UNSW Course Outline

PSYC5001 Introduction to Psychology 1 - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC5001
Year : 2024
Term : Hexamester 5
Teaching Period : KR
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Science
Academic Unit : School of Psychology
Delivery Mode : Online
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Distance Education
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course introduces the content and methods of psychology as a basic science, with an emphasis on the social bases of behaviour. The course will cover several specific topics related to the social aspects of human behaviour. Each week students will explore one of the following

topics: development psychology, theories of personality, theories of emotion and motivation, cross-cultural psychology, health psychology and social influences on behaviour. In addition, training in the methods of psychological inquiry and in the critical evaluation of research is also provided. This course is appropriate for students with and without a background in science. The course content will be delivered via asynchronous (pre-recorded) lectures, synchronous tutorials, readings and self-paced modules and quizzes.

Course Aims

The aim of this course is to provide students with introductory knowledge about several psychological content areas, including the theories of: human development, personality, emotion and motivation, social influence on behaviour, health psychology, and, cross-cultural psychology. The course introduces the basic principles about the use of scientific method as a foundation of critical thinking and a skeptical inquiry. This course is a gateway course to the discipline of psychology as it will provide you with the enhanced scientific literacy and the ability to apply principles of scientific thinking when evaluating evidence from research, everyday life and real-word situations.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course is an introductory course required as a pre-requisite before taking advanced courses.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Recognise fundamental ideas and theories about a diverse range of psychological issues including individual differences and their measurement, development of the individual, emotion and motivation, health psychology, social and cross-cultural psychology.
CLO2 : Find and evaluate literature in the field of psychology, with a focus on the scientific method and peer reviewed research.
CLO3 : Formulate scientific arguments by contrasting, synthesising and applying competing theoretical and empirical perspectives in psychology research.
CLO4 : Cite information sources appropriately in written communication.
CLO5 : Communicate scientific arguments using theoretical and empirical evidence in written communication to expert and non-expert audiences.
CLO6 : Recognise the importance of a culturally sensitive approach to societal issues and the value of research from diverse perspectives.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Recognise fundamental ideas and theories about a diverse range of psychological issues including individual differences and their measurement, development of the individual, emotion and motivation, health psychology, social and cross-cultural psychology.	• Weekly Quizzes • Literature Review
CLO2 : Find and evaluate literature in the field of psychology, with a focus on the scientific method and peer reviewed research.	• Information Literacy Skills Portfolio • Literature Review
CLO3 : Formulate scientific arguments by contrasting, synthesising and applying competing theoretical and empirical perspectives in psychology research.	• Literature Review
CLO4 : Cite information sources appropriately in written communication.	• Information Literacy Skills Portfolio • Literature Review
CLO5 : Communicate scientific arguments using theoretical and empirical evidence in written communication to expert and non-expert audiences.	• Information Literacy Skills Portfolio • Literature Review
CLO6 : Recognise the importance of a culturally sensitive approach to societal issues and the value of research from diverse perspectives.	• Weekly Quizzes

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Moodle contains lectures, tutorials, content topic materials, assessment materials, and any updated information. You are expected to check Moodle regularly. You are also expected to check your UNSW email regularly. All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is your responsibility to check Moodle and your student emails regularly to keep up to date. Given that the course content and all assessable components are delivered online, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable of handling the features of the Moodle eLearning website and any of its content. There will be no special consideration granted due to internet connection or computer issues arising from personal technical issues. If an internet disconnection takes place during an assessment/exam, there will be no way of changing a mark and these will be allocated according to the progress that was saved. To help you establish whether your computer/internet access is suitable for the online exam/s, a test quiz is available. This quiz will not contribute to final marks and will be able to be completed multiple times in order to test computer/internet connection prior to assessments/ exams.

NOTE: THIS COURSE REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT WEEKLY ASSESSABLE ENGAGEMENT THROUGH MOODLE. You are expected to engage with all materials delivered each week. There will be a combination of formative and summative assessments throughout the course. The expected level of engagement is approximately 20 hours per week (in the 6-week term). Average engagement levels are as follows (a) 2-2.5 hours of engagement with the lecture content (6 lectures per week); (b) Tutorial attendance, 3 hours per week including preparation for the tutorial discussion. Note we recommend that you complete the synchronous tutorial, however completion of the recorded asynchronous tutorial will also be accepted; (c) 4.5 hours to complete the assigned activities, including revision modules; (d) 4.5 hours to complete the assigned weekly readings, (e) 5-6 hours to complete the weekly assessments (secured quizzes) and prepare for the major assessments.

Under no circumstances will employment be accepted as an excuse not to meet expectations for class participation or assessments. Remember, the term times are very short, so it is your responsibility to ensure that you do not fall behind with the ongoing assessment demands of the course.

Tutorial Attendance: Attendance and participation in tutorials is compulsory. All tutorials will be delivered in an online mode, through Blackboard Collaborate, given that this is a fully online

course, it is understood that some students may be unavailable at the designated live tutorial time. Therefore, you will be required to participate in the tutorial in either a synchronous (as the tutorial is streamed live) or asynchronous (a recorded version of the tutorial). NB: Engagement with online tutorials and timely completion of asynchronous online tutorials is essential in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure. It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration within the framework of the Graduate Diploma Special consideration policies and procedures if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure. It is expected that you have read through the Graduate Diploma in Psychology (5331) Guide.

