University of the Sunshine Coast
Queensland, Australia

Course Outline

Code: SUS310
Title: Sustainability Project Sustainability

Faculty of Arts, Business and Law
School of Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2017
Course Coordinator: **Dr Noni Keys**
Tel: (07)5456 5949
Email: nkeys@usc.edu.au

1.   What is this course about?

1.1   Course description
This capstone course is your opportunity to demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in sustainability through direct application to a pressing issue. You'll work with your peers and leading researchers from the Sustainability Research Centre who will support and guide you in developing workplace-ready skills in research, organisation and project management. Select an issue and approach relevant to your chosen profession to gain essential experience in project planning, implementation and evaluation. The engaged nature of the course allows you to build relevant research and industry connections while developing a sustainability report that can showcase your skills to future employers.

1.2   Course content
- Defining and identifying key elements of sustainability issues
- Framing and issues
- Developing research questions and strategies
- Gathering and generating evidence
- Project planning, implementation and evaluation
- Communicating and disseminating project findings.

2.   Unit value
12 units12 units12 units

3.   How does this course contribute to my learning?

Specific Learning Outcomes	Assessment Tasks	Graduate Qualities
On successful completion of this course you should be able to:	You will be assessed on the learning outcome in task/s:	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:
Research and identify sustainability issues relevant to a particular discipline or professional interest.	1	Knowledgeable.

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Evaluate, analyse and critique how issues may be framed across diverse contexts.	1	Ethical. Sustainability-focussed.
Reflect on and evaluate a range of approaches to address applicable to sustainability issues and consider the implications of them.	2	Empowered. Sustainability-focussed.
Communicate sustainability principles with accuracy and credibility to a target audience.	3	Engaged.
Develop dynamic approaches for achieving sustainability that anticipate and overcome barriers to the introduction of sustainable practices.	3	Sustainability-focussed.

4.   Am I eligible to enrol in this course?
*Refer to the **Coursework Programs and Awards - Academic Policy** for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites**"***

4.1   Enrolment restrictions
Nil

4.2   Pre-requisites
SUS101 and 2 courses from SUS201, SUS202, SUS302

4.3   Co-requisites
Nil

4.4   Anti-requisites
Nil

4.5   Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills
Foundation and advanced knowledge in sustainability principles, theory and application.

5.   How am I going to be assessed?

5.1   Grading scale
Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

5.2   Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Tasks	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Problem identification	Individual	30%	1500 words	Friday, Week 4, 5pm	Blackboard
2	Investigation plan	Individual	30%	1000 words	Friday, Week 6, 5pm	Blackboard

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3	Project report	Individual	40%	2500 words	Friday, Week 13, 5pm	Blackboard
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Problem identification

Goal:	To demonstrate your ability to effectively identify and define a sustainability issue with reference to diverse stakeholder perspectives and credible evidence.
Product:	Problem statement report
Format:	Individual 1500 word report in which you effectively identify and define a sustainability issue with reference to diverse stakeholder perspectives and supported with credible evidence. Additional information will be provided on Blackboard.
Criteria	You will be assessed on your ability to: • present a clear, exposition of sustainability knowledge principles applicable to your project • identify a range of stakeholders relevant to your issue and describe their interests • use a combination of research and evidence based resources to provide background and direction for your project • appropriate structure and presentation including quality syntax and grammar

Generic skill assessed	**Skill assessment level**
Information literacy	Graduate
Communication	Graduate

Assessment Task 2: Investigation plan

Goal:	To demonstrate your ability to select and design an appropriate approach to address an identified sustainability issue.
Product:	Strategy selection, explanation and justification
Format:	Individual 1000 word report in which you select and design an appropriate approach for addressing an identified sustainability issue. In this task you will identify a range of possible investigation approaches, drawing on research to justify your chosen approach and creating a detailed action plan. Additional information will be provided on Blackboard.
Criteria	You will be assessed on your ability to: • identify a range of possible approaches to address complex sustainability issues • draw on research evidence to select and justify an effective approach to your sustainability issue • create a detailed action plan to achieve sustainability outcomes • ensure the quality of syntax and grammar in your report

Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level
Organisation	Graduate
Problem solving	Graduate

Assessment Task 3: Project report

Goal:	To work independently to communicate project findings and sustainability messages to a target audience.
Product:	Individual 2500 word report
Format:	Your project report will communicate your project findings and detail the sustainability messages for the target audience. In this task you will identify and describe the barriers

	and opportunities to sustainable practice and suggest solutions based on adaptive and sustainability principles.
Criteria	You will be assessed on your ability to: • present a clear, coherent analysis of your project identify and describe barriers and opportunities to enhanced sustainable practice • suggest solutions based on sustainability principles • draw on research to ensure the quality of evidence including references

Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level
Problem solving	Graduate
Communication	Graduate

5.3   Additional assessment requirements

Plagiarism

In order to minimise incidents of plagiarism and collusion, 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.

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

5.4   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 to negotiate an outcome.

6.   How is the course offered?

6.1   Directed study hours

Workshop: 2 hours per week

6.2   Teaching semester/session(s) offered

Semester 1 & Semester 2 – Sippy Downs

6.3   Course activities

Teaching Week / Module	What key concepts/content will I learn?	What activities will I engage in to learn the concepts/content?	
		Directed Study Activities	Independent Study Activities
1	Course overview Describing and defining sustainability issues	Workshop	Recommended readings as required

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2	Identifying stakeholders and analysing diverse perspectives	Workshop [This week will include the finalisation of your sustainability issue and supervisor]	Recommended readings as required
3	Evaluating and selecting approaches to addressing sustainability issues	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
4	Implementing approaches to sustainability issues (project planning and implementation)	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
5	Communication and dissemination strategies	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
6	Project implementation	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
7	Project implementation	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
8	Project implementation	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
9	Project implementation	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
Mid-Semester Break			
10 *Public Holiday Monday 2nd October*	Project implementation	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
11	Project implementation	Workshop + consultation with project supervisor	Recommended readings as required
12	Project review	Workshop	Recommended readings as required
13	Project and course review	Workshop	Recommended readings as required

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

7.   What resources do I need to undertake this course?
7.1   Prescribed text(s)
Nil
7.2   Required and recommended readings
Lists of required and recommended readings may be found for this course on its Blackboard site. These materials/readings will assist you in preparing for tutorials and assignments, and will provide further information regarding particular aspects of your course.
7.3   Specific requirements

7.4   Risk management

 Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and low to moderate levels of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks may include working in an Australian bush setting, working with people, working outside normal office hour for example. It is your responsibility 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 and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

8.   How can I obtain help with my studies?

In the first instance you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Peer Advisors and Academic Skills Advisors. You can drop in or book an appointment. To book: Tel: +61 7 5430 2890 or Email: student central@usc.edu.au

9. Links to relevant University policies 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

http://www.usc.edu.au/university/governance-and-executive/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10. General enquiries

In person:

- **Sippy Downs** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building B, Ground floor (level 1)
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast -** Student Central, Building A

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890
Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au