PYC 1511 S1

Introduction to Psychology (University of South Africa)

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Tutorial Letter 101/3/2023

Introduction to Psychology
PYC1511

Semesters 1 and 2

Department of Psychology

This tutorial letter contains important information about your module.

BARCODE

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CONTENTS

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1   INTRODUCTION

Dear student

Welcome to the module *Introduction to Psychology* (PYC1511). We hope you will enjoy studying the topics we offer in this module, and that you will find the information useful. Please do not hesitate to let us know what you like and do not like about this module. We need your input to improve the subject material we offer to our students. When you register, you receive an *Inventory letter* containing information about your tutorial matter. More details are contained in the document entitled Studies @ Unisa.

During the year, you can download the following study material for this module:

- Tutorial Letter 201 (to be available later) - contains feedback on assignment 01
- Tutorial Letter 202 (to be available later) - contains feedback on assignment 02 and the exam information.

Please note that your lecturers cannot help you with the missing study material.

You can also access the tutorial letters for all modules on *my*Unisa at http://my.unisa.ac.za. We suggest that you visit the site on a regular basis for updates and important module related information.

This tutorial letter deals with the work covered in the module PYC1511. We urge you to read it carefully and to keep it at hand when working through your studies and when addressing enquiries to your lecturers. This tutorial letter also provides all the information you need with regard to the study material and how to obtain it.

We have also included certain general and administrative information about this module. Please study the section carefully. Right from the start, we would like to point out that you must read all the tutorial letters you receive during the semester immediately, carefully, as they always contain important, and sometimes, urgent information.

We hope that you will enjoy this module and wish you all the best.

PYC1511 Teaching Team

2   PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

2.1   Purpose

This module introduces the learner to the study of psychology from an African perspective. The module serves as a theoretical foundation for further studies in psychology with an emphasis on understanding the broad fields of psychology as they emerge in Africa. The learner will have an introductory knowledge on how psychology has contributed to the power structures that legitimised inequalities in societies, particularly in Africa. The aim is also to enable the learner to understand and embrace the African ways of knowing the human functioning. The module also enables the learner to distinguish between the African and the Western ways of thinking in terms of the philosophies that inform how people view the world.

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2.2 Outcomes

The course material will enable the student to:
- demonstrate an understanding of the history of psychology in Africa
- demonstrate an understanding of African psychology
- demonstrate a critical understanding of psychologies from other parts of the world
- demonstrate an understanding of different psychological research methods and philosophies
- identify and recognise the contemporary psychological registrations and practices in South Africa.

3 CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION

Unisa has implemented a transformation charter, in terms of which the university has placed curriculum transformation high on the teaching and learning agenda. Curriculum transformation includes student-centred scholarship, the pedagogical renewal of teaching and assessment practices, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and the infusion of African epistemologies and philosophies. All of these will be phased in at both programme and module levels, and as a result of this, you will notice a marked change in the teaching and learning strategy implemented by Unisa, together with the way in which the content is conceptualised in your modules. We encourage you to embrace these changes during your studies at Unisa in a responsive way within the framework of transformation.

4 LECTURERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

4.1 Lecturers

The teaching team for this module consists of the following lecturers:

Dr Khuze Skosana (Module leader) (Tel: +27 12 429-2093)
Ms Nonhlanhla Masinga
Dr Cyril Adonis
Ms Gloria Makhuza
Mr Bongani Mtshweni

4.2 Department

You can contact the teaching team for PYC1511 by telephone and e-mail. As the different kinds of enquiries are handled in different ways, it is important that you decide before you contact us which category your enquiry belongs to. The categories are:

Three categories of enquiries	Category A: General administrative questions - in other words, any matter addressed in this Tutorial Letter 101 for PYC1511 Category B: Administrative questions about the assignments for PYC1511. Category C: General academic questions about the content for PYC1511.
By telephone	You can phone the department between 08:00 and 16:00 on weekdays. Category A and B enquiries: Ms Thandeka Thwala. Tel: +27 12 429-8216

By e-mail	Category A and B enquiries: Ms Thandeka Thwala: thwaltn@unisa.ac.za Category C enquiries: should be sent to the teaching team at: PYC1511@unisa.ac.za. When you submit an e-mail, please write one of the following codes in the subject line space of your e-mail: PYC1511 Category A or PYC1511 Category B or PYC1511 Category C. The subject line code is used to route your e-mail to the proper folder for quick attention.

