

Course Outline

Code: SUS101

Title: Foundations of Sustainability

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Session 7
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Dr Theresa Ashford
Course Moderator: Dr Marcus Bussey – mbussey@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

What is sustainability? This course provides you with foundational knowledge of sustainability concepts and issues. It uses an interdisciplinary approach to ensure you are equipped with comprehensive understanding of the phenomena and practices that have shaped the planet and the lives of all living things. By using these ideas to explore the most pressing issues of our time, you'll be prepared to apply sustainability principles to your chosen profession and wherever sustainability is needed.

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

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

2. What level is this course?

100 level Introductory - Discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Normally associated with the first full-time 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	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:
Identify and describe sustainability baselines in real world scenarios in the context of both local and global influences, and societal and cultural factors	1, 2, 3	Sustainability-focused.

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:
Investigate complex interactions between economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability	2, 3	Sustainability-focused.
Communicate informed opinions on sustainability issues drawing upon trans-disciplinary knowledge to present a valid argument	3	Engaged.

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

Nil

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

Early feedback on progress will be given on tutorials on Weeks 2 and 3. Students will write a short reflection on a sustainability topic of interest to them, that is consistent with Task 1 and the course coordinator will provide individual feedback.

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	Artefact - Creative	Individual	30%	500 words + images	Week 3	Online Assignment Submission

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2	Portfolio	Individual	35%	1500 words	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission
3	Essay	Individual	35%	1500 words	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Information brochure

Goal:	The goal of this task is for you to develop a deeper understanding around one sustainability issue. You will be given a framework to communicate this understanding.
Product:	Artefact - Creative
Format:	<p>Academic format (2 parts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 word text WORD document that will be evaluated through SafeAssign. • PDF of same text with images in the form of an Information Brochure <p>Text will include: issue and explanation, trends, and drivers - all academically referenced Information brochure: 2 pages, text (as above), images, tables and figures - all academically referenced. For more information see Blackboard.</p>
Criteria:	<p>Information brochures will be assessed using the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comprehension of the chosen sustainability issue • understanding of the issue over time • description of the contributing human drivers and environmental factors • structure, organisation and development of brochure with reference to appropriate literature • appropriate use of tables and figures (images, diagrams and/or graphs) • spelling, grammar, referencing and layout

Assessment Task 2: Sustainability Portfolio

Goal:	This portfolio will involve you working through each of the modules designed for this course. They consist of different real world local and global scenarios and require you to identify and document complex and interrelated influences and implications from a sustainability perspective.
Product:	Portfolio
Format:	<p>Academic format (multi elements).</p> <p>Each week you will have different tasks related to the topic area that you will have to either: demonstrate understanding (quizzes); write short synopsis on influences or implications; interact and consult with peers (digitally).</p> <p>You will then summarise this learning journey in sustainable development and pull out key themes, areas of interest and demonstrate a critical interrogation of the material.</p> <p>See Blackboard Task 2 assessment folder for more information</p>
Criteria:	<p>You will be assessed on your ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly define, identify and describe an issue or concern in sustainability terms • apply a sustainability perspective to different issues • present compelling and concise arguments • provide reliable evidence to support your claims

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collaborate with peers
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Assessment Task 3: Essay

Goal:	To examine a sustainability issue and ask: what is the issue? what is currently done to address the issue?; are current efforts good enough?; and can we do better?
Product:	Essay
Format:	<p>Academic format - 1500 word paper written with a thesis statement and supporting arguments. Papers will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of the sustainability issue the causes of the identified sustainability issues the implications of the identified sustainability issues a description and critical analysis of what steps are being taken to address these issues and how effective these are likely to be
Criteria:	<p>Papers will be assessed using the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identification of relevant sustainability issues understanding how the particular region/industry is or will be affected identification of the causal factors description and critical analysis of any mitigation or adaptation strategies structure, organisation and development of argument with reference to appropriate literature spelling, grammar and referencing

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:	Online study hours:
Online	<p>Online content review and self-directed learning activities: 20 hours per week</p> <p>Drop in Sessions: one on one and group as arranged with Course Coordinator</p>

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

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