

EDU214 Teaching Arts in the Early Years

School: School of Education and Tertiary Access

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay
UniSC Fraser Coast

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to unisc.edu.au 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

In this course you will investigate the five distinct yet related subjects of the Australian Curriculum: Arts (Music, Drama, Dance, Visual Arts and Media) and the contribution of arts education to learning and teaching in the early years of primary school. You will consider the design and implementation of engaging learning experiences for young learners in the Arts and the role of the Arts to engage and support diverse learners. You will investigate and apply authentic learning and teaching in this discipline and identify and collate resources to assist you in your future teaching.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Learning materials offer options/opportunities for learner choice. You will engage and interact with an array of asynchronous materials and activities accessed through Canvas modules, course readings and required texts.	2hrs	Week 1	9 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – A blended learning approach is used to deliver this course, including a mix of interactive tutorials/workshops, and synchronous and asynchronous materials and activities accessed through Canvas. This course will be supported by technology-enabled learning and teaching including Zoom. Additional modalities may support learning in this course.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

- The features of effective, sustainability-focused, authentic arts education for nurturing children's creativity
- The Australian Curriculum: Integrating the Five Arts subjects, cross curriculum, practices, terminology and unique ways of looking at the world
- Designing authentic arts experiences to support the four Arts strands: exploring and responding, developing practices and skills, creating and making, presenting and performing
- Professional teacher identity in the Arts
- Applying age-appropriate pedagogies and resources to enable children's early years developmental capabilities
- Cultural diversity and community connections in the arts classroom
- Involving parents and carers in the educative process

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership
1 Articulate knowledge and understanding of the concepts, substance, and structure of the Australian Curriculum: Arts and related teaching strategies for early years learners	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 7.1
2 Develop discipline-specific knowledge and skills in each Arts subject to effectively facilitate authentic Arts learning experiences	Empowered Engaged	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1
3 Explain, justify and reflect on strategies to support the participation and engagement of diverse students of varying abilities and characteristics, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners, in classroom Arts activities	Empowered Engaged	1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 7.1
4 Select and evaluate appropriate resources for learning experiences that draw upon pedagogical, curriculum and assessment knowledge and skills within the Arts curriculum	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 7.1
5 Consider parental involvement in educational activities and strategies for working effectively, sensitively and confidentially with parents/carers	Engaged	1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 7.1
6 Demonstrate an ability to use and apply effective communication strategies in a variety of contexts to produce and present quality and professional work.	Engaged	

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP	
1.2	Understand how students learn: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of research into how students learn and the implications for teaching.
2.1	Content and teaching strategies of the teaching area: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concepts, substance and structure of the content and teaching strategies of the teaching area
2.2	Content selection and organisation: Organise content into an effective learning and teaching sequence.

CODE	COMPETENCY
2.3	Curriculum, assessment and reporting: Use curriculum, assessment and reporting knowledge to design learning sequences and lesson plans.
2.4	Understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: Demonstrate broad knowledge of, understanding of and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages.
2.5	Literacy and numeracy strategies: Know and understand literacy and numeracy teaching strategies and their application in teaching areas.
2.6	Information and Communication Technology (ICT): Implement teaching strategies for using ICT to expand curriculum learning opportunities for students.
3.1	Establish challenging learning goals: Set learning goals that provide achievable challenges for students of varying abilities and characteristics.
3.2	Plan, structure and sequence learning programs: Plan lesson sequences using knowledge of student learning, content and effective teaching strategies.
3.3	Use teaching strategies: Include a range of teaching strategies.
3.4	Select and use resources: Demonstrate knowledge of a range of resources, including ICT, that engage students in their learning.
3.7	Engage parents/carers in the educative process: Describe a broad range of strategies for involving parents/carers in the educative process.
4.1	Support student participation: Identify strategies to support inclusive student participation and engagement in classroom activities.
4.2	Manage classroom activities: Demonstrate the capacity to organise classroom activities and provide clear directions
4.4	Maintain student safety: Describe strategies that support students' wellbeing and safety working within school and/or system, curriculum and legislative requirements.
4.5	Use ICT safely, responsibly and ethically: Demonstrate an understanding of the relevant issues and the strategies available to support the safe, responsible and ethical use of ICT in learning and teaching.
5.1	Assess student learning: Demonstrate understanding of assessment strategies, including informal and formal, diagnostic, formative and summative approaches to assess student learning.
7.1	Meet professional ethics and responsibilities: Understand and apply the key principles described in codes of ethics and conduct for the teaching profession.

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program UB009, ED304 or ED303.

