UNSW Course Outline

PSYC2081 Learning and Physiological Psychology - 2024

Published on the 12 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC2081
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2
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 focuses on the behavioural and physiological basis of elementary learning processes. These include learning about relations between events (Pavlovian conditioning) and learning about relations between one's behaviour and events (Instrumental conditioning). The

content is delivered in a series of lectures that covers the history of associative learning, classic and contemporary approaches to the study of learning in animals and people, and applications of this study outside the laboratory (e.g., analysis of addiction, attachment and schizophrenia). This content is reinforced in tutorials that are designed to foster critical thinking skills, an appreciation of experimental approaches to psychology, and an understanding of the scientific method. It is unique in emphasizing psychological explanations of behaviour while grounding the different types of learning in neurobiology.

Course Aims

The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the behavioural and neurobiological bases of elementary associative learning processes, including how these forms of learning control behaviours and their involvement in addiction, attachment and schizophrenia. The course also aims to provide students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the translational (e.g., clinical) implications of animal research for a range of psychological phenomena.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course builds on knowledge about learning processes gained in PSYC1001 (Psychology 1A) and PSYC1011 (Psychology 1B), therefore students need to have completed both courses to enrol in PSYC2081. This course establishes a basic understanding of behavioural and physiological processes that are the foundations for advanced learning theory, physiological psychology, and behavioural neuroscience that is taught in PSYC3051 (Physiological Psychology).

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand and explain the major concepts, historical trends and behavioural and neural bases of associative learning.
CLO2 : Understand and explain major methodologies used in associative and physiological Psychology for both animal and human research.
CLO3 : Critically evaluate issues using different theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in both animal and human research.
CLO4 : Communicate effectively in written and oral formats; demonstrate good interpersonal skills.
CLO5 : Apply concepts, theories and research findings in associative learning to an understanding of mental health issues such as anxiety, addiction and schizophrenia.
CLO6 : Understand and evaluate the ethical issues involved in animal and human research; use information in an ethical manner.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand and explain the major concepts, historical trends and behavioural and neural bases of associative learning.	• Aysnchronous Tutorials - Preparation and participation • Mid-semester test • Final exam
CLO2 : Understand and explain major methodologies used in associative and physiological Psychology for both animal and human research.	• Critical Analysis • Aysnchronous Tutorials - Preparation and participation • Mid-semester test • Final exam
CLO3 : Critically evaluate issues using different theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in both animal and human research.	• Critical Analysis • Aysnchronous Tutorials - Preparation and participation • Mid-semester test • Final exam
CLO4 : Communicate effectively in written and oral formats; demonstrate good interpersonal skills.	• Critical Analysis • Aysnchronous Tutorials - Preparation and participation • Mid-semester test
CLO5 : Apply concepts, theories and research findings in associative learning to an understanding of mental health issues such as anxiety, addiction and schizophrenia.	• Final exam • Aysnchronous Tutorials - Preparation and participation
CLO6 : Understand and evaluate the ethical issues involved in animal and human research; use information in an ethical manner.	• Aysnchronous Tutorials - Preparation and participation

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

Tutorial Allocation: You are encouraged to attend the same tutorial each week. As the majority of tutorials are conducted face-to-face, please do not swap between tutorials (or attend a tutorial to which you have not been allocated) without prior approval from the course convenor.

Tutorial Attendance: to ensure students are consistently working towards achieving the foundational graduate competencies required by the APAC Accreditation Standards attendance at tutorials is compulsory and a register will be recorded at the beginning of each tutorial. These Accreditation Standards are incorporated in Program and Course Learning Outcomes. Attendance at 80% of tutorials is required for eligibility to pass the course. If unable to attend a tutorial for medical or significant personal reasons, you must provide a medical certificate. If you do not provide a certificate, you will be recorded as being absent from the tutorial. Tutorial attendance will be recorded through completion of the asynchronous preparation tutorials.

