case study materials (survey example, interview scripts, analysis of datasets). The case study questions and materials from Parts A/B/C & D will be tested through online quizzes. |

### Assessment Task 3: Research Proposal Development and Evaluation

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal:** | To critically apply your knowledge to demonstrate your capacity to evaluate choices in the context of a coherent research strategy (i.e. linking course content and thinking to an existing piece of research). |
| **Product:** | Case Study |
| **Format:** | Using provided published research, you are required to evaluate the research on a template (provided with the case study) and evaluate it using the online structured answer format. The questions and case study research will be provided in advance before online submission of answers. Details will be posted on Blackboard. |

| Criteria: | **Content:**<br>• The research provided is evaluated on all areas indicated in the template (based on lecture content);<br>• This includes identification of the key areas in the provided research, aligned to key structured template content (e.g. research question, theory, methodology, methods, ethics, sampling, analyses etc) and<br>• considered implications of the research choices, including where omitted.<br>**Structure:**<br>• The research evaluation addresses all of sections of the template |
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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 | Lecture: 2 hours per week<br>Tutorial: 1 hour 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:*
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.

## 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