

EDU420 The Psychology of Learning

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.

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

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

In this course you will explore a range of ways in which people learn. You also examine your own learning, the learning of your school-based colleagues and the students they teach. You will focus on the diversity of learners' language and socio-cultural realities as well as your diverse abilities and interests. Importantly, you consider the theories that inform what is known about student learning. There is a strong focus in this course on understanding learning within the contexts of rapidly changing environments and through focusing on your experiences as a pre-service teacher.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Prerecorded videos and associated activities to introduce main concepts each week.	1.8hrs	Week 1	10 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – You are required to engage with a weekly on-campus workshop to further consolidate the activities in the Learning Materials using associated activities and required/recommended course reading materials using the required text.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
ONLINE			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – You are required to engage with a weekly online workshop to further consolidate the activities in the Learning Materials using associated activities and required/recommended course reading materials using the required text.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
Learning materials – Prerecorded videos and associated activities to introduce main concepts each week.	1.8hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Introduction to Course: What is Learning?
- Linking Brain Development and Theories of Learning
- Cognition and Learning
- Emotions (Affect) and Learning
- Behavioural and Cognitive Perspectives
- Humanist and Social Perspectives
- Thinking and Learning
- Intelligence and Motivation
- Engagement and Frameworks for Learning
- Different Learners – Inclusivity and Learning

2. What level is this course?

400 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 Analyse some of the social, cultural and historical contexts that shape the development of learning theories and contemporary understandings of learning.	Knowledgeable	1
2 Evaluate the major debates that have helped shape conceptions of learning and a range of theories that have subsequently emerged.	Engaged	1, 1.1
3 Evaluate literature related to the field of educational psychology within learning contexts.	Engaged	1, 1.1, 1.2
4 Reflect on your own experiences of learning and analyse the contexts in which such learning occurred	Creative and critical thinker	1, 1.2
5 Communicate using clear and concise language in a range of genres in the field of education allowing for the use of appropriate conventions.	Knowledgeable	3.5

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP	
1	PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE: Know students and how they learn

CODE	COMPETENCY
1.1	Physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics of students: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics of students and how these may affect learning.
1.2	Understand how students learn: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of research into how students learn and the implications for teaching.
3.5	Use effective classroom communication: Demonstrate a range of verbal and non-verbal communication strategies to support student engagement

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, SE303 or ED315

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

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

Early feedback will be provided through the initial quizzes starting in week 3.

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	Oral	Group	25%	30 mins	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	2	Quiz/zes	Individual	35%	30 mins	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	3	Essay	Individual	40%	1800 words	Week 10	In Class

All - Assessment Task 1: Tutorial Presentation

GOAL:	The goal of this task is for you to develop your knowledge and research skills through the examination of research studies and relevant literature related to various concepts and/or theories of learning and present your findings to your peers.						
PRODUCT:	Oral						
FORMAT:	Research, analyse and present various theories of learning in a group presentation that develop audience engagement. Develop a properly referenced summary and a PowerPoint presentation to accompany the presentation. Although this is a group task you will be assessed individually on your performance. Submit: weeks 4-10.						
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed					
	1	Analysis of the social, cultural and historical and contexts that shape the development of learning theories and contemporary understandings of learning.	1	2	3	4	5
	2	Knowledge of learning theories.	1	2	3		
	3	Use of literature related to the field of educational psychology.	3				
	4	Oral communication skills.	5				
	5	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression, grammar, spelling, punctuation, APA referencing conventions.	5				
GENERIC SKILLS:							

All - Assessment Task 2: Regular Quiz

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to draw together your understanding of the Course topics as the semester progresses.			
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes			
FORMAT:	You will undertake regular hard copy quizzes in short answer and multi choice format (from weeks 3-10) in order to determine your depth of understanding of key principles and theories related to human development and learning.After you complete each quiz and review your result, you will reflect on your current understanding of the Course topics which, in turn, may be used to enhance the outcomes of subsequent quizzes and shape your final assessment item, the personal reflection. Weeks 3,5,7,9,10.			
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed		
	1	Analysis of the social, cultural and historical contexts that shape the development of learning theories and contemporary understandings of learning.		1 2 3
	2	Evaluation of literature related to the field of developmental theories and learning within educational contexts.		3
	3	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression, grammar, spelling and punctuation.		4 5
GENERIC SKILLS:				

All - Assessment Task 3: Reflective Essay

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to reflect on what you have learned and draw together your understanding of the Course topics in a reflective essay.		
PRODUCT:	Essay		
FORMAT:	Research and analyse learning theories and the social, historical and cultural contexts that have shaped the major developments and debates in the field. There is no set number of theorists, nor specific theories you must discuss and you should negotiate this with your tutor. Use relevant literature, including course readings, to evidence your reflection on your learning and your understanding of such theories in the context of your experiences as a pre-service teacher. Write 1800 words adhering strictly to the APA guidelines.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Analysis of the social, cultural and historical and contexts that shape the development of learning theories and contemporary understandings of learning.	1
	2	Evaluation of the major debates that have helped shape conceptions of learning and a range of theories that have subsequently emerged.	2
	3	Knowledge of educational psychology.	3
	4	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation, APA referencing conventions.	5
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.

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	A. O'donnell	0	Educational Psychology, 3rd Edition Hybrid	3rd Australian Edition.	n/a

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

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:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may 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.

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