



## UNSW Course Outline

# PSYC7403 Experimental Psychology and Law - 2024

Published on the 30 Aug 2024

## General Course Information

**Course Code :** PSYC7403

**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 :** Postgraduate

**Units of Credit :** 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

This course involves an in-depth study of selected topics from the field of Psychology and law that have been subjected to rigorous experimental study. Classes will be led by psychologists with expertise on substantive topics in experimental psychology and law. The course particularly

focuses on the design of research in Psychology-law, on the relationship between research and policy and on attempts to use research to inform changes to public policy and law.

Example topics include Eyewitness identification evidence, Traumatic Brain Injury and offending, Decision making in forensic science and Risk assessment. The sessions are delivered in a tutorial format where students present and discuss selected readings.

This course is designed for students in the Master of Psychology (Forensic) program.

## **Course Aims**

The course aims to provide students with increased knowledge of topics within forensic psychology and to develop a greater understanding of the problems facing researchers working within this field. This will help develop students' ability to undertake applied research in forensic psychology, and to critically evaluate published research and use this to inform their clinical practice and policy development.

## **Relationship to Other Courses**

This course is designed for students in the Master of Psychology (Forensic) program.

# Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify and critically evaluate published research within the field of forensic psychology.
CLO2 : Describe methodological approaches which can be employed to tackle ethical and practical constraints in applied research in psychology law research.
CLO3 : Synthesise research and theory in psychology law to address applied questions in the field and to design research programs.
CLO4 : Effectively communicate research findings to non-specialist audiences, providing a balanced and impartial view of the strengths and limitations of research in the field.
CLO5 : Use research findings to formulate appropriate and practical policy advice.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify and critically evaluate published research within the field of forensic psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report 1</li><li>• Report 2</li><li>• Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings</li></ul>
CLO2 : Describe methodological approaches which can be employed to tackle ethical and practical constraints in applied research in psychology law research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report 1</li><li>• Report 2</li><li>• Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings</li></ul>
CLO3 : Synthesise research and theory in psychology law to address applied questions in the field and to design research programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report 1</li><li>• Report 2</li><li>• Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings</li></ul>
CLO4 : Effectively communicate research findings to non-specialist audiences, providing a balanced and impartial view of the strengths and limitations of research in the field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report 1</li><li>• Report 2</li><li>• Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings</li></ul>
CLO5 : Use research findings to formulate appropriate and practical policy advice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report 1</li><li>• Report 2</li></ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Report 1 Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 6: 14 October - 20 October
Report 2 Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 11: 18 November - 24 November
Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: As assigned

## Assessment Details

### Report 1

#### Assessment Overview

You will prepare a report ( worth 40% of your total mark for the course), based on one of the topics in the first half of the course. You will select the report topic from a list of alternatives provided. The topics specify a particular applied question and target audience for the report.

You will undertake a search for research evidence relevant to the topic question, critically evaluate and synthesise this research, and apply it to the practical question posed.

You will present your findings and conclusions in a manner which is suitable for the specified target audience. If you require advice on how to approach a topic you may consult with the psychologist who set the question.

Reports must be a maximum of 3,500 words in length (including all text except for the references and any appendices). You will be penalised if your report exceeds the maximum word count.

Report 1 will typically be due around weeks 6 and written feedback will be provided by the marker.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and critically evaluate published research within the field of forensic psychology.
- CLO2 : Describe methodological approaches which can be employed to tackle ethical and practical constraints in applied research in psychology law research.

- CLO3 : Synthesise research and theory in psychology law to address applied questions in the field and to design research programs.
- CLO4 : Effectively communicate research findings to non-specialist audiences, providing a balanced and impartial view of the strengths and limitations of research in the field.
- CLO5 : Use research findings to formulate appropriate and practical policy advice.

### **Assessment Length**

Maximum of 3500 with a target of around 2000 words

### **Assignment submission Turnitin type**

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

### **Generative AI Permission Level**

#### **Simple Editing Assistance**

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

## **Report 2**

### **Assessment Overview**

You will prepare a report ( worth 40% of your total mark for the course), based on one of the topics in the second half of the course. You will select the report topic from a list of alternatives provided. The topics specify a particular applied question and target audience for the report.

You will undertake a search for research evidence relevant to the topic question, critically evaluate and synthesise this research, and apply it to the practical question posed.

You will present your findings and conclusions in a manner which is suitable for the specified target audience. If you require advice on how to approach a topic you may consult with the psychologist who set the question.

Reports must be a maximum of 3,500 words in length (including all text except for the references and any appendices). You will be penalised if your report exceeds the maximum word count.

Report 2 will typically be due around weeks 10 and written feedback will be provided by the marker.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Identify and critically evaluate published research within the field of forensic psychology.
- CLO2 : Describe methodological approaches which can be employed to tackle ethical and practical constraints in applied research in psychology law research.
- CLO3 : Synthesise research and theory in psychology law to address applied questions in the field and to design research programs.
- CLO4 : Effectively communicate research findings to non-specialist audiences, providing a balanced and impartial view of the strengths and limitations of research in the field.
- CLO5 : Use research findings to formulate appropriate and practical policy advice.

### **Assessment Length**

Maximum of 3500 with a target of around 2000 words

### **Assignment submission Turnitin type**

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

### **Generative AI Permission Level**

#### **Simple Editing Assistance**

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

### **Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings**

### **Assessment Overview**

Prior to attending each class you will read the assigned materials and prepare a very brief

summary of each of the readings (less than 1 page each).

These summaries should include two or more points for discussion. These summaries must be submitted before the start of the relevant class.

In addition, on two occasions across the 10 weeks of the course you will be assigned to prepare a more detailed critical review of one of the week's readings and lead the class in a discussion of that reading.

You will produce a one or two-page review of the reading you have been assigned. The review should contain a brief summary of the study outcomes, together with a more detailed consideration of the theoretical, practical and methodological implications of the research.

These reviews must be shared with fellow students prior to the start of the relevant class. You will also lead a discussion about the significance of the work, its weaknesses and strengths and its practical implications for policy in the field.

The psychologist leading the session will provide brief feedback and a mark out of 10 for your review and presentation.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Identify and critically evaluate published research within the field of forensic psychology.
- CLO2 : Describe methodological approaches which can be employed to tackle ethical and practical constraints in applied research in psychology law research.
- CLO3 : Synthesise research and theory in psychology law to address applied questions in the field and to design research programs.
- CLO4 : Effectively communicate research findings to non-specialist audiences, providing a balanced and impartial view of the strengths and limitations of research in the field.

### **Submission notes**

Email summaries to tutor prior to start of class.

### **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](#).

# General Assessment Information

## Grading Basis

Standard

## Course Schedule

### Attendance Requirements

Students must attend all classes. In the case of illness they must contact Richard Kemp and the relevant tutor.

### General Schedule Information

A course schedule will be provided to students in week 1.

## Course Resources

### Prescribed Resources

The readings for each class will be made available via Moodle.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Richard Kemp		Mathews 1005		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 Plagiarism

**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](#)