School of Psychological Sciences

PSYC4200: Pre-Professional Psychological Interviewing and Assessment

Callaghan and Ourimbah

Semester 1 - 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

COURSE OUTLINE

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Interviewing and assessment is a key component of many areas of professional practice relevant to the discipline of psychology, such as research, forensic settings, disability services, early intervention and various organisations. This course will familiarise students with the theoretical foundations of psychological interviewing and assessment across multiple settings relevant to the discipline. Students will further develop their understanding of the strengths and limitations of a range of assessment tools and methods. Students will learn about interpersonal communication and interview skills and the practical applications of these in multiple areas of applied psychology. Students will gain an understanding of the psychology profession Code of Ethics and the ethical and cultural considerations for interviewing and assessment in real-world settings.

The course forms part of a sequence of courses that have been approved by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC).

Requisites

This course is only available to students enrolled in
Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)[40100],
Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) [12362], or
Bachelor of Science (Honours) [10496].

Contact Hours

Lecture
Face to Face on Campus
2 hour(s) per Week for Full Term

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.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	**Callaghan and Ourimbah** Dr Kristen McCarter Kristen.Mccarter@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4055 3219 Consultation: via appointment.
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

Content covered in this course will include:
- theoretical and empirical bases of psychological interviewing and assessment
- interpersonal communication, assessment, and interviewing skills for professional practice
- application of evidence-based assessment tools
- ethical and cultural considerations for interviewing and assessment

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe and discuss the theoretical and empirical bases of interviewing and assessments across multiple environments (APAC competency 2.3)
2. Describe and discuss the applications of interviewing and assessments across multiple environments, with awareness of ethical issues and standards (APAC competency 2.3)
3. Demonstrate and evaluate appropriate interpersonal communication and interview skills in situations appropriate to psychological practice and research (APAC competency 2.2)

Course Materials

Required Reading:
- APS Code of Ethics

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Presented By	Assessment Due	Expected study activities
1	28 Feb	Health-related interviewing & assessment	Dr Kristen McCarter		Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 1
2	4 Mar	Psychological assessment in financial settings	Dr Kristen McCarter		Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 1
3	11 Mar	Measuring performance in organisations	Dr Heather Douglas		Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 1
4	18 Mar	Developmental-related interviewing & assessment	Dr Emma Axelsson		Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 1
5	25 Mar	Educational/behavioural interviewing & assessment	Adam Keyes		Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 1 Online Quiz 1 opens Wed 27th Mar – complete prior to Apr 5 11:59pm
6	1 Apr	Interviewing & assessment in disability settings	Dr Olivia Whalen NOTE: Lecture recording provided on Canvas due to public holiday & UON concession day	Online Quiz 1 due: Friday April 5, 11.59 pm; (assessing Weeks 1 to 5)	Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 2 Select presentation topic and begin researching
7	8 Apr	Investigative interviewing	Dr Faye Nitschke		Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 2
		Mid Term Break			
		Mid Term Break			
8	29 Apr	Assessment with families	Dr Myles Young		Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 2 Select assessment tool for skills demonstration and start practising
9	6 May	Culturally responsive interviewing & assessment	Dr Stacey McMullen		Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Self-test knowledge for Quiz 2
10	13 May	Interviewing & assessment skills	Dr Kristen McCarter	Presentation due: Friday 17th May 11.59pm	Review lecture material (1-2 hours) Online Quiz 2 opens 15th May – complete prior to May 24 11:59pm

11	20 May				Online Quiz 2 due: Friday 24th May, 11:59pm (assessing Weeks 6-10)	Record skills demonstration and begin drafting written report
12	27 May					Finalise written report
13	3 June				Skills demonstration & written report due: Friday 7th June, 11:59pm	
	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 quiz 1	Fri 5 April 2024 11.59pm.	Individual	20%	1, 2
2	Online quiz 2	Fri 24th May 2024 11.59pm.	Individual	20%	1, 2
3	Presentation	Fri 17th May 2024 11.59pm.	Individual	25%	1, 2, 3
4	Skills Demonstration and Written Report	Fri 7th June 2024 11.59pm.	Individual	35%	3

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 - Online quiz 1

Assessment Type   Online Learning Activity
Purpose   This is aimed at assessing knowledge and understanding of lecture content. Course outcome 1 & 2.
Description   Students will be required to answer multiple-choice questions.
Weighting   20%
Length   Approx 1 hour.
Due Date   Fri 5th April 2024 11.59pm.
Submission Method   Online
Assessment Criteria   See Canvas.
Return Method   Online
Feedback Provided   Online - Within 3 weeks of due date. Once completed and marked, general feedback on the overall cohort performance on the quiz will be provided on Canvas.

Assessment 2 - Online quiz 2

Assessment Type   Online Learning Activity
Purpose   This is aimed at assessing knowledge and understanding of lecture content. Course outcome 1 & 2.
Description   Students will be required to answer multiple-choice questions.
Weighting   20%
Length   Approx 1 hour.
Due Date   Fri 24th May 2024 11.59pm.
Submission Method   Online
Assessment Criteria   See Canvas.
Return Method   Online
Feedback Provided   Online - Within 3 weeks of due date. Once completed and marked, general feedback on the overall cohort performance on the quiz will be provided on Canvas.

Assessment 3 - Presentation

Assessment Type	Presentation
Purpose	Describe and discuss the applications of interviewing and assessments across multiple environments, with awareness of ethical issues and standards. Course outcome 2.
Description	Students will record a presentation that utilizes psychological interviewing/assessments to address a specific community/organisational need.
Weighting	25%
Length	10 minutes
Due Date	Fri 17th May 2024 11.59pm.
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubrics will be provided on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Within 3 weeks of due date.

Assessment 4 - Skills Demonstration and Written Report

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	To develop skills in interpersonal communication and interview skills in situations appropriate to psychological assessment. To reflect on interviewing in assessment-related settings. Course outcome 3.
Description	Presentation (10%): Students will conduct an interview in the context of a brief assessment-related context. Reflection (25%): Students will write a reflection on their ability to demonstrate the APAC core competencies in interpersonal communication and interview skills and the challenges involved (including ethical issues).
Weighting	35%
Length	Presentation 5 min. Written reflection 1200 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 1320 words
Due Date	Fri 7th June 2023 11.59pm.
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubrics will be provided on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Within 3 weeks of due date general feedback on the overall cohort performance. Marks and individual feedback will be held until the 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	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all

	(FF)	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. - Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision
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.
AI	Students must not use AI assistance during online quizzes for this course. For other assessments in this course, AI assistance is permitted as a learning tool (to search for background material, summarise concepts to consolidate learning). AI assistance is not permitted as a writing tool i.e. AI assistance is not permitted to produce written responses to assignment questions. For academic integrity, all submissions must be the student's own written work, not AI-generated. The AI detection functionality in Turnitin will be turned on for this course. Any suspected inappropriate use of AI will be referred to the Student Academic Conduct Officer.
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
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.