UNSW Course Outline

PSYC7426 Research Thesis (Forensic) 1 - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC7426
Year : 2024
Term : Term 1
Teaching Period : T1
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Science
Academic Unit : School of Psychology
Delivery Mode : Research
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 is for students enrolled in the postgraduate Master of Psychology (Forensic)
Program. Students are required to complete an empirical research project under the supervision
of a member of academic staff in the School of Psychology which is written up as a thesis in the

form of a journal article. Research projects may be carried out on any topic that is relevant to forensic psychology.

The thesis and research project are assessed across three courses – Thesis 1, Thesis 2 and Thesis 3 – in which students would normally be expected to enrol for Terms 1 to 3 respectively. PSYC7426 is the first course in the three-course sequence.

Course Aims

The overall aim of this course is for students to further develop advanced-level skills in designing, undertaking and reporting empirical research relating to forensic psychology. This is a capstone activity. The research project, thesis, associated supervision, and presentation of research findings will provide "hands on" experience conducting and communicating research with relevance to forensic psychology.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Plan and execute a research-based project that is applicable to the field of forensic psychology.
CLO2 : Critically review literature associated with a research-based project.
CLO3 : Independently undertake research activities in an ethical manner.
CLO4 : Apply a high level of critical thinking and technical skill in research design and communication.
CLO5 : Present a clear and coherent synthesis of forensically relevant, ethical research, and its significance to a variety of audiences.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Plan and execute a research-based project that is applicable to the field of forensic psychology.	• Brief Research Proposal • Thesis Panel Presentation • Thesis Progress Report
CLO2 : Critically review literature associated with a research-based project.	• Brief Research Proposal • Thesis Panel Presentation • Thesis Progress Report
CLO3 : Independently undertake research activities in an ethical manner.	• Brief Research Proposal • Thesis Panel Presentation • Thesis Progress Report
CLO4 : Apply a high level of critical thinking and technical skill in research design and communication.	• Brief Research Proposal • Thesis Panel Presentation • Thesis Progress Report
CLO5 : Present a clear and coherent synthesis of forensically relevant, ethical research, and its significance to a variety of audiences.	• Brief Research Proposal • Thesis Panel Presentation • Thesis Progress Report

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Brief Research Proposal Assessment Format: Individual	0%	Due Date: Week 4: 04 March - 10 March, Week 5: 11 March - 17 March
Thesis Panel Presentation Assessment Format: Individual	0%	Due Date: Week 5: 11 March - 17 March, Week 6: 18 March - 24 March
Thesis Progress Report Assessment Format: Individual	100%	Due Date: Week 11: 22 April - 28 April

Assessment Details
Brief Research Proposal

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

You will write a Brief Research Proposal (BRP) describing your proposed research project. The purpose of this document is to convince the Masters Thesis Committee (MTC) that you have formulated an interesting and achievable research plan which will address explicit and refined research questions. You will be held accountable for your progress as compared to the goals and timelines you describe in your BRP. The MTC will determine, on the basis of satisfactory progress towards your goals, your eligibility to continue with your thesis and enroll in PSYC7427 Research Thesis (Forensic) 2 in Term 2. Your BRP will be due in Week 4 or 5, depending on the number of students enrolled in the course. Your Thesis Panel Presentation (see Assessment 2) will take place the week following your BRP submission. The MTC will either provide formal approval to proceed with your project after your presentation, or you might be asked to revise and re-submit your BRP or to amend your goals/timelines before receiving project approval. Data collection should not begin until the MTC has given formal approval. This assessment is a hurdle tasks, and failure to complete will lead to failure of the course.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Plan and execute a research-based project that is applicable to the field of forensic psychology.
- CLO2 : Critically review literature associated with a research-based project.
- CLO3 : Independently undertake research activities in an ethical manner.
- CLO4 : Apply a high level of critical thinking and technical skill in research design and communication.
- CLO5 : Present a clear and coherent synthesis of forensically relevant, ethical research, and its significance to a variety of audiences.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Hurdle rules

This assessment is a hurdle task, and failure to complete it will lead to failure of the course.

Thesis Panel Presentation

Assessment Overview

You will give a presentation to the MTC, your supervisor/s and colleagues (20-30 minutes, including question time). Your presentation should outline the rationale and method of your proposed research, and you should be prepared to answer any questions the MTC might have about your proposal. The MTC will either provide formal approval to proceed with your project, or you might be asked to revise and re-submit your BRP or to amend your goals/timelines before receiving project approval. Data collection should not begin until the MTC has given formal approval. Thesis panel presentations usually occur in Week 5 or 6 of T1 depending on the number of students enrolled in the course. This assessment is a hurdle tasks, and failure to complete will lead to failure of the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Plan and execute a research-based project that is applicable to the field of forensic psychology.
- CLO2 : Critically review literature associated with a research-based project.
- CLO3 : Independently undertake research activities in an ethical manner.
- CLO4 : Apply a high level of critical thinking and technical skill in research design and communication.
- CLO5 : Present a clear and coherent synthesis of forensically relevant, ethical research, and its significance to a variety of audiences.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Hurdle rules

This assessment is a hurdle task, and failure to complete it will lead to failure of the course.

Thesis Progress Report

Assessment Overview

You will be required to submit a thesis progress report – signed by your supervisor – to the MTC by 5pm, Friday of Week 10. You will be asked to describe if there have been any significant

changes to the objectives, methodology, or timeline of the project. The MTC will review the report and either grant approval to enroll in PSYC7427 Research Thesis (Forensic) 2 or will liaise with you and your supervisor/s if your progress is not considered to be satisfactory. Should this be the case, you will have until the start of Term 2 to demonstrate satisfactory progress as negotiated between you, your supervisor and the MTC.

This assessment is a hurdle tasks, and failure to complete will lead to failure of the course. The progress report template contains 5 questions requiring brief answers and will be provided to all students prior to the due date.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Plan and execute a research-based project that is applicable to the field of forensic psychology.
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General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

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

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Richard Kemp					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

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

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

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

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

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

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

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

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand

your conduct obligations as a student: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

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

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

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

Special Consideration

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

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

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

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