

PSYC4804A: Psychology Graded Honours Thesis Part A

Callaghan and Ourimbah
Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description

PSYC4804A (together with PSYC4804B) forms a fourth year honours research project in psychological science. The course covers advanced topics in research methodology and research ethics relevant to the current set of projects undertaken by the cohort of students at this level. These topics are integrated and related to students' individual research projects. Students conduct a detailed literature review of the research area relevant to their research project, develop a research proposal, and consider the ethical implications of their research. This course requires students to develop and conduct a piece of original empirical research under supervision of a member of academic staff of the School of Psychological Sciences.

This course forms part of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited sequence.

Requisites

This course is only available to students enrolled in Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) [40100], Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) [12362], Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (pre-2020) [10214], or Bachelor of Science (Honours) [10496].

Contact Hours

Callaghan

Individual Supervision

Face to Face on Campus

1 hour(s) per Week for Full Term starting Week 1

Individual supervision hours will be arranged directly with supervisor.

Student research project will require extensive work outside of scheduled supervised meetings.

Lecture

Face to Face on Campus

1 day(s) per Term Full Term

Orientation Day Week 0

Seminar

Face to Face on Campus

5 hour(s) per Week for 1 Weeks

Honours Research Proposal Presentations

Workshop

Face to Face on Campus

3 hour(s) per Week for 2 Weeks

Ourimbah

Individual Supervision

Face to Face on Campus

1 hour(s) per Week for Full Term starting Week 1

Individual supervision hours will be arranged directly with supervisor.

Student research project will require extensive work outside of scheduled supervised meetings.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

Lecture

Face to Face on Campus
1 day(s) per Term Full Term
Orientation Day Week 0 live streamed from Callaghan

Seminar

Face to Face on Campus
5 hour(s) per Week for 1 Weeks
Honours Research Proposal Presentations

Workshop

Face to Face on Campus
3 hour(s) per Week for 2 Weeks

Unit Weighting

20

Workload

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

Multi-Term Sequence Advice

This course is part of a multi-term sequence. Both Part A and Part B must be completed to meet the requirements of the sequence. Part A and Part B must be completed in consecutive terms. Students must complete Part A before completing Part B. Students must complete the sequence within a twelve-month period. If students complete Part A but are unable to complete Part B within the timeframe, they must re-enrol in Part A. Part A cannot be completed as a standalone course, it will only count towards your program once you have successfully completed Part B.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator**Callaghan and Ourimbah**

Dr Guy Hawkins
Guy.Hawkins@newcastle.edu.au
(02) 4985 4493
Consultation: By appointment

Teaching Staff

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

School Office**School of Psychological Sciences**

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School of Psychological Sciences

Room HO 143 - Humanities Building
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SYLLABUS

Course Content

The course will cover:

- ethical principles in psychological research,
- development of a research project application,
- development of skills related to critical thinking, as well as
- critical analysis and evaluation of published research.

Students will prepare a research proposal for the approval of the Fourth Year Proposal Committee and an ethics application on their research topic area as required.

They will also prepare an extended review of the relevant research and rationale of their research that will include critical analysis of published research relevant to their research topic.

Details of research topics will be available at the commencement of the academic year.

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

1. Develop a research design including the selection of appropriate research methodology.
2. Develop a research proposal
3. Consider the ethical implications of the intended research
4. Search for relevant and suitable reading material
5. Critically analyse and evaluate published research material
6. Demonstrate psychological research skills such as appropriate use of research instruments and appropriate data analysis
7. Demonstrate scientific writing skills
8. Critically evaluate research data
9. Present information in written format in an interesting and comprehensible manner with appropriate interpretation and evaluation
10. Present information in verbal format in an interesting and comprehensible manner with appropriate interpretation and evaluation

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activities	Assessments
0	19 Feb	Honours Orientation	Attend Orientation Day on Monday 19 February	Supervisor preferences due 9am Friday 23 February.
1	26 Feb		Work on your research project	
2	4 Mar		Work on your research project	
3	11 Mar		Work on your research project	
4	18 Mar	Workshop 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing and planning your research. • Strategies for reading, note-taking and productive writing. • Research ethics. Work on your research project	
5	25 Mar		Work on your research project	
6	1 Apr		Work on your research project	Written proposal due 11:59pm Friday 5 April.
7	8 Apr		Work on your research project	Proposal presentation due 8-11 April. Each student will be scheduled in a single presentation session at their campus of enrolment.
8	29 Apr	Workshop 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing the literature review. • Giving and receiving constructive feedback. Work on your research project	
9	6 May		Work on your research project	
10	13 May		Work on your research project	
11	20 May		Work on your research project	
12	27 May		Work on your research project	Literature review due 11:59pm Friday 31 May.
13	3 June		Work on your research project	

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	Part A Written Proposal and Presentation	Friday 5 April 2024. 11:59pm.	Individual	Pass/Fail	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
2	Part A Literature Review	Friday 31 May 2024. 11:59pm.	Individual	Pass/Fail	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

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 - Part A Written Proposal and Presentation

Assessment Type	Proposal / Plan
Weighting	Pass/Fail
Length	See assessment template on Canvas.
Due Date	Friday 5 April 2024. 11:59pm.
Submission Method	Online - Via Turnitin.
Assessment Criteria	See assessment information on Canvas.
Feedback Provided	Returned Work

Assessment 2 - Part A Literature Review

Assessment Type	Literature Review
Weighting	Pass/Fail
Length	To be negotiated with supervisor.
Due Date	Friday 31 May 2024. 11:59pm.
Submission Method	Online - This assessment is to be submitted via Turnitin and emailed to supervisor.
Assessment Criteria	See assessment information on Canvas.
Feedback Provided	Returned Work - Supervisor will provide feedback.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme This course is Part A of a multi-term sequence. A grade will be awarded at the completion of Part B.

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. As a result of student feedback, the following changes have been made to this offering of the course:

- Develop and deliver new workshops that aim to enhance critical thinking and research skills. The workshops have a particular focus on research literacy and enhancing academic writing. The workshops replace occasional lectures.
- Inclusion of scheduled online drop-in sessions for students. The drop-in sessions allow students of both campuses to catch-up with their peers and the course coordinator in a more casual environment than conventional lectures. They also provide a regular forum to ask questions about their research project and general honours-year processes.

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	<p>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).</p> <p>Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <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; or4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. <p>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</p>
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.
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 as you can or let your Course Coordinator know that you are still waiting for your RAP.

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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