

EDU357 Teaching Senior Secondary Geography

School: School of Education and Tertiary Access

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

**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 usc.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

The course builds your capacity to identify and apply senior secondary geography content and curriculum in Queensland. You will design lesson plans and learning sequences that engage diverse learners based on your reflections on current trends in geography education. In addition, you will explore and analyse a range of pedagogy, assessment and reporting strategies that support senior students, including developing strategies for literacy, numeracy, ICT, spatial technologies and fieldwork in senior geography.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – You are required to engage and interact with asynchronous materials and activities accessed through Canvas modules, course readings and required texts.	2hrs	Week 1	9 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – A face to face tutorial which involves on-campus activities using technology to engage with and apply course content and outcomes.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Senior Geography curriculum and the role of Inquiry
- Curriculum design and teacher beliefs
- Geography discipline-specific pedagogical content knowledge (PCK)
- Teaching and, learning strategies that engage senior geography students
- Diagnostic, formative, summative assessment and reporting
- Literacy, numeracy, ICT and 21st-century skills in Geography
- Marking, feedback and moderation in senior Geography
- Interpreting student assessment data to modify teaching

2. What level is this course?

300 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study 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?

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 Identify and apply geography content, inquiry and Senior Secondary Geography curriculum.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2
2 Identify and apply a range of teaching and learning strategies, including ICT, that provide achievable challenges and engage the diversity of students in senior geography.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	2.2, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.5
3 Plan, create, explain and justify the principles of assessment, moderation, feedback and reporting that measure senior students' progress towards achievement standards in senior Geography.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered Engaged	2.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
4 Explain and justify planning, resourcing, teaching strategies, ICT, literacy, numeracy and 21-century skills developed through senior geography curriculum including fieldwork.	Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged	2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP	
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.
2.3	Curriculum, assessment and reporting: Use curriculum, assessment and reporting knowledge to design learning sequences and lesson plans.
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.

CODE	COMPETENCY
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.
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
4.5	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.
5.2	Provide feedback to students on their learning: Demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of providing timely and appropriate feedback to students about their learning
5.3	Make consistent and comparable judgements: Demonstrate understanding of assessment moderation and its application to support consistent and comparable judgements of student learning.
5.4	Interpret student data: Demonstrate the capacity to interpret student assessment data to evaluate student learning and modify teaching practice.
5.5	Report on student achievement: Demonstrate understanding of a range of strategies for reporting to students and parents/ carers and the purpose of keeping accurate and reliable records of student achievement

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 (AE304 and a Geography Major or Geographical Sciences Extended Minor) or (SE303 and a Geographical Sciences Extended Minor) or (ED315 and a Geographical Studies Minor or a Geography Minor)

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

It is expected that students engaging in this course have undertaken tertiary geography content courses that will be drawn upon to complete this course.

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

Students will engage with task 1 in small groups to moderate the assessment they identify, and feedback will be provided on Task 1 during these tutorials in preparation for the individual responses submitted in week 5.

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	Written Piece	Individual	40%	2000 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	15%	Written - Powerpoint slides Presentation - 6 Minutes in the tutorial using submitted Powerpoint slides	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	3	Portfolio	Individual	45%	2100 words	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Planning, assessment and teacher beliefs

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to explore how teacher beliefs and marking student assessment influence planning in senior secondary geography.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	<p>Identify a group you can work with to discuss the moderation of at least two student pieces of work. The whole group should identify a sample task and student responses for a summative investigation - either fieldwork or data report - to participate in the tutorial activities in weeks 2-4. You will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> senior assessment practices: marking, moderation and feedback and how these can influence lesson sequence planning in senior geography how teacher beliefs about teaching impact lesson sequence planning in senior geography <p>Prepare an individual reflection based on your group work (2000 words) that identifies, describes and justifies how planning for the next topic in senior geography will be influenced by:</p> <p>a) the marking, moderation, feedback and assessment of the summative assessment task your group has engaged in</p> <p>b) your beliefs about teaching senior geography</p>		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identification and description of how feedback, marking, moderation and assessment apply to planning senior geography	1 2 3
	2	Description and justification of how teaching beliefs apply to lesson planning.	1 2
	3	Creation of communication using credible sources.	1 2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 2: Geographical skills content and pedagogical knowledge

