



## UNSW Course Outline

# PSYC1011 Psychology 1B - 2024

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## General Course Information

**Course Code :** PSYC1011

**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 introduces psychology as a biological science. The emphasis is on understanding the links between the neurobiology of the brain, sensory organs and nervous system and human behaviour. The lecturers on this course will provide students with diverse perspectives on psychology from various experimental traditions and levels of analysis – behavioural, cognitive

and neurophysiological. Topics covered in lectures and tutorials on this course include memory and cognition, animal learning, psychobiology, perception, and abnormal psychology. Through interactive tutorials, group presentations, research participation and a written essay, the aim of the course is to develop fundamental skills in finding, evaluating, generating, and integrating psychological research evidence.

There is no assumed knowledge, and the course is suitable for any UNSW undergraduates with an interest in experimental psychology, cognitive science, clinical psychology and neuroscience.

## Course Aims

This course introduces the content and methods of contemporary psychological science, with emphasis on the biological and neural bases of human behaviour. Our aim is to illustrate the diverse approaches that psychologists use to understand the way we think about, learn about and perceive the world. The course also begins to develop student understanding of how psychologists and clinicians define and understand conditions that arise from abnormalities in these processes.

Assessment is a mixture of individual and group work. The aim of group presentations is to develop collaborative scholarship activities of finding/evaluating information, generating and communicating research ideas and concepts. The aim of individual essay assignment is to develop students' ability to integrate research into evidence-based arguments.

# Course Learning Outcomes

| Course Learning Outcomes   |
|--|
| CLO1 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major psychological issues.        |
| CLO2 : Locate reliable and relevant information using online research database searches to support scholarly activities. |
| CLO3 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics.                            |
| CLO4 : Work in groups and individually to effectively communicate concepts and ideas related to psychology.              |
| CLO5 : Link psychological research, theories and principles to concrete examples of their application in everyday life.  |

| Course Learning Outcomes   | Assessment Item  |
|--|--|
| CLO1 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major psychological issues.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Writing for Psychology</li><li>• Research Participation</li><li>• Final Examination</li></ul>                              |
| CLO2 : Locate reliable and relevant information using online research database searches to support scholarly activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group Presentation</li><li>• Writing for Psychology</li></ul>  |
| CLO3 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics.                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group Presentation</li><li>• Research Participation</li><li>• Final Examination</li><li>• Writing for Psychology</li></ul> |
| CLO4 : Work in groups and individually to effectively communicate concepts and ideas related to psychology.              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group Presentation</li><li>• Writing for Psychology</li></ul>  |
| CLO5 : Link psychological research, theories and principles to concrete examples of their application in everyday life.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Participation</li><li>• Final Examination</li><li>• Group Presentation</li></ul>                                  |

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

## Learning and Teaching in this course

### Lectures

The aim of the lectures is to give you the opportunity to learn about the content, issues, and theories in the major topic areas of modern psychology. Psychology 1B covers the following

topics: memory and cognition; psychobiology; animal learning; perception; abnormal psychology.

Each topic will be given by either a different lecturer, so that you will have the benefit of their different specialised interests and knowledge. Lecturers may present several different theories about the same body of data. We hope you will find this diversity both challenging and exciting. It reflects the dynamic nature of scientific understanding in psychology and means there should be something of interest to every student who is curious about how the mind works.

## Tutorials

All tutorials in Psychology 1B are conducted on-campus. Psychology 1B tutorials have two main roles. First, they are an opportunity for you to engage with your tutor and other students in a more interactive form of learning than is often possible in lectures. Second, they ground psychological theory in practical demonstrations. Although the tutorials are related to the lecture component, many tutorials will also contain independent research-related material.

## Self guided study

Online activities, including interactive modules and revision quizzes are available and should be completed on a regular basis, to allow you to evaluate your understanding of course material and consolidate learning.

The recommended course textbook supplements the lecture, tutorial and online material. Independent study using the textbook will enrich student's understanding of the topics covered on the course and provide a more rounded understanding of links between different areas of psychology.

## Additional Course Information

Students are expected to be 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.

Students are expected to have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide (available on the course Moodle page).

Students are expected to check Moodle and their student emails regularly. All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email.

The final exam for this course will take place during the UNSW examinations period. Students should not arrange travel or make other arrangements during the UNSW exam period until the date of the final exam has been released. Students who arrange travel prior to the release of the final exam date will not be granted consideration in the event they are scheduled to be out of country when the final exam is to occur. This is especially important for study abroad students – do not arrange travel home until the final exam date has been released.

