

SUS101 Foundations of Sustainability

School: School of Law and Society

2024 | Semester 1

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 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. |

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

What is sustainability? Short answer - changing the world for the better. This course provides you with foundational knowledge of sustainability concepts and issues. It uses an interdisciplinary approach to ensure you are equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the phenomena and practices that have shaped the planet and the lives of all living things. You will explore ethics, philosophy, complex systems thinking and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

| ACTIVITY | HOURS | BEGINNING WEEK | FREQUENCY |
|---|-------|----------------|-----------|
| BLENDED LEARNING | | | |
| Learning materials – Weekly asynchronous online learning materials | 1hr | Week 1 | 13 times |
| Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus Tutorial 2 hours | 2hrs | Week 1 | 10 times |
| ONLINE | | | |
| Learning materials – Weekly asynchronous online learning materials | 1hr | Week 1 | 13 times |
| Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Synchronous tutorial | 2hrs | Week 1 | 10 times |

1.3. Course Topics

- Sustainability overview, history and actors
- Ethics, Values and Happiness
- Sustainability thinking tools
- Sustainability applications: Conservation and Law
- Measuring and communicating sustainability
- SDG project work

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first 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 |
|---|--|
| On successful completion of this course, you should be able to... | Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming... |
| 1 Identify and describe sustainability concepts, models and approaches | Sustainability-focussed |
| 2 Describe and evaluate the concept of ethical responsibility towards present and future generations. | Ethical |
| 3 Investigate and evaluate the UN Sustainable Development Goals | Sustainability-focussed |
| 4 Research and communicate information to expert and non expert audiences. | Engaged |

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

Not applicable

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 is given through embedded module learning quizzes on course readings. Also practice reflective writing and peer feedback will occur during tutorial time.

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 | Examination - not Centrally Scheduled | Individual | 25% | 1.5 hours | Week 4 | Online Test (Quiz) |
| All | 2 | Negotiated Assessment | Individual | 45% | 1500 words | Week 11 | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |
| All | 3 | Report | Individual or Group | 30% | 1000 words equivalent References, images, titles and tables are not included in the word count. | Exam Period | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |

All - Assessment Task 1: Sustainability Concepts and Approaches

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| GOAL: | This exam will review key concepts and ideas presented in the lecture, weekly readings and the tutorials | |
| PRODUCT: | Examination - not Centrally Scheduled | |
| FORMAT: | 50 randomised Multiple Choice Questions | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Identification of sustainability concepts, models and approaches 1 |

All - Assessment Task 2: Demonstrating Sustainability Phronesis

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| GOAL: | This task is designed to capture your understanding of the course materials as a form of 'practical wisdom' (phronesis) to be applied in your future life and career. This wisdom is informed by the knowledge of ethics, science and social sciences and understandings of UN conventions, agreements, SDG goals and protocols that help to enable a sustainable future. | |
| PRODUCT: | Negotiated Assessment | |
| FORMAT: | Academic format with references (APA 6) This is written or oral (narrated PPT presentation saved as a MP4) or video will be presented as a reflection on course materials. It may use first person, images, quotes and must reference and cite specific course materials and papers. See Canvas Task 2 assessment folder for more information | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Description of course sustainability issues/concepts, models and approaches 1 |
| | 2 | Identify and evaluate sustainability themes and perspectives that link to your future career and life practice. 2 |
| | 3 | Communication 4 |

All - Assessment Task 3: SDG Report

| GOAL: | You will examine a contemporary sustainability issue within the SDG framework. You will use an ethical lens to explore and uncover the human behaviors and choices that are implicated in the Goal, Target and Indicator. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---------------|---|--|
| PRODUCT: | Report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FORMAT: | You may work individually or in a group of up to three. You will have up to 1000 words per person. You are encouraged to use diverse data sets to produce a convincing and engaging report. Please see the Canvas course site for details. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CRITERIA: | <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Description of sustainability issue linked to the SDG</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Evaluation of the behaviors, values and ethics of the issue</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Evaluation of the complex interactions between economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Communication</td><td>4</td></tr></tbody></table> | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed | 1 | Description of sustainability issue linked to the SDG | 1 | 2 | Evaluation of the behaviors, values and ethics of the issue | 2 | 3 | Evaluation of the complex interactions between economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions | 3 | 4 | Communication | 4 | |
| No. | | Learning Outcome assessed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Description of sustainability issue linked to the SDG | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Evaluation of the behaviors, values and ethics of the issue | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Evaluation of the complex interactions between economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Communication | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

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 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

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