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to identify and apply senior geography content, curriculum and teaching strategies to a professional audience.		
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece		
FORMAT:	<p>Submit: Written: Monday 8 am Week 7 Presentation: tutorial week 7-8.</p> <p>As a senior geography teacher, you will discuss with your tutor the allocation of one geographical skill students use in unit 4 and explain how the teacher could develop this skill across the two-year program. Prepare and present a 6-minute PowerPoint presentation for geography teachers. Explain the geographical skill and the range of teaching strategies and resources you could use to support inclusive student participation and engagement in classroom activities. Use a specific school site of your choice as context for this task. The PowerPoint slides will form the written submission for this task. You should reference course materials, curriculum documents and academic literature throughout the slides, including a reference list as the final slide.</p> <p>You will share these slides with the class at the end of the task.</p>		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identification and application of senior secondary geography content, inquiry and curriculum	1
	2	Identify and apply senior secondary teaching and learning strategies to engage students in senior secondary geography skills development.	2
	3	Creation of communication using credible sources	1 2
	4	Application of oral communication skills that demonstrate the capacity to organise activity and provide clear directions.	1 2
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Applying technologies		

All - Assessment Task 3: Portfolio: Curriculum, pedagogy and assessment in senior geography

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to plan, create, explain and justify curriculum, pedagogy and assessment in Senior Secondary Geography.		
PRODUCT:	Portfolio		
FORMAT:	<p>Part 1: A content update based on syllabus and exam paper review (500 words)</p> <p>Review the current syllabus document and most recent external exam paper to identify gaps in your own knowledge and understanding of the unit 4 topic 2 content. (This may be the same skill you identified in Task 2.) Identify one aspect that you find challenging or new and research this topic to extend your own knowledge base. Identify three sources that could be used with secondary geography students. Note this content should be the focus of your three-lesson sequence in Part 2.</p> <p>Part 2: Create a three-lesson learning sequence (800 words)</p> <p>The lesson sequence should illustrate your ability to set learning goals, organise classroom activities, and use resources and teaching strategies to provide achievable challenges for a variety of senior secondary students.</p> <p>Part 3: Explanation and Justification (800 words)</p> <p>Explain and justify using academic literature and curriculum documents how the lesson sequence you have created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applies learning goals, geographical inquiry, a range of teaching strategies and pedagogy that engage students in achievable challenges. • applies literacy, numeracy and ICT strategies and uses a range of resources relevant to students, the curriculum and the assessment task for this unit and topic. 		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identification and application of geography content and use of resources for senior curriculum and assessment.	1 3 4
	2	Application of the content and teaching strategies to senior geography teaching learning and assessment plans	2 4
	3	Application of geography curriculum and assessment knowledge to lesson sequences that provide achievable challenges for diverse students.	1 3
	4	Explanation and justification of planning, assessment, resourcing, teaching strategies, ICT, literacy, numeracy and 21-century skills developed through senior geography curriculum.	3 4
	5	Creation of communication using credible sources.	1 2 3 4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy		

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.

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

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Malcolm McInerney, Susan Caldis, Stephen Cranby, John Butler, Alaric Maude, Susanne Jones, Michael Patrick Law, Rebecca Nicholas	2021	Teaching Secondary Geography	1	Cambridge University Press
Recommended	Bill Dodd, Mick Law, Iain Meyer, Phil O'Brien	2019	Jacaranda Senior Geography 2 for Queensland Units 3&4 3E EBookPLUS + Print	n/a	Jacaranda
Recommended	Dodd, B., Law, M., Meyer, I., & O'Brien, P.	2019	Jacaranda Senior Geography for Queensland 1 Units 1 & 2 (3rd ed.)	n/a	John Wiley & Sons Australia

8.2. Specific requirements

It is expected that you will require Internet access and a personal computer. Recommendations from information and technology services are available via the Student Portal if you search for computer specifications. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) is necessary for each class session. Access to a mobile device with a camera and microphone is recommended for participation in online sessions.

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. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. 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>

10.9. 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.

10.10.General Enquiries

In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au