4.3   University

To contact the university about matters not related to the content of this module, please consult the publication Studies @ Unisa that you received with your study material. This booklet contains information such as who you can contact for different queries. Always have your student number at hand when you contact the university. Also, please use your myLife account for any communication with the university or the teaching team.

Contact addresses of the various administrative departments appear on the Unisa website: http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Contact-us/Student-enquiries.

5   RESOURCES

5.1   Prescribed books

There are no prescribed books for this module. The module has the Study Guide that contains all the relevant information that will help you pass the module. The Study Guide can be downloaded from the myUnisa portal.

5.2   Recommended books

There are no recommended books for this module.

5.3   Electronic reserves (e-reserves)

There are no e-reserves for this module.

5.4   Library services and resources information

The Unisa library offers a range of information services and resources:
- For brief information, go to https://www.unisa.ac.za/library/libatglance
- For more detailed library information, go to http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library
- For research support and services (e.g. the services offered by personal librarians and the request a literature search service offered by the information search librarians), go to http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Research-support
- For library training for undergraduate students, go to https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Training

The library has created numerous library guides, available at http://libguides.unisa.ac.za
Recommended guides:
- Request and find library material/download recommended material: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/request
- Postgraduate information services: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/postgrad
- Finding and using library resources and tools: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research_skills
- Frequently asked questions about the library: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask
- Services to students living with disabilities:

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http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/disability
- A–Z of library databases:
  https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/az.php

Important contact information:
- Ask a librarian: https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask
- Technical problems encountered in accessing library online services: Lib-help@unisa.ac.za
- General library-related queries: Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za
- Queries related to library fines and payments: Library-fines@unisa.ac.za
- Social media channels: Facebook: UnisaLibrary and Twitter: @UnisaLibrary

6   STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Study @ Unisa brochure is available on myUnisa: www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies

This brochure contains important information and guidelines for successful studies through Unisa.
If you need assistance with regard to the myModules system, you are welcome to use the following contact details:
- Toll-free landline: 0800 00 1870 (Select option 07 for myModules)
- E-mail: mymodules22@unisa.ac.za or myUnisaHelp@unisa.ac.za

You can access and view short videos on topics such as how to view your calendar, how to access module content, how to view announcements for modules, how to submit assessments and how to participate in forum activities via the following link: https://dtls-qa.unisa.ac.za/course/view.php?id=32130

> Registered Unisa students get a free myLife e-mail account. Important information, notices and updates are sent exclusively to this account. Please note that it can take up to 24 hours for your account to be activated after you have claimed it. Please do this immediately after registering at Unisa, by following this link: myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za
>
> Your myLife account is the **only** e-mail account recognised by Unisa for official correspondence with the university, and will remain the official primary e-mail address on record at Unisa. You remain responsible for the management of this e-mail account.

6.1   The Unisa First-Year Experience Programme

Many students find the transition from school education to tertiary education stressful. This is also true in the case of students enrolling at Unisa for the first time. Unisa is a dedicated open distance and e-learning institution, and it is very different from face-to-face/contact institutions. It is a mega university, and all our programmes are offered through either blended learning or fully online learning. It is for this reason that we thought it necessary to offer first-time students additional/extended support to help them seamlessly navigate the Unisa teaching and learning journey with little difficulty and few barriers. We therefore offer a specialised student support programme to students enrolling at Unisa for the first time – this is Unisa's First-Year Experience (FYE) Programme, designed to provide you with prompt and helpful information about services that the institution offers and how you can access information. The following FYE services are currently offered:

- FYE website: All the guides and resources you need in order to navigate through your first year at Unisa can be accessed using the following link: www.unisa.ac.za/FYE
- FYE e-mails: You will receive regular e-mails to help you stay focused and motivated.
- FYE broadcasts: You will receive e-mails with links to broadcasts on various topics related to your first-year studies (e.g. videos on how to submit assessments online).
- FYE mailbox: For assistance with queries related to your first year of study, send an e-mail to fye@unisa.ac.za .

7   STUDY PLAN

Refer to Studies @Unisa brochure for general time management and planning skills. A study plan is a chart or schedule that allows you to block out time needed each day for well-defined learning activities, goals, and routine daily tasks. It is especially helpful when trying to make time between your work life, social life, and other responsibilities to do your schoolwork.

