USC

Course Outline

Code: SUS201
Title: Measuring Sustainability

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 1
Year: 2020
Course Coordinator: Dr Chris Jacobson – cjacobso@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr RW (Bill) Carter – bcarter@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

Are we there yet? Measuring and evaluating sustainability across a range of indicators and scales is a key capability of the sustainability professional. In this course, you'll build an assessment toolkit based on industry best practice. You'll explore some of the latest measures for assessing triple bottom line sustainability at scales ranging from individuals and organizations through to global assessments. Principles of learning, empowerment and adaptive management underpin course content.

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 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:
Develop criteria, indicators, measures and targets for assessing sustainability.	2	Empowered. Creative and critical thinkers.
To appropriately scope a program evaluation and understand how to undertake it.	2	Empowered. Sustainability-focussed.

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:
Reflect on issues influencing the practice of evaluation.	1	Creative and critical thinkers. Knowledgeable.
Effectively undertake and communicate program evaluation.	3	Empowered. Sustainability-focussed.

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)

Foundation knowledge in sustainability principles, theory and application

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

Feedback on draft items will be provided during workshops.

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	Written Piece	Individual	25%	500 words	Week 3	Online Assignment Submission
2	Report	Individual	35%	2000 words	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission
3	Report	Individual	40%	2500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Critical review

Goal:	To demonstrate your skills in reviewing evaluation documents against criteria
Product:	Written Piece
Format:	Individual 500-word report based on a sustainability assessment. Examples will be available on Blackboard, or you can approach the lecturer about an alternative. Additional information will be provided on blackboard.
Criteria:	For your selected document, you will be assessed on your ability to: • respond to review questions (40 percent) • demonstrate ability to critically review documents based on sound logic (30 percent) • use relevant literature to support your critique (10 percent) • communicate using appropriate language and structure (10 percent) • ensure quality of syntax and grammar in your report (10 percent

Assessment Task 2: Program assessment criteria

Goal:	Demonstrate understanding of sustainability measurement approaches, indicator selection and assessment rationale
Product:	Report
Format:	Individual 2000-word report that uses your understanding of criteria, indicators, measures, targets and assessment frameworks to develop an assessment program for the sustainability of your household. Additional information will be provided on Blackboard.
Criteria:	You will be assessed on: • appropriate application of chosen assessment framework (20 percent); • quality and coherence of criteria, indicators, measure and targets (30 percent); • suitability of methods for applying these to evaluate sustainability (30 percent); • evidence of engagement with the literature on criteria identification (10 percent); • ensure the quality of syntax and grammar in your report (10 percent).

Assessment Task 3: Program analysis report

Goal:	To evaluate the sustainability of your household and communicate project findings to a target audience
Product:	Report
Format:	This 2500-word executive report integrates the assessment criteria and uses them to critically analyse sustainability. Additional information will be provided on Blackboard.
Criteria:	Your report will be assessed on your ability to: • present a clear, coherent analysis of project findings using an appropriate structure (10 percent); • critically apply techniques and report against them (40 percent); • suggest actions and ways forward to issues you have identified (30 percent); • reference appropriate literature (10 percent); • ensure an academically rigorous and professional report presentation (10 percent).

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	Workshop: 3 hours 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

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