NB: Attendance at face to face tutorials and timely completion of online tutorials is essential in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure. Please make sure you attend tutorials no later than 15 minutes after the commencement of the tutorial time slot. If you are running late or having issues connecting to collaborate, please notify your tutor and the course convenor to arrange attendance at a later tutorial.

All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their student emails regularly to keep up to date.

The final exam for this course will be an invigilated exam held on the Kensington campus during the UNSW examinations period. Students should not arrange travel during the UNSW exam period until the date of the final exam has been released. Please see page 9 of this outline for more details on the exam.

Students registered with Disability Services must contact the course co-ordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

Additional Course Information

Addendum to Teaching Strategies and Rationale

The course web page is available through the e-learning Moodle site. Login with your student number and password, and follow the links to the PSYC2081 learning and Physiological Psychology page.

Lectures will be delivered in-person and digitally recorded. Links to the lecture recordings will be

available through the Lecture Recordings + portal on the course web page. Lecture slides will be also available on the Moodle course page.

Tutorials will be held in weeks 1 to 9. There are five (5) face-to-face tutorials in weeks 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9. There are two (2) online tutorials held in weeks 1 and 3. Tutorials will run for two (2) hours.

School of Psychology Policies and Procedures

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
Aysnchronous Tutorials - Preparation and participation Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Mid-semester test Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Due Date: Week 5: 24 June - 30 June
Critical Analysis Assessment Format: Individual	35%	Due Date: Week 9: 22 July - 28 July
Final exam Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: T2 Exam Period

Assessment Details

Aysnchronous Tutorials - Preparation and participation

Assessment Overview

There will be five asynchronous tutorials held in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. These tutorials will consist of a number of activities which you must complete in order to prepare for tutorial discussion and to meet your attendance requirements. The activities will be varied across weeks, including components such as videos, quizzes and activity sheets. You must complete the online tutorials by the allocated deadline to be awarded the 2% for each of the online tutorials. Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 10 working days of the due date.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and explain the major concepts, historical trends and behavioural and neural bases of associative learning.
- CLO2 : Understand and explain major methodologies used in associative and physiological Psychology for both animal and human research.
- CLO3 : Critically evaluate issues using different theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in both animal and human research.
- CLO4 : Communicate effectively in written and oral formats; demonstrate good interpersonal skills.
- CLO5 : Apply concepts, theories and research findings in associative learning to an understanding of mental health issues such as anxiety, addiction and schizophrenia.
- CLO6 : Understand and evaluate the ethical issues involved in animal and human research; use information in an ethical manner.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Mid-semester test

Assessment Overview

You will be required to answer 5 short answer questions in a Moodle online quiz based on the content presented in block one. The answers will be approximately 100 words each. Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 10 working days of the due date.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and explain the major concepts, historical trends and behavioural and neural bases of associative learning.
- CLO2 : Understand and explain major methodologies used in associative and physiological Psychology for both animal and human research.
- CLO3 : Critically evaluate issues using different theoretical perspectives and empirical

evidence in both animal and human research.
- CLO4 : Communicate effectively in written and oral formats; demonstrate good interpersonal skills.

Assessment Length

500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Critical Analysis

Assessment Overview

You will be required to submit a complete critical analysis based on a provided data set. The assessment will be based on extinction of Pavlovian conditioning discussed throughout the course. You will be required to explain this effect in relation to the Rescorla Wagner model and to discuss the clinical implications of this data in an applied setting. The assessment will be structured as a research report exercise: students will participate in an online causal learning experiment and be provided with the results that they must then write-up and discuss with respect to the Rescorla Model. The assignment is due in Week 9. Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 10 working days of the due date.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Understand and explain major methodologies used in associative and physiological Psychology for both animal and human research.
- CLO3 : Critically evaluate issues using different theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in both animal and human research.
- CLO4 : Communicate effectively in written and oral formats; demonstrate good interpersonal skills.