The benefits of having a Study Plan
A study plan is an effective tool that shows you how you spend your time. You want to make sure that you are setting aside a sufficient amount of time to study for tests, do your assignments, and complete your projects. With the rise of online learning, study plans are more important than ever. Using them fosters self-discipline and accountability. It prevents procrastination and helps you develop better study habits, which usually translate to better grades.

8   PRACTICAL WORK

There are no practicals for this module.

9   ASSESSMENT

9.1   Assessment criteria

The students are assessed by means of two assignments and the examination. The value of the two assignments contributes 40% towards the year mark and the examination contributes 60% towards the final mark.

9.2   Assessment plan

- To complete this module, you will be required to submit two (2) assessments.
- All information about when and where to submit your assessments will be made available to you via the myModules site for your module.
- Due dates for assessments, as well as the actual assessments are available on the myModules site for this module.
- To gain admission to the examination, you have to submit at least one assignment. Please note that both assignments (assignment 1 and assignment 2) contribute toward the final mark. Although each assignment contributes, only a few marks to the final mark it is important to do all the assignments because they constitute important learning opportunities.
- The assignment weighting for the module is 40%.
- You will receive examination information via the myModules sites. Please watch out for announcements on how examinations for the modules for which you are registered will be conducted.
- The examination will count 60% towards the final module mark.

Assignments 01 and 02 - These assignments for both semesters consist of 25 multiple-choice questions covering the units from the study guide.

Assignment 91: This assignment is a course-evaluation assignment. It consists of 50 multiple-choice questions concerning your experience of the module. The aim of the assignment is to reflect on what you have learned and why you enjoyed (or why you did not enjoy) certain learning tasks. This assignment does not contribute towards the year mark.

Year mark: An average of assignments 1 and 2 counts 40% towards the year mark. This year mark will contribute towards the final mark.

You will receive feedback on your assignments. You get the answers to the questions, as well as further discussion on these answers. You will receive two kinds of feedback: (i) a computer printout showing your own answers, the correct answers, and the mark you obtained, (ii) a tutorial letter with detailed feedback about each question.

9.3 Assessment due dates

- There are no assignment **due dates** included in this tutorial letter.
- Assignment due dates will be made available to you on the myUnisa landing page for this module. We envisage that the due dates will be available to you upon registration.
- Please start working on your assessments as soon as you register for the module.
- Log on to the myUnisa site for this module to obtain more information on the due dates for the submission of the assessments.

9.4 Submission of assessments

- Unisa, as a comprehensive open distance e-learning institution (CODeL), is moving towards becoming an online institution. You will therefore see that all your study material, assessments and engagements with your lecturer and fellow students will take place online. We use myUnisa as our virtual campus.
- The myUnisa virtual campus will offer students access to the myModules site, where learning material will be available online and where assessments should be completed. This online system is used to administer, document, and deliver educational material to students and support engagement between academics and students.
- The myUnisa platform can be accessed via https://my.unisa.ac.za. Click on the myModules 2023 button to access the online sites for the modules that you are registered for.
- The university undertakes to communicate clearly and as frequently as is necessary to ensure that you obtain the greatest benefit from the use of the myModules learning management system. Please access the announcements on your myModules site regularly, as this is where your lecturer will post important information to be shared with you.
- When you access your myModules site for the module/s you are registered for, you will see a welcome message posted by your lecturer. Below the welcome message, you will see the assessment shells for the assessments that you need to complete. Some assessments may be multiple-choice, some tests, others written assessments, some forum discussions, and so on. All assessments must be completed on the assessment shells available on the respective module platforms.
- To complete quiz assessments, please log on to the module site where you need to complete the assessment. Click on the relevant assessment shell (Assessment 1, Assessment 2, etc.). There will be a date on which the assessment will open for you. When the assessment is open, access the quiz online and complete it within the time available to you. Quiz assessment questions are not included in this tutorial letter (Tutorial Letter 101) and are only made available online. You must therefore access the quiz online and complete it online where the quiz has been created.
- It is not advisable to use a cell phone to complete the quiz. Please use a desktop computer, tablet or laptop when completing the quiz. Students who use a cell phone find it difficult to navigate the **Online Assessment** tool on the small screen and often struggle to navigate between questions and successfully complete the quizzes. In addition, cell phones are more vulnerable to dropped internet connections than other devices. **If possible, please do not use a cell phone for this assessment type**.