Additional Course Information

Learning and teaching activities

This is a fully online course, all materials, lectures and tutorials are delivered through Moodle.

The course web page is available through Moodle: https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/login/index. Login with your student number and password, and follow the links to the PSYC page.

The course will be delivered over six weeks, covering six major topic areas. The major topics will be delivered in Weeks 1 to 6, with a new topic presented each week. Students are expected to engage with all materials delivered each week. There will be a combination of formative and summative assessments throughout the course. The expected level of engagement is approximately 20 hours per week, including preparation for the weekly quizzes and written assessments.

Each week students can expect the following:

Lectures will be digitally recorded. Links to the lecture recordings will be available on the course web page. Lecture slides will be also available on the Moodle course page. This will be broken down into six lectures covering the main concepts for each sub-topic of the week.

Online tutorials will be held in weeks 1-6. There are six (6), two (2) hour tutorials delivered through Blackboard Collaborate on the Moodle course page each week. All tutorials will be live streamed for synchronous participation and recorded for asynchronous participation, should a student be unable to join the synchronous tutorial at the designated time. Students will be able access the recorded tutorials, including a transcript of tutor and student contributions, for the remainder of the course. Tutorial discussions are based on lecture content and readings. In order

to participate in class discussions, you will need to prepare for tutorials by reviewing the available materials.

Online activities: Each week there will be a range of online activities, including formative revision quizzes and interactive learning modules. These activities will allow students to explore the topics of the week in greater depth and provide formative assessment for the students and revision opportunities.

Readings: There will be assigned readings each week that cover the major topic of the week. Students will need to read scientific journal articles in order to prepare for the online tutorials. In addition, as part of this preparation students are encouraged to post one comment/discussion point on the Study Group Forum and reply to the comment of at least two other students in the course.

The general discussion forum connects students in the course to encourage discussion of weekly content, revision, or topics of interest with each other. Regular engagement in the Study Group Forum will help students gain an understanding of the material, critique the contributions of fellow students, and help develop written communication skills.

The Q and A forum provides students with an opportunity to question and clarify the concepts and ideas mentioned in the lectures and readings. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with this forum by posting questions or comments, and reading, answering, or replying to other students' posts to enhance understanding of the content, critical thinking, and written communication skills.

Formative topic revision quizzes are available for students that provide an opportunity to evaluate understanding of course material on a weekly basis. 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.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Weekly Quizzes Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Thursday Week 1-6 at 7am Due Date: Sunday Week 1-6 at 11:59pm
Information Literacy Skills Portfolio Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: Week 1 Due Date: Week 2
Literature Review Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Start Date: Week 1 Due Date: Week 5

Assessment Details
Weekly Quizzes

Assessment Overview

You will be required to complete 6 quizzes. Quizzes are conducted under timed conditions and are designed to be taken without reference to lecture notes or study resources. These quizzes will cover the content of the lectures and readings. The quizzes will be held in weeks 1-6 and will cover content presented in the week they are released. The weekly quizzes form part of a continuous assessment. The top five grades out of the six quizzes will be used to count towards the final weekly quiz grade which accounts for 20% of the course mark. The purpose of this assessment is to test your level of comprehension regarding the course material. Your marks and solutions will be provided on completing each quiz.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise fundamental ideas and theories about a diverse range of psychological issues including individual differences and their measurement, development of the individual, emotion and motivation, health psychology, social and cross-cultural psychology.
- CLO6 : Recognise the importance of a culturally sensitive approach to societal issues and the value of research from diverse perspectives.

Assessment Length

20 multiple choice questions

Submission notes

Moodle quiz

Assessment information

Not applicable

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

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.

Information Literacy Skills Portfolio

Assessment Overview

You will be required to complete a comprehensive literature search using a range of databases. You will need to find three peer-reviewed journal articles on any of the major topics presented in the course. You will then need to answer a series of questions designed to assess your ability to use academic references appropriately. Evidence of the database search, the articles and the answer to the questions will be submitted using an e-portfolio. This assessment will provide you with the opportunity to display research and critical analysis skills. The assessment information will be available on the first day of the course. The assessment is due in Week 2. You will receive feedback through annotated rubric and a series of in-text comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Find and evaluate literature in the field of psychology, with a focus on the scientific method and peer reviewed research.
- CLO4 : Cite information sources appropriately in written communication.
- CLO5 : Communicate scientific arguments using theoretical and empirical evidence in written communication to expert and non-expert audiences.

Assessment Length

750 words

Submission notes

Text file

Assessment information

Not applicable

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Planning/Design Assistance

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.
If your Convenor has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text or media that have not been sufficiently modified you may be asked to explain your work, but we recognise that you are permitted to use AI generated text and media as a starting point and some traces may remain. 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.

