

PSYC1800: Sex, Drugs and Serial Killers

Online

Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Psychology is a fascinating and challenging area of science, devoted to understanding the most complex animals on the planet – us! Through a modularised approach, PSYC1800 will explore three intriguing areas of everyday psychology: sex and sexuality, drug and drug addiction, and criminal psychology

Students will use personal reflection and case studies, and even form part of a mock jury to explore questions and concepts such as: What is sex and sexuality? How does drug use become addictive? Is there such a thing as a criminal mindset?

Contact Hours

Online

Online Activity

Online

3 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks

Self-Directed Learning

Online

7 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks

Unit Weighting Workload

10

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Online Dr Erin Robinson Erin.Robinson@newcastle.edu.au
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Psychological Sciences W210 - Behavioural Sciences Building Callaghan psyc-admin@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4921 5505 School of Psychological Sciences Room HO 143 - Humanities Building Ourimbah asu-ourimbah@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4349 4934

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sex and sexuality invite the question of how do we understand gender in our modern world? You may think you know how gender is created and how it determines who someone is, but ongoing research shows us that sex, gender, and sexuality are not just male/female, masculine/feminine, straight/gay categories but complex continuums of diversity that are partly due to brain and body chemistry and due to the structure of our society.2. Drug and drug addiction (and in fact other types of addiction) explores the relationship between chemical and social interactions, and their impact on our susceptibility to addiction. We examine how common drugs work to become addictive and we look at some case studies of successful (and unsuccessful) rehabilitation.3. Criminal psychology examines the darker side of psychology by investigating those that display extreme behaviours that both horrify and fascinate us: serial killers. To fully understand people driven to compulsive homicide, we look at the dark side of all of us. How common are the dark personalities of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy? Do we all have a touch of these within us?
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recognise and identify core concepts related to sex and gender, drug use and addiction.2. Identify and explain the key indicators of addiction and barriers to rehabilitation using a case example.3. Identify and explain the drivers of criminal behaviour using a case example.4. Evaluate the effectiveness of psychological interventions related to core topics in the course.
Course Materials	Other Resources: All course materials will be made available on the PSYC1800 Canvas site.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Assessments
MODULE: SEX		
1 17 th July	The science of sex	
2 24 th July	What is gender, anyway?	
3 31 st July	What is normal? Paraphilias...	Sex Quiz: Opens Saturday 5 th August, 9am
4 7 th Aug	The evolution of attraction	Sex Quiz: Closes Sunday 13 th August, 11:59pm
MODULE: DRUGS		
5 14 th Aug	When is a drug a drug?	Sex Reflection: Due Friday 18 th August, 11:59pm
6 21 st Aug	What is addiction?	
7 28 th Aug	The opioid crisis	Drugs Quiz: Opens Saturday 2 nd September, 9am
8 4 th Sept	Treatment and rehabilitation	Drugs Quiz: Closes Sunday 10 th September, 11:59pm
MODULE: SERIAL KILLERS		
9 11 th Sept	Born bad or made bad?	Drugs Case Study: Due Friday 15 th September, 11:59pm
10 18 th Sept	The dark triad of personality	
<i>Mid-semester break</i>		
<i>Mid-semester break</i>		
11 9 th Oct	The profile of a serial killer	Serial Killers Quiz: Opens Saturday 14 th October, 9am
12 16 th Oct	"Pinning" a suspect: Interrogations, lies, and confessions	Serial Killers Quiz: Closes Sunday 22 nd October, 11:59pm
13 23 rd Oct	Revision	Serial Killers Jury Task: Due 11:59pm Friday 27 th October

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Quiz	Quiz 1: Sunday 13 th August, 11:59pm Quiz 2: Sunday 10 th September, 11:59pm Quiz 3: Sunday 22 nd October, 11:59pm	Individual	15%	1
2	Addiction Case Study	Friday 15 th September, 11:59pm	Individual	30%	1,2,4
3	Criminal Homicide Sentencing Report	Friday 27 th October, 11:59pm	Individual	40%	1,3,4
4	Reflective evaluation of applications of Psychology in real world settings	Friday 18 th August, 11:59pm	Individual	15%	1,4

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Quiz

Assessment Type	Quiz
Purpose	To assess students' understanding of the course content.
Description	Students will complete three quizzes (each worth 5%), one for each of the three course modules.
Weighting	15%
Length	15 minutes per quiz.
Due Date	Quiz 1: Due 11:59pm, Sunday 13 th August Quiz 2: Due 11:59pm, Sunday 10 th September Quiz 3: Due 11:59pm, Sunday 22 nd October
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Students will have two attempts at each quiz. Deadline shows the due date for the 2nd (final) attempt.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 2 - Addiction Case Study

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	To assess students' conceptual understanding of the course content. Learning to write case studies also prepares students for final assessments that may appear in later courses.
Description	Students will write a case study where they will be required to identify the indicators of addiction, the contributing factors of addiction, and barriers to rehabilitation/treatment, for a selected case.
Weighting	30%
Length	1500 words. Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The word limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks. In other words, the marker will STOP reading at 1650 words.
Due Date	11:59pm, Friday 15 th September
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	See rubric on Canvas for more details.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Criminal Homicide Sentencing Report

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	To assess students' ability to engage with the topic in detail, and to express, analyse and organise key ideas clearly and systematically.
Description	Students will write an essay that evaluates and gives an objective opinion on a serial killer.
Weighting	40%
Length	1500 words. Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The word limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks. In other words, the marker will STOP reading at 1650 words.
Due Date	11:59pm, Friday 27 th October
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	See rubric on Canvas for more details
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 4 - Reflective evaluation of applications of Psychology in real world settings

Assessment Type	Portfolio
Purpose	The task requires students to reflect on their own learning but in a very specific and targeted way.
Description	Students will reflect on the content from week 2 (gender identity) and will consider their own learning experience in the context of sex education.
Weighting	15%
Length	500 words. Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The word limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks. In other words, the marker will STOP reading at 550 words.
Due Date	11:59pm, Friday 18 th August
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	See rubric on Canvas for more details.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Online Activity (Method of recording: Engagement on the Canvas site)

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Each week, students will be given the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on the weekly content, to help academic staff improve the course for future weeks and future cohorts.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students at the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	<p>The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;3. you are requesting a change of placement; or4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</p>
Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP)	If you are registered with Accessibility and have been provided with a Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP), please ensure that you provide your Course Coordinator with a copy as soon you can or let your Course Coordinator know that you are still waiting for your RAP.
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified, and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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