Assessment Length

1500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Final exam

Assessment Overview

The final exam lasts for 80 minutes and consists of 80 multiple choice questions. It will cover all

content from the course with a focus on lecture material and be delivered online via Inspera. This exam will be scheduled during the UNSW exam period.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and explain the major concepts, historical trends and behavioural and neural bases of associative learning.
- CLO2 : Understand and explain major methodologies used in associative and physiological Psychology for both animal and human research.
- CLO3 : Critically evaluate issues using different theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in both animal and human research.
- CLO5 : Apply concepts, theories and research findings in associative learning to an understanding of mental health issues such as anxiety, addiction and schizophrenia.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

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 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: APA 7th edition.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 20 May - 26 May	Other	Orientation Week
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Lectures 1 and 2 - A/Prof. Nathan Holmes
	Tutorial	Tutorial 1 - History of Associative Learning and Animal Ethics (online)
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Lectures 3 and 4 - A/Prof. Nathan Holmes
	Tutorial	Tutorial 2 - Associative Learning (face-to-face)
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Lectures 5 and 6 - Prof. Mike Le Pelley
	Tutorial	Tutorial 3 - Rescorla-Wagner Model; seminar and worksheet (online)
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Lectures 7 and 8 - Prof. Mike Le Pelley
	Tutorial	Tutorial 4 - Experiment + RW review and sheet questions (face-to-face)
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Lecture 9 - Prof. Mike Le Pelley Lecture 10 - A/Prof. Vincent Laurent
	Tutorial	Tutorial 5 - Experiment debrief and report writing (face-to-face)
	Assessment	Mid-term exam (during Week 5 lecture on Wednesday)
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Other	Flexi Week
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Lectures 11 and 12 - A/Prof. Vincent Laurent
	Tutorial	Tutorial 7 - Using associative learning to understand goal-directed and habitual behaviours (face-to-face)
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Lecture 13 - A/Prof. Vincent Laurent Lecture 14 - Prof. Gavan McNally
	Tutorial	Tutorial 8 - Using associative learning to understand symptoms of schizophrenia and addiction (face-to-face)
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Lectures 15 and 16 - Prof. Gavan McNally
	Assessment	Research Report (due on Sunday of Week 9)
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Lectures 17 and 18 - Prof. Gavan McNally
	Tutorial	Tutorial 10 - Using associative learning to understand treatment of addiction (face-to-face)

Attendance Requirements

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

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Animal Learning and Cognition, Third Edition, John Pearce

Physiology of Behavior, 12th Edition, Carlson Neil R

Recommended Resources

Textbook for suggested readings (not mandatory)

Pearce, J. Animal Learning and Cognition: An Introduction. Third edition. (Print Copy-)
Carlson. Physiology of behaviour. Twelfth edition. Pearson (Print copy) These textbooks are available to purchase at the UNSW bookshop or as e-books.
Copies of the textbooks will be kept in Open Reserve at the library. Secondhand copies may be available for purchase.

Course information: Available on Moodle

Required readings: School of Psychology Student Guide.

Recommended internet sites

UNSW Library
UNSW Learning centre
ELISE
Turnitin
Student Code of Conduct
Policy concerning academic honesty
Email policy
UNSW Anti-racism policy statement
UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement
UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Nathan Holmes		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams	Times arranged (via email) between 9 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday	Yes	Yes
	Kirsten Abbott		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams	Times arranged (via email) between 9 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday	No	No
	Kate Hutton-Bedbrook		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams	Times arranged (via email) between 9 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday	Yes	No
Tutor	Alina Thomas		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams		No	No
	Filip Mencevski		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams		No	No
	Francesca Wong		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams		No	No
	Luisa Saavedra Cardona		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams		No	No
	Nick Kennedy		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams		No	No
	Nura Lingawi		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams		No	No
	Sophia Liang		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams		No	No
Lecturer	Mike Le Pelley		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams	Times arranged (via email) between 9 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday	No	No
	Vincent Laurent		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams	Times arranged (via email) between 9 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday	No	No
	Gavan McNally		Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams	Times arranged (via email) between 9 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday	No	No

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