9.5   The assessments

As indicated in section 9.2, you need to complete three assessments for this module. There are no assignments included in this tutorial letter. The assignments are available online on *my*Unisa.
Assignments and due dates will be made available to you on myModules for this module. We envisage that the due dates will be available to you upon registration.

9.6   Other assessment methods

There are no other assessment methods for this module.

9.7   The examination

Examination information and details on the format of the examination will be made available to you online via the *my*Unisa site. Look out for information that will be shared with you by your lecturer and e-tutors (where relevant) and for communication from the university.

9.7.1 Invigilation/proctoring

Since 2020, Unisa conducts all its assessments online. Given stringent requirements from professional bodies and increased solicitations of Unisa's students by third parties to unlawfully assist them with the completion of assignments and examinations, the University is obliged to assure its assessment integrity through the utilisation of various proctoring tools: Turnitin, Moodle Proctoring, the Invigilator App and IRIS. These tools will authenticate the student's identity and flag suspicious behaviour to assure credibility of students' responses during assessments. The description below is for your benefit as you may encounter any or all of these in your registered modules:

Turnitin is a plagiarism software that facilitates checks for originality in students' submissions against internal and external sources. Turnitin assists in identifying academic fraud and ghost writing. Students are expected to submit **typed** responses for utilisation of the Turnitin software.
The **Moodle Proctoring tool** is a facial recognition software that authenticates students' identity during their Quiz assessments. This tool requires access to a student's **mobile or laptop camera**. Students must ensure their camera is activated in their browser settings prior to their assessments.

The Invigilator "mobile application-based service does verification" of the identity of an assessment participant. The Invigilator Mobile Application detects student dishonesty-by-proxy and ensures that the assessment participant is the registered student. This invigilation tool requires students to download the app from their Play Store (Google, Huawei and Apple) on their **mobile devices** (camera enabled) prior to their assessment.

IRIS Invigilation software verifies the identity of a student during assessment and provides for both manual and automated facial verification. It has the ability to record and review a student's assessment session. It flags suspicious behaviour by the students for review by an academic administrator. IRIS software requires installation on students' **laptop devices** that are enabled with a webcam.

Students who are identified and flagged for suspicious dishonest behaviour arising from the invigilation and proctoring reports are referred to the disciplinary office for formal proceeding.

Please note:
Students must refer to their module assessment information on their myModule sites to determine which proctoring or invigilation tool will be utilised for their formative and summative assessments.

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10   ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

10.1   Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas and thoughts of others and presenting them as your own. It is a form of theft. Plagiarism includes the following forms of academic dishonesty:
- Copying and pasting from any source without acknowledging the source.
- Not including references or deliberately inserting incorrect bibliographic information.
- Paraphrasing without acknowledging the original source of the information.

10.2   Cheating

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- Completing assessments on behalf of another student, copying the work of another student during an assessment, or allowing another student to copy your work.
- Using social media (e.g. WhatsApp, Telegram) or other platforms to disseminate assessment information.
- Submitting corrupt or irrelevant files, this forms part of examination guidelines
- Buying completed answers from so-called "tutors" or internet sites (contract cheating).

10.3   For more information about plagiarism, follow the link below:

https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Study-@-Unisa/Student-values-and-rules

11   STUDENTS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

The Advocacy and Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities (ARCSWiD) provides an opportunity for staff to interact with first time and returning students with disabilities.

If you are a student with a disability and would like additional support or need additional time for assessments, you are invited to contact the teaching team at: PYC1511@unisa.ac.za to discuss the assistance that you need.

12   FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Studies @Unisa contains an A – Z guide of the most relevant study information. Please refer to this brochure for any other questions.

13   SOURCES CONSULTED

The source for this module is the Study Guide for PYC1511.

14   IN CLOSING

Tutorial letters contain important information about your studies. It is, therefore, important to read all tutorial letters when they are available and to keep them in a safe place. This first tutorial letter (Tutorial letter 101) contains valuable general information for this module. Keep this tutorial letter at hand – you will have to use it more often. The other tutorial letters contain information about feedback on assignments, and examination information.

15   ADDENDUM

There is no addendum for this module.

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