



## Tutorial Letter 101

Foundations of sub-discipline of Psychology (University of South Africa)



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# **Tutorial Letter 101/3/2024**

**Foundations of sub-disciplines of  
Psychology**

**PYC1512**

**Semesters 1 and 2**

**Department of Psychology**

This tutorial letter contains important information about your module.

BARCODE

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Student

Unisa is a comprehensive open distance e-learning (CODEL) higher education institution. The comprehensiveness of our curricula encapsulates a range of offerings, from strictly vocational to strictly academic certificates, diplomas and degrees. Unisa's "openness" and its distance eLearning character result in many students registering at Unisa who may not have had an opportunity to enrol in higher education. Our CODEL character implies that our programmes are carefully planned and structured to ensure success for students ranging from the under-prepared but with potential to the sufficiently prepared.

Teaching and learning in a CODEL context involve multiple modes of delivery ranging from blended learning to fully online. As a default position, all post graduate programmes are offered fully online with no printed study materials, while undergraduate programmes are offered in a blended mode of delivery where printed study materials are augmented with online teaching and learning via the learner management system – *myUnisa*. In some instances, undergraduate programmes are offered fully online as well.

Furthermore, our programmes are aligned with the vision, mission and values of the University. Unisa's commitment to serving humanity and shaping futures combined with a clear appreciation of our location on the African continent, Unisa's graduates have distinctive graduate qualities, which include

- independent, resilient, responsible and caring citizens who are able to fulfil and serve in multiple roles in their immediate and future local, national and global communities
- having a critical understanding of their location on the African continent with its histories, challenges and potential in relation to globally diverse contexts
- the ability to critically analyse and evaluate the credibility and usefulness of information and data from multiple sources in a globalised world with its ever-increasing information and data flows and competing worldviews
- how to apply their discipline-specific knowledge competently, ethically and creatively to solve real-life problems
- an awareness of their own learning and developmental needs and future potential

This module is a blended module. Whether a module is offered either as blended (meaning that we use a combination of printed and online material to engage with you) or online (all information is available via the internet), we use *myUnisa* as our virtual campus. This is an online system that is used to administer, document and deliver educational material to you and support engagement with you. Look out for information from your lecturer as well as other Unisa platforms to determine how to access the virtual *myUnisa* module site. Information on the tools that will be available to engage with the lecturer and fellow students to support your learning will also be communicated via various platforms. You are encouraged to log into the module site on *myUnisa* regularly (at least twice per week).

We hope you will enjoy studying the topics we offer in the module *Foundations of Sub-disciplines of Psychology* (PYC1512) and that you will find the information useful. Please do not hesitate to let us know what you like and do not like about the module. We need your input to improve our students' subject material. 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 access the tutorial letters for all modules on *myUnisa* 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 PYC1512. We urge you to read it carefully and keep it at hand when working through your studies and addressing your lecturers' enquiries. The 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, as they always contain important and sometimes urgent information.

Because this is a blended module, you will need to use *myUnisa* to study and complete the learning activities for this module. Visit the website for PYC1512 on *myUnisa* frequently. The website for your module is PYC1512-24-S1 (for semester 1) and PYC1512-24-S2 (for semester 2).

We wish you every success with your studies!

## **1 PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES**

### **2.1 Purpose**

This module will enable learners to demonstrate introductory knowledge about a variety of topics from the intrapersonal and health domains of psychology. The sub-disciplines of psychology will be introduced from different cultural perspectives. This introductory module is essential for further studies in psychology because it introduces learners to sub-disciplines such as biological and developmental psychology while orientating learners to the importance of physiological processes in human behaviour and psychological aspects of the community that help individuals to thrive.

### **2.2 Outcomes**

The course material will enable the student to:

- understand the biological aspects of psychology
- develop an understanding of abnormal psychology in an African context
- comprehend the context relevant to community and health psychology
- understand the African perspectives of developmental psychology
- comprehend personality and social psychology in an African context.

