

## PSYC3800: Advanced Special Topics in Psychology 2

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

**NOTE:** Use of AI in this course is prohibited

*Students must not use AI assistance in any assessments in this course. Any assessment suspected of using AI will be referred to the Student Academic Conduct Officer. The minimum penalty for use of AI in an assessment will be a 0 mark for the assessment (even if AI is found to be used in only a part of the assessment) and a record of the misconduct lodged on the University's academic misconduct database.*

## 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 to support their future career interests. This online course allows students with a background in psychology to explore advanced topics in evolving areas of psychology that are of interest. By the end of this course, you will have reflected on how your learning can support your career, identifying core skills gained throughout your degree and integrating specific knowledge areas and methodologies. The topics may include specialised modules in clinical, biological, social, cognitive, and developmental psychology.

### Assumed Knowledge

20 units of psychology courses at 1000 and 20 units of psychology courses at 2000 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.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Online</b> Dr Stuart Marlin <a href="mailto:Stuart.Marlin@newcastle.edu.au">Stuart.Marlin@newcastle.edu.au</a> Consultation: By Appointment
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Psychological Sciences</b> W210 Behavioural Sciences Building Callaghan <a href="mailto:psyc-admin@newcastle.edu.au">psyc-admin@newcastle.edu.au</a> +61 2 4921 5505  <b>School of Psychological Sciences</b> Room HO 143 - Humanities Building Ourimbah <a href="mailto:asu-ourimbah@newcastle.edu.au">asu-ourimbah@newcastle.edu.au</a> +61 2 4349 4934

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	Students select three topics from a range of available options, which may include areas such as indigenous psychology, antiscientific evidence, mindfulness, NDIS, expert evidence, dyslexia, emotion regulation, and domestic violence.
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain core concepts in advanced specialised fields of psychology.</li><li>2. Effectively communicate complex concepts in advanced specialised fields of psychology in writing.</li><li>3. Integrate information related to advanced specialised fields of psychology with their prior learning in psychology.</li><li>4. Evaluate the methodologies used to study psychology in relation to their personal career goals.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	<b>Other Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Resources will vary with module selected. See Canvas Module Outlines</li></ul>

# Content modules for 2024

For 2024 you will have 3 options for each block to choose 1 from. Yes... decisions are hard, but we need to run the course this way, so student get feedback on their module assignments before starting the next module's assignments. The options are grouped into 3 themes.

- 1) Forensic/Criminology Focus (students doing a 3-year Criminology degree majoring in Psyc must do all 3 of topics in this theme). Note this theme may have topics some would find disturbing/triggering such as homicide, sexual assault and domestic violence.

Module topics are.

- i. Compulsive Homicide
- ii. Expert Evidence
- iii. Domesticated Sexual Violence.

- 2) Wellbeing Focus.

Module topics are.







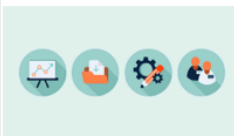


- i. Mindfulness
- ii. Emotion Regulation
- iii. The Psychology of Happiness.

- 3) Applied Skills Focus.

Module topics are.

- i. Health Program evaluation
- ii. Applications of Dyslexia research
- iii. Working in the NDIS system

You do not need to choose all of the options for the whole semester at the beginning. Before each block starts you will get a chance to view the content of the modules and then choose which you will do. You **MUST** only do the activities and assessments of the content modules you officially chose. These are the ones that will contribute to your grade. While Canvas will allow you to see the other content, beware of the "grass is greener" bias.

	BLOCK 1 (WEEKS 1-4)	BLOCK 2 (WEEKS 5-8)	BLOCK 3 (WEEKS 9-12)
	Compulsive Homicide/Catathymia	Expert evidence	Domestic violence
<b>Forensic/Criminology Focus</b>			
	Mindfulness	Emotion Regulation	Psychology of happiness
<b>Wellbeing Focus</b>			
	Health Program Evaluation	Working with Dyslexia	Working in NDIS
<b>Applied Skills Focus</b>			