You must attend the tutorial in which you are enrolled for the duration of the session. You are not allowed to change tutorials once enrolments have closed. Attendance at tutorials is a mandatory part of the course and tutorial content is examinable. Tutorials are designed to scaffold the process of completing the other assessments in the course and to help you build the graduate competencies that are stipulated by our accreditation body. Attendance is key to acquiring the skills that are essential for your success in this course and the program more generally. If you are unable to attend your scheduled tutorial in a given week for medical reasons retain a copy of your medical certificate (if available) and contact the Course Administrator. There are strict University regulations on class sizes so it is not permissible to simply attend an alternative tutorial, without first getting approval by contacting the Course Administrator.

Unless specifically identified as being voluntary, all class work set during a course must be completed. Because the assignments are designed to assess key student learning outcomes of the course, as stipulated by the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC), failure to complete one of these may result in performance below that required for accreditation, and you may be refused admission to other Psychology courses.

Students registered with Equitable Learning Services must contact the course coordinator 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.

### ***School Policies***

The School of Psychology Student Guide (available on the Course Moodle page) 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   |
|---|--------|--|
| Writing for Psychology<br>Assessment Format: Individual | 40%    | Start Date: Week 1<br>Due Date: Week 3 (Part A), Week 7 (Part B) |
| Group Presentation<br>Assessment Format: Group          | 21%    | Start Date: Week 3<br>Due Date: Week 9                           |
| Research Participation<br>Assessment Format: Individual | 4%     | Start Date: Week 1<br>Due Date: Week 10                          |
| Final Examination<br>Assessment Format: Individual      | 35%    | Start Date: Exam period<br>Due Date: Exam period                 |

## Assessment Details

### Writing for Psychology

#### Assessment Overview

#### Writing for Psychology

The Writing for Psychology assessment consists of 2 parts and is structured so that Part A (the Research Summary) allows you to develop the skills you will need for Part B (the essay).

#### Part A: Research Summary (6%)

The Research summary task is designed to help you practise skills that will be important for the essay (below), and to encourage you to begin researching the essay topic early in the term. In the Research Summary, you will conduct an information search to locate an empirical (original research) article related to the essay topic. You will briefly summarise the key points of the article, and then critically evaluate it, by considering key strengths or limitations in relation to the essay topic. Finally, you will discuss how the article influences your perspective on the essay question. The Research Summary task is worth 6% of your final mark. Task details will be

released in Week 1 and the task will be due in Week 3. Feedback will be provided through written comments and a mark derived from the assessment criteria. Marks and feedback for Part A will be provided within 10 working days of the due date.

### **Part B: Essay (34%)**

The essay aims to develop your information literacy skills, as well as your ability to think critically about psychological research. Writing the essay will familiarise you with a formal style of scientific writing and will increase your confidence in communicating scientific theories and findings effectively and efficiently. To complete this task you will need to research theoretical and empirical material related to a specific area of Psychology, to evaluate it, and then to synthesise this material in order to present a clear, logical and evidence-based written argument in relation to the question. The essay is worth 34% of your final mark. Details regarding the essay will be released in Week 1 and the essay will typically be due in Week 7. Feedback is provided through a marking rubric and written comments. Marks and feedback for Part B will be provided within 10 working days of the due date.

Late penalties will be applied in accordance with UNSW policy.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major psychological issues.
- CLO2 : Locate reliable and relevant information using online research database searches to support scholarly activities.
- CLO3 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics.
- CLO4 : Work in groups and individually to effectively communicate concepts and ideas related to psychology.

### **Detailed Assessment Description**

The Writing for Psychology assessment consists of 2 parts and is structured so that Part A (the Research Summary) allows you to develop the skills you will need for Part B (the essay).

### **Part A: Research Summary (6%)**

The Research summary task is designed to help you practise skills that will be important for the essay (below), and to encourage you to begin researching the essay topic early in the term. In the Research Summary, you will conduct an information search to locate an empirical (original research) article related to the essay topic. You will briefly summarise the key points of the article, and then critically evaluate it, by considering key strengths or limitations in relation to the essay topic. Finally, you will discuss how the article influences your perspective on the essay

question. The Research Summary task is worth 6% of your final mark. Task details will be released in Week 1 and the task will be due in Week 3. Feedback will be provided through written comments and a mark derived from the assessment criteria. Marks and feedback for Part A will be provided within 10 working days of the due date.