## 2 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.

## 3 LECTURERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

### 4.1 Lecturers

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

#### **Ms Nonhlanhla Masinga (Module leader)**

Ms Gloria Makhuza  
Dr Khuze Skosana  
Dr Bongani Mtshweni

### 4.2 Department

You can contact the teaching team for PYC1512 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 PYC1512 Category B: Administrative questions about the assignments for PYC1512. Category C: General academic questions about the content for PYC1512.
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By telephone	You can phone the department between 08:00 and 16:00 on weekdays.
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Category A and B enquiries: Ms Thandeka Thwala. Tel: +27 12 429-8216

By e-mail	Category A and B enquiries: Ms Thandeka Thwala: <a href="mailto:thwaltn@unisa.ac.za">thwaltn@unisa.ac.za</a> Category C enquiries: should be sent to the teaching team at: <a href="mailto:PYC1512@unisa.ac.za">PYC1512@unisa.ac.za</a> . When you submit an e-mail, please write one of the following codes in the subject line space of your e-mail: PYC1512 Category A or PYC1512 Category B or PYC1512 Category C. The subject line code is used to route your e-mail to the proper folder for quick attention.
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### 4.3 University

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

Please include your student number in all correspondence.

**Also, please use your myLife account for any communication with the university or the teaching team, as emails sent using personal email addresses will not be responded to.**

## 4 RESOURCES

### 5.1 Prescribed book(s)

There are no prescribed books for this module. The module has the units containing all the relevant information to help you pass the module. The units can be downloaded from *myUnisa* portal.

### 5.2 Recommended book(s)

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

The Unisa Library offers a range of information services and resources. The library has created numerous library guides, available at <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za>

#### Recommended guides :

- For brief information on the library, 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>
- Frequently Asked Questions about the library, visit <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Frequently-Asked-Questions>
- For research support and services such as the Personal Librarian service and the Information Search Librarian's Literature Search Request (on your research topic) service, visit <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Research-support>.
- For library training for undergraduate students, visit <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Training>
- Lending Services <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Lending-services>
- Services for Postgraduate students - <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Services-for-Postgraduates>
- Support and Services for students with disabilities - <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Services-for-students-with-special-needs>
- Library Technology Support - <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/techsupport>
- Finding and using library resources and tools - [http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research\\_skills](http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research_skills)
- A-Z list of library databases – <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/az.php>

#### Important contact information:

- Technical problems encountered in accessing library online services: [Lib-help@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Lib-help@unisa.ac.za)
- General library-related queries: [Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za)
- Queries related to library fines and payments: [Library-fines@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Library-fines@unisa.ac.za)
- Interlibrary loan service for postgraduate students: [libr-ill@unisa.ac.za](mailto:libr-ill@unisa.ac.za)
- Literature Search Service: [Lib-search@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Lib-search@unisa.ac.za)
- Social media channels: Facebook: UnisaLibrary and Twitter: @UnisaLibrary

## 5 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The *Study @ Unisa* brochure is available on myUnisa: [www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies](http://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: [mymodule22@unisa.ac.za](mailto:mymodule22@unisa.ac.za) or [myUnisaHelp@unisa.ac.za](mailto: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 assessment and how to participate in forum activities via the following link: <https://dtls-ga.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:

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Announcements/Students-must-activate-and-use-your-myLife-e-mail-accounts-to-communicate-with-Unisa>

