UNSW Course Outline

PSYC2101 Assessment, Personality and Psychopathology - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC2101
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Science
Academic Unit : School of Psychology
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook](#) [Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course introduces areas of psychological research and practice that directly deal with psychological assessment, personality, and psychopathology. In the Psychological Assessment section of the course, students will learn key concepts related to personality and intelligence

testing. In the Psychopathology section of the course, students will learn about maladaptive behaviour, personality, and mental disorders. The course provides an overview of common mental disorders, including disruptive behaviour, anxiety, mood, eating, psychotic, and personality disorders. The course emphasizes diagnostic criteria, contemporary theories of psychopathology, and empirically supported approaches to treating mental disorders. Lecture content is live. There are also pre-recorded materials designed to ensure that students arrive at face-to-face tutorials ready for active learning and to engage in discussion with peers.

Course Aims

This course aims to provide foundational and contemporary knowledge about theory, research, and practice in Clinical Psychology. You will learn about the causes, symptoms, and evidence-based assessment and treatment of mental disorders. You will also learn about psychological assessment of personality and intelligence and surrounding controversies. You will learn to apply key concepts in Clinical Psychology to approaching various mental disorders.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends to the identification and classification of mental disorders.
CLO2 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends relating to psychological assessment, including in the area of intelligence.
CLO3 : Understand and explain the major clinical features of a number of mental disorders, including disruptive behaviour, mood, anxiety, eating, psychotic, and personality disorders.
CLO4 : Understand and explain current theories relating to the aetiology and underlying mechanisms of these specific disorders, as well as psychological approaches to the treatment of these specific disorders.
CLO5 : Distinguish between mental disorders and normal variability in emotion, cognition, behaviour, and personality.
CLO6 : Critically evaluate the reliability, validity, and ethical implications of contemporary measures of psychological functioning.
CLO7 : Effectively communicate new knowledge about psychological assessment, personality, and psychopathology in oral and written form.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends to the identification and classification of mental disorders.	• Tutorial preparation • Final exam • Tutorial presentation • Assignment
CLO2 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends relating to psychological assessment, including in the area of intelligence.	• Tutorial preparation • Final exam • Tutorial presentation • Assignment
CLO3 : Understand and explain the major clinical features of a number of mental disorders, including disruptive behaviour, mood, anxiety, eating, psychotic, and personality disorders.	• Tutorial preparation • Final exam • Assignment
CLO4 : Understand and explain current theories relating to the aetiology and underlying mechanisms of these specific disorders, as well as psychological approaches to the treatment of these specific disorders.	• Tutorial presentation • Tutorial preparation • Final exam • Assignment
CLO5 : Distinguish between mental disorders and normal variability in emotion, cognition, behaviour, and personality.	• Tutorial preparation • Final exam • Assignment
CLO6 : Critically evaluate the reliability, validity, and ethical implications of contemporary measures of psychological functioning.	• Tutorial preparation • Final exam • Assignment
CLO7 : Effectively communicate new knowledge about psychological assessment, personality, and psychopathology in oral and written form.	• Tutorial presentation • Assignment

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1.
   1.

1. Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends to the identification and classification of mental disorders.
2. Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends relating to psychological assessment, including in the area of intelligence.
3. Understand and explain the major clinical features of a number of mental disorders, including disruptive behaviour, mood, anxiety, eating, psychotic, and personality disorders.
4. Understand and explain current theories relating to the aetiology and underlying mechanisms of these specific disorders, as well as psychological approaches to the treatment of these specific disorders.
5. Distinguish between mental disorders and normal variability in emotion, cognition, behaviour, and personality.
6. Critically evaluate the reliability, validity, and ethical implications of contemporary measures of psychological functioning.
7. Effectively communicate new knowledge about psychological assessment, personality, and psychopathology in oral and written form.

To achieve the learning outcomes outlined above, you will need to attend bi-weekly lectures and weekly tutorials. Attendance is compulsory. Slides presented in the lectures will be made available after the lectures. Lectures will be taped, and recordings will be available via Echo 360.

The weekly 90-minute tutorials will contain oral presentations of the tutorial readings for the week, followed by discussion of the readings and related issues. In addition, for many of the tutorials, you will watch a video of a case example of a client with the disorder being discussed in class that week. The tutorial presentation and class discussion are designed to assess Learning Outcome 7.

The prescribed readings also provide a supplementary source of information and examples. The tutorials and the readings will also assist you in fully achieving Learning Outcome 1 through 6, which require you to develop openness and a questioning attitude.

The short-answer assessment will provide you with an opportunity to test your understanding of Learning Outcomes 1 through 3, 5, 6, and is also designed to assess Learning Outcome 7.

The final exam is designed to assess Learning Outcomes 1 through 6.

The question-and-answer section at the end of each lecture and tutorial provides students with an opportunity to question and clarify the concepts and ideas discussed. Students are strongly

encouraged to engage by asking questions or commenting about lecture and tutorial content.

Formative topic revision quizzes are available to students on a weekly basis to provide an opportunity to evaluate understanding of course material. Timely completion of the weekly quizzes will assist students in gaining a proper understanding of each topic so that this knowledge can be built on in future content.