### **Part B: Essay (34%)**

The essay aims to develop your information literacy skills, as well as your ability to think critically about psychological research. Writing the essay will familiarise you with a formal style of scientific writing and will increase your confidence in communicating scientific theories and findings effectively and efficiently. To complete this task you will need to research theoretical and empirical material related to a specific area of Psychology, to evaluate it, and then to synthesise this material in order to present a clear, logical and evidence-based written argument in relation to the question. The essay is worth 34% of your final mark. Details regarding the essay will be released in Week 1 and the essay will typically be due in Week 7. Feedback is provided through a marking rubric and written comments. Marks and feedback for Part B will be provided within 10 working days of the due date.

Late penalties will be applied in accordance with UNSW policy. Detailed assessment instructions will be released on Moodle.

#### **Submission notes**

Submission instructions will be made available on Moodle

#### **Assessment information**

##### **Writing for Psychology Part B: Essay- Short extension available**

According to the School of Psychology student guide (available on the course Moodle page). short extensions (48 hours) may be available on assessments in which students submit a major piece of written work. Therefore , if you are struggling to meet the deadline for the essay (A1 Writing for Psychology: Part B), you may apply for a short extension of 2 days (48 hours). Your short extension application must be submitted before the assessment due date. For details on how to apply, and the conditions on applying, please visit the [UNSW Special Consideration website](#).

Please note that the short extension provision is only available for Assessment 1 (Writing for Psychology): Part B Essay. It does not apply to Part A of Assessment 1, and also does not apply to the other assessments in this course.

# Group Presentation

## Assessment Overview

The group presentation assesses your ability to think critically and creatively about psychological research, as well as your communication and collaboration skills. You will work in a group of students, to research, present and analyse empirical psychological research, and to propose an original study, which extends on the research you have presented. The group presentation is generally around 10-12 minutes long and will be submitted as a link to an online video recording. The presentation is typically due in week 9, general presentation instructions will be released in Week 3, and you will be given details of your presentation group in Week 4.

The presentation is worth 21% of your final grade for Psyc 1B. Your final presentation mark will be based both on the performance of your group as a whole (90%), as well as your individual performance and contribution to the group, as assessed by your peers and by your tutor. Feedback will consist of written comments and a presentation grade, derived from marking criteria. Students are also required to provide feedback on the contribution of other members of their presentation group. Marks and feedback will be provided within 10 working days of the due date.

## Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Locate reliable and relevant information using online research database searches to support scholarly activities.
- CLO3 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics.
- CLO4 : Work in groups and individually to effectively communicate concepts and ideas related to psychology.
- CLO5 : Link psychological research, theories and principles to concrete examples of their application in everyday life.

## Detailed Assessment Description

The group presentation assesses your ability to think critically and creatively about psychological research, as well as your communication and collaboration skills. You will work in a group of students, to research, present and analyse empirical psychological research, and to propose an original study, which extends on the research you have presented. The group presentation is generally around 10-12 minutes long and will be submitted as a link to an online video recording. The presentation is typically due in week 9, general presentation instructions will be released in Week 3, and you will be given details of your presentation group in Week 4.

The presentation is worth 21% of your final grade for Psyc 1B. Your final presentation mark will be based both on the performance of your group as a whole (90%), as well as your individual

performance and contribution to the group, as assessed by your peers and by your tutor. Feedback will consist of written comments and a presentation grade, derived from marking criteria. Students are also required to provide feedback on the contribution of other members of their presentation group. Marks and feedback will be provided within 10 working days of the due date.

### **Submission notes**

Detailed submission instructions will be made available on Moodle

## **Research Participation**

### **Assessment Overview**

You are able to participate in psychological research, via the SONA system within the School of Psychology, for up to 12 participation hours. You receive a SONA point for each hour of research participation. 4 hours of research participation are compulsory (you will earn 4% course credit for 4 SONA points) and up to 8 hours are optional (if extra studies are available to participate in, you may earn up to 4% bonus credit @ 0.5% per SONA point). The deadline for completing all research participation hours is at the end of term.

