Course Outline

Code: SUS302
Title: Sustainability Problem Solving

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2020
Course Coordinator: Professor Bill Carter - bcarter@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

Can we fix it? You’ll learn critical, strategic and lateral-thinking skills in this advanced sustainability course. Sustainability issues are explored in dynamic and future contexts using the contemporary concepts of vulnerability, adaptation, adaptive capacity and resilience. You’ll gain valuable experience in the use of analytical and creative tools including systems thinking, complexity mapping software, mental models, and scenario development. Sustainability problems? You’ll be the one to call.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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>Identify and describe sustainability issues with reference to sustainability theory and practice.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Empowered. Sustainability-focused.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognise complex linkages and feedback mechanisms between social and</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Creative and critical thinkers. Sustainability-focused.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Specific Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment tasks</th>
<th>Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:</td>
<td>Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecological contexts to identify barriers to and opportunities for sustainable systems.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflect on sustainability strategies to propose sustainable solutions to contemporary problems.</td>
<td>Creative and critical thinkers. Sustainability-focussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draw on research and sustainability frameworks to imagine and evaluate novel and alternative futures.</td>
<td>Creative and critical thinkers. Sustainability-focussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilise a range of contemporary and practical communication strategies for the effective dissemination of sustainability knowledge and ideas.</td>
<td>Engaged. Sustainability-focussed.</td>
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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
Two SUS courses including SUS101 Foundations of Sustainability

5.3 Co-requisites
Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites
Nil

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)
Foundation and developing 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
Timely and detailed feedback is provided for each assessment. Feedback is provided both within text and general comments to build scholarly skills. Students can seek feedback through in-class peer and self-assessments and from 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

<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>Written Piece</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>500 words</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Online Assignment Submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>A1 size poster</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Online Assignment Submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Online Assignment Submission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Assessment Task 1: Policy brief: understanding sustainability problems**
  - **Goal:** To describe a contemporary issue and clearly identify why it presents problem for sustainability.
  - **Product:** Written Piece
  - **Format:** Individual 500 word policy brief.
  - **Criteria:**
    - Present a clear, concise and independent description of an issue and who or what is affected
    - Evaluate the relevance to, and implications for, sustainability
    - Use research and evidence-based resources
    - Ensure the quality of syntax and mechanics of your policy brief

- **Assessment Task 2: Case study: systems thinking analysis**
  - **Goal:** To apply systems thinking to analyse a complex sustainability issue and identify barriers to, and opportunities for, achieving sustainability within systems.
  - **Product:** Case Study
  - **Format:** Individual 1200 word case study report.
  - **Criteria:**
    - Apply systems thinking to analyse a sustainability issue and identify relationships using systems terminology, and impacts based on vulnerability
    - Critically reflect on the barriers and opportunities identified to propose a potential strategy for sustainability
    - Use effective presentation techniques that consider the target audience
    - Use research and evidence-based resources

- **Assessment Task 3: Report: imagining and achieving alternative futures**
  - **Goal:** To demonstrate your ability to imagine and evaluate alternative futures with reference to relevant sustainability principles, theory and practical criteria.
  - **Product:** Case Study
  - **Format:** Individual 1700 word report.
  - **Criteria:**
    - Describe a sustainability issue and implications for the future
    - Present an imaginative and preferred future scenario for the sustainability issue
    - Develop plausible strategies for achieving the preferred future
    - Use research and evidence-based resources
• Present an appropriately targeted 200 word summary for decision-makers

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>Location:</th>
<th>Directed study hours for location:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sippy Downs</td>
<td>Workshop: 3 hours per week plus 1hr individual preparation online</td>
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</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) 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 on 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 Moreton Bay** – Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie.
- **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