Course Outline

Code: SRP301
Title: Special Research Project

School: Science & Engineering
Teaching Session: Semester 1
Year: 2020
Course Coordinator: Dr Min Zhao
Course Moderator: Christofer Clemente

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 enables you to pursue scholarly activities in a study field of your choice. In consultation with your course coordinator and special project supervisor you will devise a project plan, undertake the related activities and report on those activities. The project will support your learning of discipline based knowledge and skills, give you in depth knowledge and skills in a particular area and help you to prepare for future research and scholarship.

   1.2 Course topics
   You will develop a specific project contract in consultation with the course coordinator and your project supervisor. The project will require you to demonstrate:
   - Information literacy to draw upon specific discipline knowledge
   - Application of discipline knowledge in research and scholarly activity
   - Learning and application of specific research procedures in the project
   - Discipline specific written and verbal reporting of your project outcomes.

2. What level is this course?
   300 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 3rd or 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On successful completion of this course you should be able to:</td>
<td>You will be assessed on the learning outcome in task/s:</td>
<td>Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formulate goals and questions to inform independent learning activities</td>
<td>Task 1 Research skills</td>
<td>Creative and critical thinkers, generating original ideas and concepts, and appreciating innovation and entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and apply specific discipline knowledge to plan, conduct and report project activities</td>
<td>Task 1 Research skills Task 3 Project Report</td>
<td>Creative and critical thinkers, generating original ideas and concepts, and appreciating innovation and entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use recognised research skills and technologies to conduct project activities</td>
<td>Task 2 Oral presentation Task 3 Project report</td>
<td>Knowledgeable, building disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge through a scholarly approach incorporating global and regional perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on project activities and outcomes using recognised written and verbal communication</td>
<td>Task 2 Oral presentation Task 3 Project report</td>
<td>Knowledgeable, building disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge through a scholarly approach incorporating global and regional perspectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Instructor Consent only. Students will have completed the equivalent of one year of full-time study, have achieved a grade point average of 5.0 and have space available in their program as determined by Student Central.

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)

Prior knowledge will be determined by the course coordinator in consultation with the student’s supervisor and will take into account the nature of the scholarship and project work. Normally students will have completed the equivalent of one year of full-time study and have achieved a grade point average of 5.0 and have completed at least 3 advanced level courses.
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
Support and feedback will be provided by the project Supervisor.

6.3 Assessment tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task No.</th>
<th>Assessment Product</th>
<th>Individual or Group</th>
<th>Weighting %</th>
<th>What is the duration / length?</th>
<th>When should I submit?</th>
<th>Where should I submit it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Practical / Laboratory Skills</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1000 words or equivalent</td>
<td>Friday week 5 for semester or Week 3 for sessions, or as negotiated with supervisor</td>
<td>To Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>15-20 minutes</td>
<td>Week 15 or 16 or exam week of session as negotiated</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>3000 words or equivalent</td>
<td>Week 13 or last week of session as negotiated with course coordinator</td>
<td>To be negotiated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100%

Assessment Task 1: Research Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal:</th>
<th>The goal of this task is for you to develop research skills, e.g. laboratory skills or field work skills or skills in reviewing the literature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product:</td>
<td>Practical/Laboratory Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format:</td>
<td>To be determined in consultations with the supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria:</td>
<td>Evidence of research skills e.g. for a literature review, a comprehensive knowledge of the literature, demonstrated skills in finding the literature. For laboratory and field notebooks, ability to apply recognised research methods and follow procedures, ability to use equipment and carry out experiments according to protocols, demonstrated observational skills in the laboratory and field and the ability to systematically record observations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Assessment Task 2: Oral Presentation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Goal:</strong></th>
<th>The goal of this task is for you to develop your skill in using recognised oral communication strategies and to present your special project outcomes to your peers and colleagues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Product:</strong></td>
<td>Oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong></td>
<td>Your presentation will be 15-20 minutes. It will be supported by appropriate visual media tools, for example PowerPoint or Prezi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Criteria:** | Critical application of discipline knowledge to project  
Representation and explanation of research methods and results  
Explanation of project outcomes and critical analysis of results in the context of the literature  
Demonstrated understanding by answering questions  
Presentation of information - oral and visual  
Use of discipline recognised presentation techniques and terms in presentation |

**Assessment Task 3: Project Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Goal:</strong></th>
<th>The goal of this task is for you to synthesise your project activities and report the outcomes of your project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Product:</strong></td>
<td>Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong></td>
<td>The report should be 3000 words or equivalent and submitted via SafeAssign unless the format prevents this form of submission.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Criteria:** | Use of discipline specific structure, headings and terminology  
Justification for project in the context of the literature  
Methodology concise, accurate and thorough  
Clear summary data and appropriate statistical analysis presented  
Compares and contrasts project results with literature  
Critical explanation and analysis of project findings  
Recognises limitations of project and suggests further research  
Reference list complete and accurate and appropriate reference style  
Appropriate written expression, spelling, grammar and punctuation |

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Location:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Directed study hours for location:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USC Sunshine Coast</td>
<td>Contact hours will vary according to the nature of the scholarship and project work undertaken in the course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)**

There are no prescribed texts for this course. You will be required to develop a reading list specific to the project that you undertake, in consultation with your project supervisor.
8.2 Specific requirements
Depending on your project there may be specific requirements, such as protective clothing and closed shoes for laboratory work. It is your responsibility to acquire and meet specific requirements.

9. Risk management
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
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 Wellbeing Services
Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, AccessAbility Services can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to Student Hub, email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or accessibility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226

10.6 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

10.7 General Enquiries
In person:
- USC Sunshine Coast - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- USC South Bank - 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