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

EDU319

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Time and support will be given in tutorials and via Canvas to assist you in undertaking your assessment tasks and to support your success. Early feedback mechanisms embedded in weekly activities and discussions provide opportunities for you to share your learning and reflections with peers and to discuss your assessment planning, folio building and arts-making.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Portfolio	Individual	45%	2500 words or equivalent + relevant artefacts	Week 10	Online Submission
All	2	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled	Individual	20%	30 minutes	Week 4	Online Test (Quiz)
All	3	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Group	35%	Creative artefacts including: a unit of inquiry plan + 1 A4 page parent communication (or equivalent such as an audio-visual resource) + individual work diary form.	Week 7	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Reflective and Expressive Folio

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to demonstrate over time, through your personal learning and arts-exploring/responding experiences, your developing knowledge, skills and strategies within the Arts curriculum.	
PRODUCT:	Portfolio	
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:		
FORMAT:	<p>*Please refer to and use the guided template available on Canvas.</p> <p>This task invites you to create a living folio of arts-exploring/responding, developed in an ongoing way across the trimester. Each week you will explore and respond to the Arts, develop art practices and skills, create and make art, present and/or perform. Your folio will be a reflective representation of your developing arts knowledge and understanding of the five Arts subjects in the Australian Curriculum – The Arts.</p>	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Reflection on personal learning experiences, making connections with Arts curriculum and pedagogy 1 3
	2	Engagement in arts learning, skill development, and the creation of unique and creative responses 1 2
	3	Discipline-specific knowledge and skills relevant to teaching the five Arts subjects in the early years 2
	4	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression, grammar, spelling, punctuation and APA referencing 6
GENERIC SKILLS:		

All - Assessment Task 2: Online exam

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to demonstrate your developing knowledge linked to the theory within the textbook, the Australian Curriculum - The Arts, and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).	
PRODUCT:	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled	
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:		
FORMAT:	<p>*Please refer to the examination guide available on Canvas for more detail about the content of the examination.</p> <p>You will participate in a scheduled Online Examination.</p> <p>Your answers will demonstrate your engagement with the theory within the textbook, the Australian Curriculum - The Arts, and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).</p>	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Knowledge and understanding of relevant curriculum, theory and pedagogy. 1 2
	2	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression, grammar, spelling, punctuation and APA referencing 6
GENERIC SKILLS:		

All - Assessment Task 3: Unit of inquiry plan + parent/carer communication + work diary form

GOAL:	The goals of this task are to communicate your understanding of sustainable, authentic arts education, the role of the Arts in early years learning, and strategies for working effectively with student colleagues and partnering with parents/carers.	
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:		
FORMAT:	<p>*Please refer to and use the guided template available on Canvas.</p> <p>Working collaboratively with 2-3 peers (i.e. forming a group of 3 or 4), this task asks your group to engage as educators and colleagues working together in an early years classroom in a school setting.</p> <p>1. Applying your professional teacher identity, plan a lesson for a case study group (refer to the guided template), integrating one of the five Arts subjects. The plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include a rationale explaining your pedagogical approach, links to the literature, and the Australian Curriculum evidence an authentic arts experience that nurtures children's creativity, demonstrate how you have included the principles of sustainability. <p>2. Create a parents/carer communication targeting the parents/carers of the case study group. The artefact will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate the nature of authentic arts education and the value of the Arts encourage parent/carer involvement in your planned lesson's activities create authentic connections with parents/carers <p>3. Complete an individual work diary. The diary will evidence you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> participation, collaboration, and outputs. 	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Knowledge of research, theories and approaches to Arts education and the Australian Curriculum: The Arts, including inquiry and resource selection
	2	Justification of the importance of Arts education in the early years, involvement and appropriateness for an audience of parents/carers
	3	Communicates appropriately for the audience through professional dialogue using oral, visual and digital communication skills.
	4	Documentation of the individual's contribution to working collaboratively with student colleagues to progress the group task
	5	Designs integrated authentic arts experiences to support one Arts subject and relevant Arts strands
GENERIC SKILLS:		

7. Directed study hours

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. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

7.1. Schedule

PERIOD AND TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the [Library](#) at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Judith Dinham	2022	Delivering Authentic Arts Education	(5th edition)	Cengage AU

8.2. Specific requirements

Students are responsible for suitable and protective clothing for tutorials as required. To support personal arts-making and assessment: personal art materials and supplies such as a visual art diary, 2B or graphite pencils, black markers with different tip sizes, coloured pencils or textas, paints and paint brushes, glue and scissors, as well as a device that can record video, audio and take still images.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. 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.

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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

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%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. 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
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- [UniSC Student Central](#)
- [UniSC Adelaide Student Central](#)