

MEDI6295: Managing Challenging Behaviours: Psychological Solutions

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description

This is an online postgraduate elective course, containing five short-course modules delivered online. The course focuses on personality-related mental health problems that are frequently encountered in health and welfare settings.

Students are to complete the following five modules:

1. Self-injury;
2. The Difficult Personality (Borderline Personality Disorder);
3. The Aggressive Person;
4. Suspicion Beyond Reason (Suspicion and Paranoia); and
5. Eating problems.

Students develop a detailed understanding of the development and manifestation of these problems, and acquire skills for effective professional engagement with people presenting with personality problems. The course is highly structured, and employs a problem-based approach to learning. Students work through detailed clinical scenarios (working problems), aided by realistic video dramatisations. Assessment includes written short responses on Blackboard on all five modules and two written assignments being a choice from the five modules.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Assumed Knowledge

Graduate practitioner in a health or welfare profession (e.g. Medicine, Psychology, Social Work, Nursing, Occupational Therapy)

Contact Hours

Online

Online Activity

Online

2 hour(s) per week(s) starting Week 1

Self-Directed Learning

Self-Directed

8 hour(s) per 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

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Online Dr Nicholas Harris Nicholas.Harris@newcastle.edu.au (02) 492 18998
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Medicine and Public Health Education Office SMPH-edoffice@newcastle.edu.au (02) 404 20550

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<p>Module 1: Self-Injury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Introduction to self-injury1.2 The nature and context of self-injury1.3 The mental health response to self-injury <p>Module 2: The Aggressive Person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Introduction to the aggressive person2.2 Developmental pathways to aggressive behaviour2.3 Violence in detail: Personality, relationships and substance use2.4 Professional engagement with the aggressive person <p>Module 3: The Difficult Personality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 Introduction to the difficult personality3.2 Development of a difficult personality3.3 Clinical manifestations of the difficult personality3.4 Professional engagement with the difficult personality <p>Module 4: Suspicion Beyond Reason</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1 Suspicion in everyday society4.2 The overly suspicious person (paranoia)4.3 The person with paranoid delusions4.4 Professional engagement with the overly suspicious person <p>Module 5: Eating Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1 Introduction to eating problems5.2 Genetic, psychological and cultural processes5.3 Identification and treatment of eating problems
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. provide quality, people based and solution-focused mental health education for health and welfare professionals;2. increase the effectiveness of professional engagement with people with mental health problems, in health (including primary care) and welfare settings;3. foster the practice of elementary review, synthesis and critical appraisal of mental health literature (particularly regarding treatment outcomes and prevention) with a view to improving referral practices and case planning for people with personality-related mental health problems; and4. provide an opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate skills in critical analysis of mental health literature.
Course Materials	All course material is accessed via Canvas

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Assignment 1	See Canvas for due date	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Assignment 2	See Canvas for due date	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Assignment 3	See Canvas for due date	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 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 - Assignment 1

Assessment Type Written Assignment
Description See Canvas for assignment details
Weighting 35%
Due Date See Canvas for due date
Submission Method Online

Assessment 2 - Assignment 2

Assessment Type Written Assignment
Description See Canvas for assignment details
Weighting 35%
Due Date See Canvas for due date
Submission Method Online

Assessment 3 - Assignment 3

Assessment Type Online Learning Activity
Description See Canvas for assignment details
Weighting 30%
Due Date See Canvas for due date
Submission Method 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).

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.

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 of 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**

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:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. 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; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

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>

**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/respect-at-uni/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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