



UNSW Course Outline

PSYC5002 Introduction to Psychology 2 - 2024

Published on the 10 Oct 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC5002

Year : 2024

Term : Hexamester 6

Teaching Period : KV

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 emphasis on the biological bases of behaviour. The course will cover several specific topics related to the biological bases of human behaviour. Each week students will explore one of the

following topics: neurobiology, animal learning, abnormal psychology, memory and cognition, perception, and consciousness. The course will explore a range of the basic phenomena within an area and the neural bases of these behaviours. 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 neurobiology, animal learning, abnormal psychology, memory and cognition, perception, and consciousness. 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-world 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
CL01 : Identify and contrast the major concepts and theoretical and empirical evidence for the physiological processes that underpin associative learning, neurobiology, cognition, abnormal psychology and perception.
CL02 : Apply and incorporate knowledge about the scientific methods in psychology when explaining and describing phenomena in physiological psychology.
CL03 : Critically analyse the psychology literature including research methodology, experimental design and interpretation of the results.
CL04 : Explain and evaluate the importance of evidence based diagnostic tools and treatment strategies in clinical psychology.
CL05 : Communicate and discuss ideas in psychology effectively in written and oral forms, including in constructive critiques to peers.
CL06 : Apply psychological theories to explain, describe and compare the neural bases that underpin a range of human behaviours.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Identify and contrast the major concepts and theoretical and empirical evidence for the physiological processes that underpin associative learning, neurobiology, cognition, abnormal psychology and perception.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Quizzes
CL02 : Apply and incorporate knowledge about the scientific methods in psychology when explaining and describing phenomena in physiological psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay • Oral presentation
CL03 : Critically analyse the psychology literature including research methodology, experimental design and interpretation of the results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Quizzes • Essay
CL04 : Explain and evaluate the importance of evidence based diagnostic tools and treatment strategies in clinical psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation • Essay
CL05 : Communicate and discuss ideas in psychology effectively in written and oral forms, including in constructive critiques to peers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review • Oral presentation • Essay
CL06 : Apply psychological theories to explain, describe and compare the neural bases that underpin a range of human behaviours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation

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 test 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 6 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
Essay Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Start Date: Week 1 Due Date: Week 3
Oral presentation Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: Week 1 Due Date: Week 5
Peer review Assessment Format: Individual	0%	Start Date: Week 5 Due Date: Week 6

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

- CL01 : Identify and contrast the major concepts and theoretical and empirical evidence for the physiological processes that underpin associative learning, neurobiology, cognition, abnormal psychology and perception.
- CL03 : Critically analyse the psychology literature including research methodology, experimental design and interpretation of the results.

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](#).

Essay

Assessment Overview

The aim of this assessment is to provide you with the opportunity to develop an understanding of evidence-based research and practice. The essay will be 1500 words and will focus on exploring the role of stigma in assessment and treatment of clinical disorders. You will be required to find and critically analyse the relevant literature on the effect of stigma in clinical practice and to explain and interpret the evidence to describe the role of stigma in mental disorder assessment and treatment.

The assessment information will be available on the first day of the course. The assessment is due in week 3. You will receive feedback through annotated rubric and in-text comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL02 : Apply and incorporate knowledge about the scientific methods in psychology when explaining and describing phenomena in physiological psychology.
- CL03 : Critically analyse the psychology literature including research methodology, experimental design and interpretation of the results.
- CL04 : Explain and evaluate the importance of evidence based diagnostic tools and treatment strategies in clinical psychology.
- CL05 : Communicate and discuss ideas in psychology effectively in written and oral forms, including in constructive critiques to peers.

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

Assistance with Attribution

This assessment requires you to write/create a first iteration of your submission yourself. You are then permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to improve your submission in the ways set out below.

Any output of generative AI tools, software or services that is used within your assessment must be attributed with full referencing.

If outputs of generative AI tools, software or services form part of your submission and are not appropriately attributed, your Convenor will determine whether the omission is significant. If so, you may be asked to explain your submission. 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](#).

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to assist you with your literature search, generate outlines and suggest structures for your assessment. You must write a first draft of your assessment yourself in your own words. You are then permitted to use generative AI tools to assist you in editing and refining your final submission. You should keep in mind that ideas and output produced by generative AI are often superficial, it is your responsibility to verify the accuracy of the output. You must sufficiently develop or edit any content created by generative AI to the extent that what is submitted is clearly your own work. Should you choose to use generative AI, you will need to:

- Keep copies of your prompts and output from generative AI.
- Keep a version history of your assessment.

If outputs of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, form any more than an occasional part of your submission, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct.

Oral presentation

Assessment Overview

The purpose of this assessment is for you to develop your oral skills in communication of scientific literature. You will be required to prepare an oral presentation that provides an overview of the current research in an area of the biological basis of human behaviour. You will be required to upload a video presentation of no more than 10 minutes in length. The assessment information will be available on the first day of the course. The oral presentation is due in week 5. You will receive feedback for your oral presentation through an annotated rubric and a series of written comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL02 : Apply and incorporate knowledge about the scientific methods in psychology when explaining and describing phenomena in physiological psychology.
- CL04 : Explain and evaluate the importance of evidence based diagnostic tools and treatment strategies in clinical psychology.
- CL05 : Communicate and discuss ideas in psychology effectively in written and oral forms, including in constructive critiques to peers.
- CL06 : Apply psychological theories to explain, describe and compare the neural bases that underpin a range of human behaviours.

Assessment Length

10 minutes

Submission notes

Video file

Assessment information

Not applicable

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Generative AI Permission Level

Assistance with Attribution

This assessment requires you to write/create a first iteration of your submission yourself. You are then permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to improve your submission in the ways set out below.

