

EPSCIE 140: Psychology and Human Behaviour in Everyday Life

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre recognises and respects the unique history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education. The Centre is committed to providing a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all.

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This course introduces the study of psychology and human behaviour and how it can be applied in the understanding of everyday life. This course covers the key conceptual and theoretical approaches to psychology including the latest research findings. This introductory course will provide students with an overview of the discipline of psychology and an understanding of how the study of the mind and human behaviour can be applied in various real world contexts. This course emphasises a scientific understanding of human behaviour and psychology.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Contact Hours	Self-Directed Learning Self-Directed 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1 Self-Directed learning is equivalent to face-to-face contact hours. It involves engagement with course materials that are delivered at a time that suits you via short videos, course notes, podcasts, readings and other activities. Tutorial Online 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1
Unit Weighting	10
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Miss Tegan Stettaford Tegan.Stettaford@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: Please email to schedule an appointment.	
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.	
School Office	Callaghan Ground Floor, General Purpose Building (GP) Ph: 02 4921 5558 enabling@newcastle.edu.au	Ourimbah HO 168, Humanities Building Ph: 02 4348 4076 enabling@newcastle.edu.au

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundational concepts and theories of psychology• The biological bases of behaviour, perception, psychological disorders and social behaviour
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recognise the historical and contemporary approaches to the psychological investigation of the interaction between mind, body, and society.2. Apply scientific reasoning for the evaluation of psychological research.3. Recognise foundational concepts in selected content areas of psychology.4. Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to interpret various aspects of everyday life.5. Use critical thinking to effectively evaluate the scientific evidence in the digital world.6. Employ a range of academic reading, writing, and research skills, including analytical and critical thinking, at a level suitable for successful university study at the undergraduate level.
Course Materials	All course materials will be provided on the course Canvas site. Students are not required to purchase a textbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to Psychology	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on module 1 key concepts, including online activities	
2	4 Mar	Developmental Psychology	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including nature vs nurture	Quiz (2%)
3	11 Mar	Social Psychology	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including stereotypes	Quiz (2%)
4	18 Mar	Individual Differences: Personality and Intelligence	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including psychology research	Quiz (2%)
5	25 Mar	Forensic Psychology	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including credibility	Quiz (2%)
6	1 Apr	Learning, Motivation and Behaviour Change	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including learnt behaviour	Quiz (2%)
7	8 Apr	Mental Health and Wellbeing	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including mental health supports	Lab Report (25%)
Recess				
Recess				
8	29 Apr	Sensation and Perception	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including perceptual illusions	Quiz (2%)
9	6 May	Cross-Cultural Psychology	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including cultural differences	Quiz (2%)
10	13 May	Indigenous Psychology	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including health inequality	Quiz (2%)
11	20 May	Memory	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including person-centred care	Quiz (2%) Case Study (25%)
12	27 May	Biopsychology/ Neuropsychology	Tutorial: Discuss and reflect on key concepts, including brain injury	Quiz (2%)
13	3 Jun			Reflection (30%)
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

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	Online Quizzes	Sunday 11:59pm Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Individual	20%	1, 3
2	Lab Report	Sunday 14 th April 11:59pm	Individual	25%	2, 4, 5, 6
3	Case Study	Sunday 26 th May 11:59pm	Individual	25%	1, 3, 4, 6
4	Reflection	Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm	Individual	30%	3, 4, 5, 6

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 5% 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 - Online Quizzes

Assessment Type	Quiz
Description	Consisting of 2 multiple choice questions and 1 short answer response, quizzes will cover content from the respective quiz week.
Weighting	20%
Due Date	Sunday 11:59pm Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Correct answers
Return Method	Not returned
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided in Canvas

Assessment 2 - Lab Report

Assessment Type	Report
Description	A brief lab report following the scientific structure. Topics are open to student choice as marking will focus on the structure as opposed to being scientifically founded research. The word limit for this assignment is 800 words, +/- 10%.
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Sunday 14 th April 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided in Canvas