# SCHEDULE

WK	Date of week start	Content	Task	Self directed learning time commitment	Assessment Quiz	Assessment Written
0	19/2	None	Outline, Choose content for Block 1	1 hour		
1	26/2	Week 1 of Block 1	Work through Content	10 Hours		
2	4/3	Week 2 of Block 1	Work through Content	10 Hours		
3	11/3	Week 3 of Block 1	Work through Content	10 Hours		
4	18/3	Assessment week for Block 1	Work on Assessments	10 Hours	Block 1 quiz due Monday March 18 at 11:59 PM	Block 1 Written Assignment due Sunday March 24 at 11:59 PM
5	25/3	Week 1 of Block 2	Work through Content	10 Hours		
6	1/4	Week 2 of Block 2	Work through Content	10 Hours		
7	8/4	Week 3 of Block 2	Work through Content	10 Hours		
BR 1	15/4	Break (work on Assessments for Block 2)	Work on Assessments	10 Hours		Feedback returned for Block 1 Written
BR 2	22/4	Break (work on Assessments for Block 2)	Work on Assessments	10 Hours		
8	29/4	Week 1 of Block 3	Work through Content	10 Hours	Block 2 quiz due Monday April 29 at 11:59 PM	Block 2 Written Assignment due Monday April 29 at 11:59 PM
9	6/5	Week 2 of Block 3	Work through Content	10 Hours		
10	13/5	Week 3 of Block 3	Work through Content	10 Hours		Feedback returned for Block 2 Written
11	20/5	Assessment week for Block 3	Work on Assessments	10 Hours	Block 3 quiz due Monday May 20 at 11:59 PM	Block 3 Written Assignment due Sunday May 26 at 11:59 PM
12	27/5	Assessment Week for Portfolio	Work on Assessments	10 Hours		Career Portfolio Written Assignment due Sunday June 2 at 11:59 PM

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below. All assignments submitted via Canvas and are due on the due date by 11:59 PM

Please ensure you ONLY complete the assessments for the Module topics you are allocated to. Any assessments you complete that are not part of the modules you are allocated to will not be marked.

*NOTE: Block 2 assessments are due immediately after the Midsemester recess. This is to ensure the later assessments can be submitted with enough time to mark them before final grades must be uploaded to the Uni and to allow feedback on the Module 2 assignments before you complete the Module 3 assignments. You will not receive feedback on the Module 3 written task or the Career Portfolio before the Uni releases official grades on July 5.*

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Quiz	Quiz 1 - Module 1: 18th March (10%) Quiz 2 - Module 2: 29th April (10%) Quiz 3 - Module 3: 20th May (10%)	Individual	30%	1
2	Written Assignment	Written Assessment 1 - Module 1: 24th March (15%) Written Assessment 2 - Module 2: 29th April (15%) Written Assessment 3 - Module 3: 26th May (15%)	Individual	45%	2, 3
3	Reflective Methodologies and Career Portfolio	2nd June	Individual	25%	3, 4

## Late Submissions and Extensions

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.

All requests for extensions must be lodged through the Uni's Adverse Circumstances system in accordance with the Uni's policy for extensions.

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## Assessment 1 - Quiz

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	The PSYC3800 Quiz assessment task is designed to allow students to see how effective their studying has been to learn and comprehend the key content for the module.
<b>Description</b>	One online quiz for each module selected (10% each). Each Quiz is a "Restricted open book" assessment which means you are permitted to access the Canvas Psyc 3800 course content and your own notes based on this Canvas content. Use of AI or other sources of help during a quiz is prohibited and constitutes academic misconduct.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	20 multiple choice questions
<b>Due Date</b>	Quiz 1 - Module 1: 18th March (10%) Quiz 2 - Module 2: 29th April (10%) Quiz 3 - Module 3: 20th May (10%)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Return/Feedback</b>	Online Mark available immediately, question by question feedback available 2 weeks from the due date.

## Assessment 2 - Written Assignment

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	The PSYC3800 Written assessment task is designed to allow students to expand their comprehension of the content for the module and demonstrate advanced written communication skills on a specific topic area. 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
<b>Description</b>	One written assessment for each module (15% each). Students must not use generative AI when writing their assignments. This includes tools such as Grammarly. If you use such tools you will need to change the settings to disable the AI help.
<b>Weighting</b>	45%
<b>Length</b>	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.
<b>Due Date</b>	Written Assessment 1 - Module 1: 24th March Written Assessment 2 - Module 2: 29th April Written Assessment 3 - Module 3: 26th May (note feedback available on Fully graded date)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Rubrics will be provided on Canvas
<b>Return/Feedback</b>	Online 3 weeks from due date: Marks on rubric criteria and comments on the document.

## Assessment 3 - Reflective Methodologies and Career Portfolio

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Portfolio
<b>Purpose</b>	The PYC3800 portfolio assessment task is designed to allow students to start building their skills in preparation for employment. 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 1100 words
<b>Description</b>	The task requires students to Reflect on their own learning but in a very specific and targeted way. Students need to identify the skills they are acquiring both within courses and across courses. These should also be linked with your career goals and activities outside of university that facilitate your job readiness. Students must not use generative AI when writing their assignments. This includes tools such as Grammarly. If you use such tools you will need to change the settings to disable the AI help.
<b>Weighting</b>	25%
<b>Length</b>	1000 words Via Canvas 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 1100 words.
<b>Due Date</b>	2nd June
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Rubrics will be provided on Canvas
<b>Return/Feedback</b>	Online - Fully graded date. Marks on rubric criteria and comments on the document.

# 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).

### 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:

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>

### 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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