Any output of generative AI tools, software or services that is used within your assessment must be attributed with full referencing.

If outputs of generative AI tools, software or services form part of your submission and are not appropriately attributed, your Convenor will determine whether the omission is significant. If so, you may be asked to explain your submission. 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](#).

You may use AI in the following ways for this assessment:

- Planning - suggestions for ideas and structure
- Literature review - you may use AI to help you conduct a literature search and suggest papers.
- Editing - You may use AI tools for simple editing such as spell check and grammar and video editing.

You may NOT use AI to produce your voice over for the presentation. You will be marked on your presentation style including: eye contact with the camera, pitch, tone and speed of voice and level of engagement with the audience. Any use of AI will not reflect your natural voice and will be detrimental for your overall mark. You must acknowledge the use of AI if you choose to use it for this assessment.

Your presentation must be your own work, that is you must sufficiently edit anything planned or produced by AI to the extent that it is clearly your own independent work. You must acknowledge any use of AI in this assessment. If your course convenor suspects your assessment does not reflect your own independent work, you may be asked to show a history of your prompts and output from your chosen AI source. You should keep a record of your process with AI, if you choose to use one of these tools.

Peer review

Assessment Overview

The purpose of this assessment is to learn how to provide constructive and meaningful feedback. You will be expected to submit a peer review of the oral presentation for two fellow students. You will be provided with a marking rubric and instructions on how to provide constructive and meaningful feedback. The assessment information will be available on the first day of the course. The assessment is due in Week 6. You will receive the peer review of your presentation in de-identified format from your course convenor.

This assessment is a hurdle task. You must submit 2 peer reviews of satisfactory quality in order

to pass the course.

The summary of the overall quality of the peer reviews will be provided on the course page by the course convenor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL05 : Communicate and discuss ideas in psychology effectively in written and oral forms, including in constructive critiques to peers.

Detailed Assessment Description

Assessment Length

Approximately 250 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.

Hurdle rules

Completion of the peer review assessments is mandatory and is dependent on your successful completion of the oral presentation. To pass the course you must complete both oral presentation and the peer review task. After completing your own oral presentation, you are required to actively participate in the peer review process. You must provide comprehensive and constructive evaluations of two peers' presentations based on the provided guidelines and evaluation criteria.

Generative AI Permission Level

Assistance with Attribution

This assessment requires you to write/create a first iteration of your submission yourself. You are then permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to improve your submission in the ways set out below.

Any output of generative AI tools, software or services that is used within your assessment must be attributed with full referencing.

If outputs of generative AI tools, software or services form part of your submission and are not

appropriately attributed, your Convenor will determine whether the omission is significant. If so, you may be asked to explain your submission. 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](#).

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to assist you with your literature search, generate outlines and suggest structures for your assessment. You must write a first draft of your assessment yourself in your own words. You are then permitted to use generative AI tools to assist you in editing and refining your final submission. You should keep in mind that ideas and output produced by generative AI are often superficial, it is your responsibility to verify the accuracy of the output. You must sufficiently develop or edit any content created by generative AI to the extent that what is submitted is your own work.

Should you choose to use generative AI, you will need to:

- Keep copies of your prompts and output from generative AI.
- Keep a version history of your assessment.

If outputs of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, form any more than an occasional part of your submission, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct

General Assessment Information

Not applicable

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Not applicable

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	Neurobiology Lectures 1 and 2: Basic neuroanatomy Lectures 3 and 4: Psychopharmacology Lectures 5 and 6: Neuroendocrinology
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. You will discuss the basics of neuroanatomy. There will be a focus on the structure and communication of neurons and explore the neurobiological effects of a range of pharmacological agents and the influence of hormones on behaviour.
Week 2 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	Abnormal Psychology Lectures 1 and 2: What is abnormal psychology Lectures 3 and 4: Causes and Diagnosis of Disorders Lectures 5 and 6: Treatment models
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. You will discuss a range of mental disorders. There will be a focus on the need for a standardised and evidence-based diagnostic tools.
Week 3 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	Memory and Cognition Lectures 1-3: Attention Lectures 4-6: Memory
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. You will discuss the processes that underpin attention, learning and memory. There will be a focus on the cognitive models which can explain these processes.
Week 4 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	Perception Lectures 1 and 2: Principles of Perception Lectures 3 and 4: Visual processing Lectures 5 and 6: Influences on perception
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. You will discuss the basic principles of perception and the physiological basis of sensation, including the physical and neural explanations for visual, auditory and kinaesthetic sensation and perception.
Week 5 : 18 November - 24 November	Lecture	Animal Learning Lectures 1 and 2: Basics of animal learning Lectures 3 and 4: Classical conditioning during development Lectures 5 and 6: Extinction and exposure therapy
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. You will discuss the basic principles of animal learning, focusing on translational research and the benefit of animal research for informing clinical practice.
Week 6 : 25 November - 1 December	Lecture	Consciousness Lectures 1 and 2: What is consciousness Lectures 3 and 4: How to study consciousness Lectures 5 and 6: Altered states of consciousness and sleep
	Tutorial	Online tutorial discussion based on lectures and readings. You will discuss the mind-brain dichotomy and the theories underpinning the study of the mind, focusing on using current neuroscience techniques for studying consciousness and sleep.

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

Textbook

Psychology: Australia and New Zealand, 3rd Edition. Bernstein, Pooley, Cohen, Gouldthorp, Provost & Cranney (2020). 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

Please email psychonline@unsw.edu.au for any enquiry related to the following programs & its courses:

- Graduate Diploma in Psychology (5331); courses: PSYC5001 - PSYC5010
- Graduate Diploma in Advanced Psychology (5332); courses: PSYC5201 - PSYC5213
- Graduate Certificate in Child Development (7419); courses: PSYC5111 - PSYC5116