Assessment 3 - Case Study

Assessment Type	Case Study / Problem Based Learning
Description	Students will choose 1 of 2 client referral forms to base their case study on. Students should take the perspective that they are a Provisional Psychologist, and this referral is to be their first client. Using the client information provided, write a 'progress note' that summarises what you already know, reflects on your concerns, questions and feelings going into your first appointment with the client, and consider the application of mindfulness. The word limit for this assignment is 800 words, +/- 10%.
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Sunday 26 th May 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided in Canvas

Assessment 4 - Reflection

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	A brief reflection highlighting your learnings throughout the course. For example, areas that could be addressed include, but are not limited to: components of the course that developed your research literacy; areas of psychology that piqued your interest and why; areas that you struggled with more so than others. You should reflect on both course content but also your own learning and skill development. The word limit for this assignment is 1,000 words, +/- 10%.
Weighting	30%
Due Date	Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided in Canvas

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.

Communication Methods

Email is the principal form of communication at the university and within this course. Always use your student email (NUmail), rather than a private email address, and check this regularly. As Course Coordinator I will try to respond to your email within three (3) working days. I will not normally respond to emails over the weekends. Please be courteous in your email communication and in the online space.

Canvas is used to distribute course material, announcements and other information. It is also used for online quizzes and to allow students to track their individual progressive assessment results throughout the semester via Grades.

Discussions forums in Canvas can be used to ask questions about minor issues. Students are strongly encouraged to use these to communicate with each other, discuss issues relating to the course, and solve minor problems.

Attendance and Engagement

In addition to face-to-face hours in class, out-of-class study and related work will require an additional commitment of up to 10 hours per week of reading, preparation, and study time over the semester. Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact hours including assessment) per semester per 10 unit course.

To maximise your learning opportunities, you should read all relevant material prior to attending class.

It is strongly recommended that you attend your classes every week. Our data shows that you will get better results if you attend class with your peers. If you do have to miss a class, you should catch up on any missed work by accessing lecture recordings if you are enrolled face-to-face. While online tutorials are recorded, on-campus tutorials are not, so you should view other resources available on your Canvas site and contact your course coordinator if you would like advice on how to best catch up on any material that was missed. **If you are unable to attend classes regularly you should reach out to your course coordinator as soon as possible to discuss ways that you can continue to engage with the learning material.**

A plan of regular revision throughout the semester is also strongly recommended to help you manage your time, consolidate information and retain that knowledge for the duration of

the course and beyond.

Assessment items have been designed to reinforce and revise the course material, and ensure you are up to date with course content. You are required to submit all assessable items by the due dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

Additional Contact Details

If you have any questions about your course, please speak with your course coordinator, lecturer or tutor first. For general enquiries, please contact the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre Office or your Student Liaison Officer. Contact details for both the office and Student Liaison Officers can be found [here](#).

Yapug students can also contact your Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor [Hannah Pipe](#) or your Program Convenor [Dan Collins](#).

Adverse Circumstances

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 Adverse Circumstances must be lodged via the online Adverse Circumstances system for all individual assessment items worth 30% or greater **by 11:00pm on the day the assessment is due**. For assessment items less than 30%, you will need to contact your Course Coordinator by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item.

Before applying you must refer to the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure](#) and the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Policy](#).

Please note that students must submit their adverse circumstances application via the online Adverse Circumstances system by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item, even if you are using a [Reasonable Adjustment Plan \(RAP\)](#) as your supporting documentation.

Written Assessment Word Limits

If this course includes written assessments, the word limit listed will include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. You will not receive a penalty for exceeding the word limit (there is a tolerance of up to 10%), but any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks.

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 of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. Please refer to the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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](#).

Workplace Health and Safety Requirements

There are no specific WH&S requirements for this course.

Software

Free Microsoft Office software is available to enrolled students [here](#) and includes 5 TB of free cloud storage with OneDrive.

Timetable

Your timetable for this course is available via the myUni Student Portal and can also be found [here](#).

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.

**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](#) that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Director, PALS. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Director 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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