Participating in on-going research allows you to learn first-hand about the ways in which research in psychology is conducted, and to experience the application of concepts you learn about in the course, as well as find out about areas of investigation that are beyond the course. Feedback is given about the motivation of the research study/question, methodological and ethical considerations after each participation is completed. Progress in psychological science depends on the contributions of research participants and we ask that you act in a responsible way to ensure your research participation provides useful data to researchers within our school. There is no compulsion to participate in any particular study and it is ok to decline to participate after an explanation of what is involved has been given.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major psychological issues.
- CLO3 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics.
- CLO5 : Link psychological research, theories and principles to concrete examples of their application in everyday life.

### **Detailed Assessment Description**

You are able to participate in psychological research, via the SONA system within the School of Psychology, for up to 12 participation hours. You receive a SONA point for each hour of

research participation. 4 hours of research participation are compulsory (you will earn 4% course credit for 4 SONA points) and up to 8 hours are optional (if extra studies are available to participate in, you may earn up to 4% bonus credit @ 0.5% per SONA point). The deadline for completing all research participation hours is at the end of term.

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## Final Examination

### Assessment Overview

The final exam is worth 35% of the course mark and is held during the University examination period. Questions on the final exam will be based on material covered in all lectures and tutorials. Further details will be released near the end of term.

Most of the total marks for Psyc 1B are determined before the final examination; assessment in this course is therefore of a continuous, rather than “one shot exam” type. Assessment in this course also takes a number of forms, which means no student should be too heavily penalised by a “bad day” or a weakness in one particular form of assessment.

### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major psychological issues.
- CLO3 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics.
- CLO5 : Link psychological research, theories and principles to concrete examples of their application in everyday life.

## General Assessment Information

The APA (7<sup>th</sup> 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 1 : 27 May - 2 June     | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Course Orientation<br>Lecture 2 :Memory & Cognition<br>Lecture 3: Memory & Cognition    |
| Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June     | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Memory & Cognition<br>Lecture 2: Memory and Cognition<br>Lecture 3: Memory & Cognition  |
| Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June   | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Abnormal Psychology<br>Lecture 2: Abnormal Psychology<br>Lecture 3: Abnormal Psychology |
|                              | Tutorial      | Memory and Cognition tutorial  |
|                              | Assessment    | Research Summary due   |
| Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June   | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Abnormal Psychology<br>Lecture 2: Abnormal Psychology<br>Lecture 3: Psycobiology        |
|                              | Tutorial      | Abnormal Psychology Tutorial   |
| Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June   | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Psycobiology<br>Lecture 2: Psycobiology<br>Lecture 3: Psycobiology                      |
|                              | Tutorial      | Psycobiology Tutorial  |
| Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July     | Other         | Flexibility week: No lectures or tutorials   |
| Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July    | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Psycobiology<br>Lecture 2: Psycobiology<br>Lecture 3: Perception                        |
|                              | Tutorial      | Perception tutorial  |
|                              | Assessment    | Essay due  |
| Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July   | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Perception<br>Lecture 2: Perception<br>Lecture 3: Perception                            |
|                              | Tutorial      | Perception II Tutorial   |
| Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July   | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Perception<br>Lecture 2: Animal Learning<br>Lecture 3: Animal Learning                  |
|                              | Tutorial      | Animal Learning Tutorial   |
|                              | Assessment    | Group Presentation due   |
| Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August | Lecture       | Lecture 1: Animal Learning<br>Lecture 2: Animal Learning<br>Lecture 3: Animal Learning             |
|                              | Tutorial      | Psyc Research Evaluation tutorial  |
|                              | Assessment    | Research Participation deadline  |

## Attendance Requirements

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

# General Schedule Information

Week-by-week course content is provided in the Course Schedule.

## Course Resources

### Prescribed Resources

NA

### Recommended Resources

There are no prescribed texts, however students can support their learning of topics in this course using the following recommended textbook:

Bernstein, D.A. et al. (2024). *Psychology: Australia and New Zealand* (4th ed.) Cengage Australia: Melbourne, VIC.

### Additional Costs

NA

## Course Evaluation and Development

We use student feedback from myExperience surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We will identify areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments, so please spare a few minutes to complete our myExperience survey posted at the top of the Moodle page at the end of term.

## Staff Details

| Position      | Name        | Email | Location       | Phone | Availability   | Equitable Learning Services Contact | Primary Contact |
|---------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Administrator | Danny Chen  |       |                |       |                | No                                  | Yes             |
| Convenor      | Nadia Menon |       | Mathews Lvl 15 |       | by appointment | Yes                                 | 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 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](#)