Literature Review

Assessment Overview

You will be required to complete a literature review based on the concepts presented in one of the modules. The literature review will provide you with the opportunity to develop skills in research and discipline-specific communication skills.

You should aim to express your ideas clearly and concisely, skills that are important for scientific writing. You will be provided with writing resources (recorded lectures and written annotated examples) that will help you with structuring your literature review.

Your review should be no longer than 1500 words. The assessment information will be available on the first day of the course. The assessment is due in Week 5. You will receive feedback through annotated rubric and a series of in-text comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise fundamental ideas and theories about a diverse range of psychological issues including individual differences and their measurement, development of the individual, emotion and motivation, health psychology, social and cross-cultural psychology.

- CLO2 : Find and evaluate literature in the field of psychology, with a focus on the scientific method and peer reviewed research.
- CLO3 : Formulate scientific arguments by contrasting, synthesising and applying competing theoretical and empirical perspectives in psychology research.
- CLO4 : Cite information sources appropriately in written communication.
- CLO5 : Communicate scientific arguments using theoretical and empirical evidence in written communication to expert and non-expert audiences.

Assessment Length

1500 words

Submission notes

Text file

Assessment information

Not applicable

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Planning/Design Assistance

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.

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General Assessment Information

Not applicable

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Not applicable

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 26 August - 1 September	Lecture	Personality 1. Psychodynamic approach 2. Trait theories and genetics 3. Humanistic and Experiential
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings of the major theories of personality. You will explore how personality develops and is maintained over the lifespan.
Week 2 : 2 September - 8 September	Lecture	Developmental Psychology • Genes vs. Environment • Early vs. later experience • Continuity vs. Discontinuity
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings of psychological theories and evidence of issues related to developmental psychology
Week 3 : 9 September - 15 September	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. The discussion will explore the need for cultural sensitivity in the diagnosis and treatment of a range of psychological disorders. There will be a focus on the importance of indigenous psychology, including cultural practices, closing the gap and the importance of cultural sensitivity in practice.
	Lecture	Cultural Psychology 1. Cultural norms and psychology 2. Culture and personal psychology 3. Cultural sensitivity in clinical practice
Week 4 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	Health Psychology 1. Models of health psychology 2. Stress and coping 3. Placebo
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. Tutorial discussion will focus on exploring the three major models of health psychology and how these models can be used to explain both healthy and unhealthy behaviours.
Week 5 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	Social Psychology 1. Social influence and conformity 2. Attributions and stereotypes 3. Attitudes and attraction
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. Discussion will focus on the role of the individual within a social context and how society influences the individual, including issues such as conformity, compliance, attitudes and stereotypes.
Week 6 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Emotional and Motivation • Theories of emotion • Biology of emotion • Theories of motivation
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. You will discuss the theoretical and experimental evidence that explains the various types of motivation.

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, 2 hours of face-to-face

tutorials, 4.5 hours of online activities and 4.5 hours of readings. Students are expected to take an additional 5-6 hours each week of self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, and quiz preparation.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Bernstein, D. A., Pooley, J. A., Cohen, L. M., Gouldthorp, B., Provost, S. C., & Cranney, J. (2023). Psychology: Australia and New Zealand (4th ed.). Cengage.
E-book copies of the textbook will be provided to students through Moodle along with MindTap additional resources.

Recommended Resources

Not applicable

Additional Costs

Not applicable

Course Evaluation and Development

In order to gather comprehensive student feedback on the course, we utilise the anonymous myExperience survey as one of the primary methods. This survey provides a structured platform for students to share their thoughts, opinions, and suggestions regarding various aspects of the course. Additionally, students are encouraged to email their feedback directly to the program authorities for further discussion and consideration. The myExperience survey will be administered towards the end of the course to capture students' experiences and perspectives. The survey will cover different dimensions of the course, including teaching quality, course materials, assessments, and overall learning environment. The anonymous nature of the survey ensures that students can express their feedback freely and honestly.

Once the survey responses are collected, they will be analysed. The analysis will involve examining both quantitative and qualitative data to identify common themes, patterns, and areas for improvement. Quantitative data, such as ratings responses, will be aggregated and summarised to gain a quantitative overview of student satisfaction and areas of concern. Qualitative feedback, such as open-ended comments, will be carefully reviewed and categorised to extract valuable insights and specific suggestions.

Based on the findings from the analysis, appropriate actions will be taken to address the

identified areas for improvement. These actions may include revising course materials, adjusting teaching approaches, providing additional support resources, or modifying assessment methods.

Feedback from students is considered a valuable asset in shaping the course. By actively seeking and incorporating student input, we aim to create a more student-centered learning experience. The feedback provided by students serves as a catalyst for continuous improvement and ensures that the course is responsive to their needs and expectations.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Program director	Lidija Krebs-Lazendic					No	Yes
Administrator	Deliana Freky					No	No

Other Useful Information

School Contact Information

For GD Psych courses (PSYC5001 - PSYC5010), please email: gdpsychology@unsw.edu.au.

For GCChildDev courses (PSYC5111 - PSYC5116), please email: gcchilddev@unsw.edu.au