Additional Course Information

Psychology Student Guide: The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Tutorial preparation Assessment Format: Individual	5%	
Final exam Assessment Format: Individual	50%	
Tutorial presentation Assessment Format: Group	10%	
Assignment Assessment Format: Individual	35%	

Assessment Details
Tutorial preparation

Assessment Overview

Before each tutorial class you must complete the associated online module and/or Moodle revision quizzes as pre-work (where indicated, as detailed in the course schedule online activities column), and study the reading(s) set for that tutorial class. You are expected to actively participate in tutorial discussions concerning the set readings and video case presentations that are used to illustrate the major clinical features of selected disorders (where applicable). The tutorial preparation mark is based on completion of the designated online pre-work (5 marks). Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 10 working days of the due date.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends to the identification and classification of mental disorders.
- CLO2 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends relating to psychological assessment, including in the area of intelligence.
- CLO3 : Understand and explain the major clinical features of a number of mental disorders, including disruptive behaviour, mood, anxiety, eating, psychotic, and personality disorders.
- CLO4 : Understand and explain current theories relating to the aetiology and underlying mechanisms of these specific disorders, as well as psychological approaches to the treatment of these specific disorders.
- CLO5 : Distinguish between mental disorders and normal variability in emotion, cognition, behaviour, and personality.
- CLO6 : Critically evaluate the reliability, validity, and ethical implications of contemporary measures of psychological functioning.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Final exam

Assessment Overview

The final exam will be a multiple-choice test that is taken during the official examination period. This exam will cover material presented in the lectures, tutorials, tutorial readings, and specific tutorial preparation online modules* (denoted with an asterisk* in the course schedule). Feedback is available through inquiry with the course convenor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends to the identification and classification of mental disorders.
- CLO2 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends relating to psychological assessment, including in the area of intelligence.
- CLO3 : Understand and explain the major clinical features of a number of mental disorders, including disruptive behaviour, mood, anxiety, eating, psychotic, and personality disorders.
- CLO4 : Understand and explain current theories relating to the aetiology and underlying mechanisms of these specific disorders, as well as psychological approaches to the treatment of these specific disorders.
- CLO5 : Distinguish between mental disorders and normal variability in emotion, cognition, behaviour, and personality.
- CLO6 : Critically evaluate the reliability, validity, and ethical implications of contemporary measures of psychological functioning.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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Generative AI Permission Level

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Tutorial presentation

Assessment Overview

You will be paired with a tutorial peer through random assignment to give a 10-minute oral presentation on an allocated tutorial set reading in one randomly assigned tutorial class. Assigned presentation partners and readings will be announced in the first tutorial. Copies of the

readings are available on Moodle, online on the My Course link of the Library website and from My Course Reserve on level 2 of the Library. The tutorial presentation is worth 10 marks. Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 10 working days of the due date.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends to the identification and classification of mental disorders.
- CLO2 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends relating to psychological assessment, including in the area of intelligence.
- CLO4 : Understand and explain current theories relating to the aetiology and underlying mechanisms of these specific disorders, as well as psychological approaches to the treatment of these specific disorders.
- CLO7 : Effectively communicate new knowledge about psychological assessment, personality, and psychopathology in oral and written form.

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

This is not a Turnitin assignment

<u>Generative AI Permission Level</u>

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

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Assignment

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

You will complete one take home assignment on a designated lecture topic in psychopathology via Moodle in Week 8. You will submit short written answers (1000 words total) to several questions by 11.59pm on Friday of Week 8 in MS Word via Turnitin within Moodle. Your assignment must also be emailed in electronic form directly to your tutor by this due date. Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 10 working days of the due date.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends to the identification and classification of mental disorders.
- CLO2 : Understand and explain major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and contemporary trends relating to psychological assessment, including in the area of intelligence.

- CLO3 : Understand and explain the major clinical features of a number of mental disorders, including disruptive behaviour, mood, anxiety, eating, psychotic, and personality disorders.
- CLO4 : Understand and explain current theories relating to the aetiology and underlying mechanisms of these specific disorders, as well as psychological approaches to the treatment of these specific disorders.
- CLO5 : Distinguish between mental disorders and normal variability in emotion, cognition, behaviour, and personality.
- CLO6 : Critically evaluate the reliability, validity, and ethical implications of contemporary measures of psychological functioning.
- CLO7 : Effectively communicate new knowledge about psychological assessment, personality, and psychopathology in oral and written form.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

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General Assessment Information

Special Consideration: Students who experience circumstances outside of their control that prevent them from completing an assessment task by the assigned due date due can apply for Special Consideration. Special Consideration applications should include a medical certificate or other documentation and be submitted via https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration within 3 days of the sitting/due date.

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address

and advised of the official outcome. If the special consideration application is approved, you may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information about special consideration, please visit: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure and Psychology Student Guide.

Supplementary examinations: will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy and Psychology Student Guide.

All course assessments have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

The APA (7th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

You must attend tutorials and complete all assessments.

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

Each week this course typically consists of 2 hours of lecture material, 90 minutes of face-to-face tutorials, and up to 1 hour of online modules and materials. Students are expected to take an additional 7 hours each week of self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, and exam preparation.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Readings will be made available on a weekly basis on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Comer R. J., & Comer, J. S. (2021). *Abnormal Psychology, Eleventh Edition*. New York: Worth Publishers. Available from UNSW bookshop and Library (My Course Reserve).

Print: https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9781319382971

Digital: https://unswbookshop.vitalsource.com/products/-v9781319382988

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs other than the textbook, should you wish to purchase one.

Course Evaluation and Development

You will be able to evaluate the course and the individual lecturers at the end of the term via MyExperience. A link will appear on Moodle. Each year, we read this feedback and makes changes when applicable in the subsequent year.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Tom Denson		Mathews Bldg 1304		by appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.

- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.
Further information about referencing styles can be located at https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.
Further information about academic integrity, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can be located at:

- The Current Students site,
- The ELISE training site, and
- The Use of AI for assessments site.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Penalty for Late Submissions
UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Special Consideration

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway
- Student Support
- Academic Skills and Support
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety
- Equitable Learning Services
- UNSW IT Service Centre
- Science EDI Student Initiatives, Offerings and Guidelines