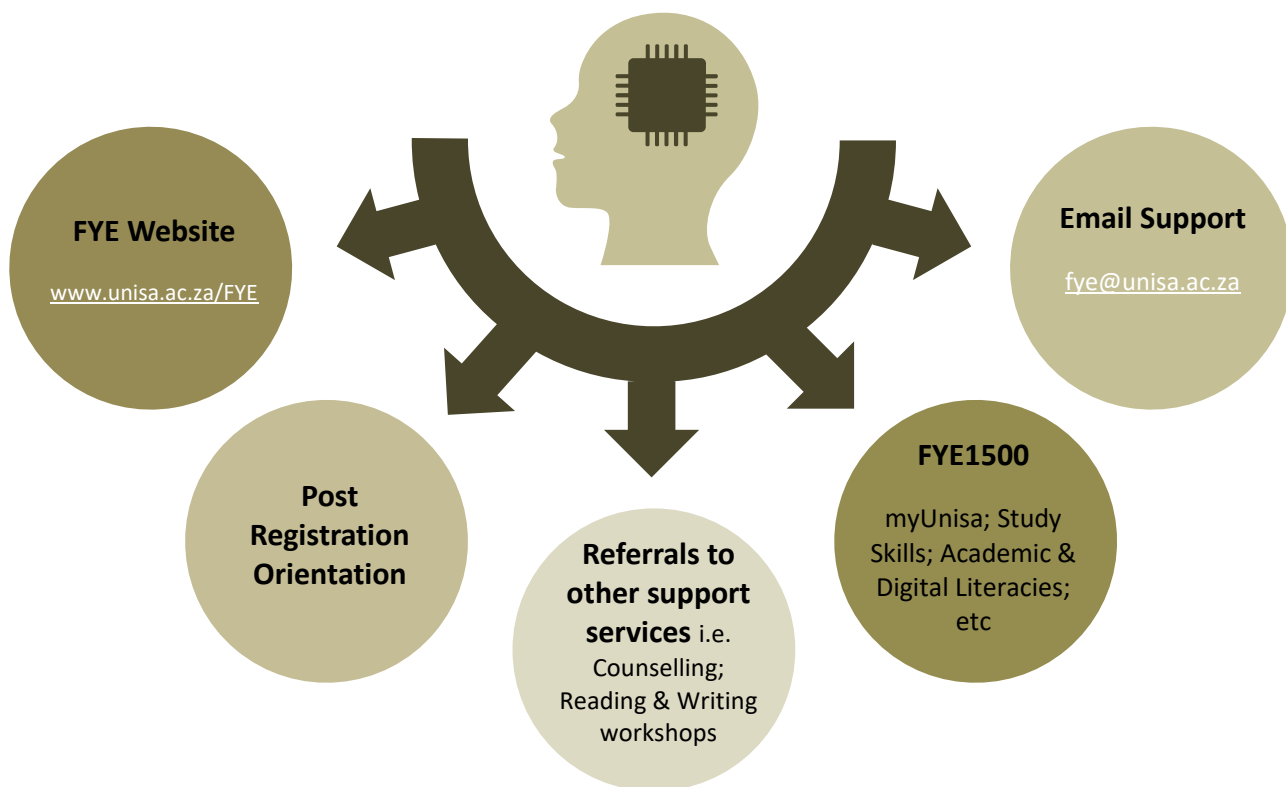
or sending an email to: [myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za)

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:





To ensure that you do not miss out on important academic and support communication from the SRU, please check your myLife inbox regularly.

## 6 STUDY PLAN

Refer to the *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.

## 7 PRACTICAL WORK

There are no practicals for this module.

## 8 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% of 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 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 and the actual assessments are available on the myModules site for this module.
- To gain admission to the examination, you must submit assignment 1. This is a compulsory assignment, and you will not get the examination admission if you do not submit this assignment. However, we strongly advise you to complete and submit all the assignments because the assignments are designed to help you with your studies.
- 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 you are registered for will be conducted.
- The examination will count 60% towards the final module mark.

## 9.3 Assessment due dates

- There is no assignment **due dates** included in this tutorial letter.
- Assignment due dates will be 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 is an online system that 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 2024 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 at all possible, please do not use a cell phone for this assessment type.**

#### 9.4.1 **Types of assignments and descriptions**

All assignments are defined as either optional, mandatory, compulsory, or elective.

##### **Elective assignments**

- If not submitted, the student gets no mark for this item.
- The best of the required submissions will count.

##### **Mandatory assignments**

- If not submitted, the student gets no mark for this item.

##### **Compulsory assignments**

- If not submitted, the result on the student's academic record will be *absent*.

##### **Optional assignments**

- You are encouraged as a student to do optional assignment so that it may benefit your learning.

