



Course Outline

Code: SRP321

Title: Special Research Project

Teaching Session:	Semester 1
Year:	2019
Course Coordinator:	Professor John Lowe Dr Christofer Clemente
Course Moderator:	Professor Marion Gray

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, giving you in depth knowledge and skills in a particular area to 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?

24 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

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

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 and have achieved a grade point average of 5.0

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

Task No.	Assessment Tasks	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1a	Research Skills 1	Individual or Group	20	2000	Friday week 5 for semesters or week 3 for sessions, or as negotiated with supervisor	To supervisor
1b	Research skills 2	Individual or Group	20	2000	Monday week 15 or as negotiated with supervisor	SafeAssign unless format requires hard copy submission to supervisor
2	Oral Presentation	Individual or Group	20	15-20 minutes	Presentation day week 15 or 16 or exam week of session as negotiated	In Person
3	Project Report	Individual or Group	40	3500	Friday week 13 or last week of session as negotiated with supervisor	SafeAssign unless format requires hard copy submission to supervisor
			100%			

Assessment Task 1b: Research Skills 1

Goal:	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
Product:	In consultation with your project supervisor you will develop research skills. You will be assessed on these skills in a format advised by the supervisor (e.g. a 2000 word literature review, or a laboratory or field notebook or equivalent)
Format:	To be determined in consultations with the supervisor
Criteria:	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.

Assessment Task 1b: Research Skills 2

Goal:	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
Product:	In consultation with your project supervisor you will develop research skills. You will be assessed on these skills in a format advised by the supervisor (e.g. a 2000 word literature review, or a laboratory or field notebook or equivalent. This work must be distinct from the work and product in assessment item 1
Format:	To be determined in consultations with the supervisor
Criteria:	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.

Assessment Task 2: Oral Presentation

Goal:	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
Product:	You will prepare and present an oral presentation on your project in class or by web conferencing if negotiated with the course coordinator. In it you will detail the goals and aims, the specific activities and the outcomes of your project.
Format:	Your presentation will be 15-20 minutes. It will be supported by appropriate visual media tools, for example powerpoint or Prezi.
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

Assessment Task 3: Project report

Goal:	The goal of this task is for you to synthesise your project activities and report the outcomes of your project
Product:	You will prepare a report in a format that is appropriate for the discipline and as negotiated with your project supervisor and course coordinator
Format:	The report should be 3500 words or equivalent and submitted via SafeAssign unless the format prevents this form of submission
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. What are the course activities?

7.1 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: Specific Campus(es) or online:	Directed study hours for location:
USC Sunshine Coast	Contact hours will vary according to the nature of the scholarship and project work undertaken in the course

7.2 Course content

Week # / Module #	What key concepts/content will I learn?
1-13 or as negotiated during session	You will negotiate the study plan for this course with your project supervisor and course coordinator

Please note that the course activities may be subject to variation.

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)

N/A

8.2 Specific requirements

Nil

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 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 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