

PSYC2800: Special Topics in Psychology

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



OVERVIEW

Course Description Psychology is an extremely diverse discipline ranging from mental health to the underlying molecular mechanisms of behaviour. While all aspects of psychology are interesting and important, each student will be drawn to different areas of the discipline. This online course allows students to choose the areas they wish to explore while building essential written communication skills and developing a learning portfolio. Students choose their own course content from a list of available topics that introduce students to areas of psychology that are of interest and could lead to additional areas of interest and advanced topics in evolving areas. By the end of this course, you will know more about the direction your interests and learning will take and will have acquired knowledge in areas of psychology that relate to your learning goals. The topics may include specialised modules in clinical, biological, social, cognitive, and developmental psychology.

Assumed Knowledge At least 20 units of psychology courses at 1000 level.

Contact Hours **Online Self-Directed Learning**
Online
10 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.

NOTE on A.I.: the use of generative AI models (Chat GPT and alike) for any aspect of your written assignments in this course is NOT permitted. Quizzes, assessments, and portfolio should all represent your own individual work.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Online**
Dr Ami Eidels
Ami.Eidels@newcastle.edu.au
(02) 4921 7089
Consultation: By Appointment

Teaching Staff Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office **School of Psychological Sciences**
W210- Behavioural Science Building
Callaghan
psyc-admin@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 4921 5505

SYLLABUS

Course Content Students select three topics from a range of available options, which may include areas such as Forensic psychology, Environmental Psychology, Gender and Transgender psychology, and Evolutionary psychology.

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Recognise and identify core concepts in specialised fields of psychology.
2. Effectively communicate key concepts in specialised fields of psychology in writing.
3. Integrate information related to specialised fields of psychology in an applied scenario.
4. Describe the application of three specialised fields of psychology to their personal learning goals.

SCHEDULE

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	break	8	9	10	11	12	13
Block	Block 1				Block 2				Block 3					
Content	Eye Witness Memory (Faye); <i>extend</i> OR Evolutionary Psychology (Darren); <i>discover</i>				Gender (Sophie); <i>extend</i> OR Environmental Psychology (Eamon); <i>discover</i>				Sleep-related Learning (Emma); <i>extend</i> OR Signal Detection Theory (Ami); <i>discover</i>					
Assessment	Quiz 1 (10%) Due 23:59, Wed, March 20 Assessment 1 (15%) Due 23:59, Fri, March 22				Quiz 2 (10%) Due 23:59, Wed, May 1 Assessment 2 (15%) Due 23:59, Fri, May 3				Quiz 3 (10%) Due 23:59, Wed, May 29 Assessment 3 (15%) Due 23:59, Fri, May 31				Portfolio (25%) Due 23:59, Fri, June 7	

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	Quiz	Quiz 1 - Module 1: 20 March 11:59PM Quiz 2 - Module 2: 1 May 11:59PM Quiz 3 - Module 3: 29 May 11:59PM	Individual	30%	1
2	Written Assignment	Written Assessment 1 - Module 1: 22 March 11:59PM Written Assessment 2 - Module 2: 3 May 11:59PM Written Assessment 3 - Module 3: 31 May 11:59PM	Individual	45%	2, 3
3	Learning Portfolio	June 7 (Fri), 23:59	Individual	25%	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	The PSYC2800 Quiz assessment tasks are designed to allow students to see how effectively they have been able to learn and comprehend the key content for each module.
Description	One online Quiz for each module selected (worth 10% each)
Weighting	30%
Due Date	Quiz 1 - Module 1: 20 March 11:59PM Quiz 2 - Module 2: 1 May 11:59PM Quiz 3 - Module 3: 29 May 11:59PM
Submission Method	Online
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online -. Marks will be available immediately, question by question feedback will be provided after two weeks.

Assessment 2 - Written Assignment

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	The PSYC2800 Written assessment task is designed to allow students to expand their comprehension of the content provided in each module and demonstrate advanced written communication skills on a specific topic area.
Description	One written assessment for each module selected (worth 15% each)
Weighting	45%
Length	800 words each. 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 880 words.
Due Date	Written Assessment 1 - Module 1: 22 March 11:59PM Written Assessment 2 - Module 2: 3 May 11:59PM Written Assessment 3 - Module 3: 31 May 11:59PM
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Will be provided in rubrics on Canvas. Word limits must be adhered to. The word limit includes headings, subheadings, in-text citations, and quotes, but does not include the reference list. The word limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum word limit will not be included in the allocation of marks. That is, the marker will STOP reading at 880 words.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - 2 weeks after submission. Overall mark and marks for each rubric criterion with comments

Assessment 3 - Learning Portfolio

Assessment Type	Portfolio
Purpose	The PSYC2800 portfolio assessment task is designed to allow students to reflect on their experience in the selected psyc topics. It could aid in thinking about building their skills in creating a resume or CV in preparation for employment.
Description	The task requires students to Reflect on their own learning in a very specific and targeted way. Students will identify the knowledge and skills they have acquired throughout the course.
Weighting	25%
Length	2000 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 2200 words.
Due Date	June 7 (Fri), 23:59
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Will be provided in rubrics on Canvas. Word limits must be adhered to. The word limit includes headings, subheadings, in-text citations, and quotes, but does not include the reference list. The word limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum word limit will not be included in the allocation of marks.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Fully graded date.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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 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	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: <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; or 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
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.

© 2023 The University of Newcastle, Australia