#### **I. Elective assignments**

- a. the student is given a choice of which assignments within an identified group to submit, only the best result(-s), the number of which is specified in advance, will contribute towards the year mark.
- b. elective assignments must also be grouped into an elective group.
- c. for the student to select which assignment to submit, the elective assignments must be grouped together. For such an elective group, relevant information must be provided to the student, such as how many of the assignments must be submitted and how many of the assignment marks should be combined into the year mark.
- d. The selection criteria define how marks received for assignments in an elective group are to be combined into the year mark. Three different criteria may be used for calculating the year mark:
  - The best mark should be used, or
  - If the student submits fewer than the required number of assignments per group or no assignment in a group, a mark of 0% will be used.
  - 0% is awarded to all non-submitted or unmarked assessments. A best mark is then calculated from all items.

#### **II. Mandatory assignments**

- a. contribute to the year mark.
- b. If a student fails to submit a mandatory assignment, no mark is awarded and the year mark is calculated accordingly. The student will therefore forfeit the marks attached to this assignment when the final mark for the module is calculated.

### III. Compulsory assignment

- a. when not submitted, the student will fail a Continuous Assessment module but will be shown as absent from the examination in the case of other modules.

### IV. Optional assignments

- a. You are encouraged as a student to do optional assignment so that it may benefit your learning.

## 9.5 The assessments

As indicated in section 9.2, you need to complete two assessments for this module. **There are no assignments included in this tutorial letter.** The assignments are available online on *myUnisa*.

**Assignment 1** – assignment 1 (semesters 1 and 2) consists of 25 multiple-choice questions covering the following study units.:

Unit 1 - Introduction to biological aspects of Psychology

Unit 2 - Introduction to ways of understanding abnormal psychology in an African context

Unit 3 - Introduction to context-relevant Community and Health psychology

**Assignment 2** – assignment 2 (semesters 1 and 2) consists of 25 multiple-choice questions covering the following study units.:

Unit 3 - Introduction to context-relevant Community and Health psychology

Unit 4 - Introduction to African Perspectives of Developmental Psychology

Unit 5 - Introduction to Personality and Social Psychology in an African Context.

**Term-mark and final mark** - an average of both assignments 1 and 2 counts 40% towards the term mark. For a better term-mark, you must submit both assignments. This term mark contributes towards the final mark that includes the examination.

#### The assignments' weighting for the module is 40%.

For example:

- You obtain a mark of 20/25 for Assignment 01 and 25/25 for Assignment 02. When you translate these into percentages, assignment 01 = 80% and assignment 02 = 100%.
- You need to calculate an average of these two percentages.  $80 + 100 = 180/2$  assignments then that is = 90%
- Then you calculate 40% of 90, which is 36%. This means that 36% is the assignment mark you are entering the examination.

#### The examination weighting for the module is 60%.

For example:

- You obtain 40/50 for your examination. This is 80% of your examination mark.
- Then you calculate 60% of 80, which is 48%.
- Finally, you need to find the sum of 36% (assignments mark) and 48% (examination mark). Final module mark = 84%

**NB\*** if you get 40% or less for your examination, then you will fail the examination and the above calculations will not be applicable. This means that you have to re-register for the module.

You will receive feedback on your assignments. You get the answers to the questions and 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.

**There are no assignments included in this tutorial letter.** 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 myUnisa 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 ensure the 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. To complete one of your assignments, you are therefore, required to use the proctoring tool. More information on the tool will be provided to you via the announcement section of the module site.

**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 proceedings.

## 9 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>

## 10 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: [PYC1512@unisa.ac.za](mailto:PYC1512@unisa.ac.za) to discuss the assistance that you need.

## 11 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.

## 12 SOURCES CONSULTED

The source for this module are the study units compiled for PYC1512.

## 13 IN CLOSING

Tutorial letters contain important information about your studies. It is, therefore, important to read all tutorial letters when they are made 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.

## 14 ADDENDUM

The following information will help you to have your enquiry attended to quickly. For speedy response, please direct any enquiry to the following relevant departments:

DESCRIPTION OF ENQUIRY	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Applications and registrations	study-info@unisa.ac.za
Assignments	assign@unisa.ac.za
Examinations	exam@unisa.ac.za
Student accounts	finan@unisa.ac.za
myUnisa	myUnisaHelp@unisa.ac.za
myLife e-mail	myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za
Book request (Library)	vospresc@unisa.ac.za

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