

**PSYC6000: Foundations of Applied Psychology 1**

Online

Trimester 1 - 2024



## OVERVIEW

**Course Description**

Psychology is a diverse and fascinating area of study. This course helps you understand human behaviour and mental processes and allows you to better interpret how we think, act, and feel. It also helps you to develop interpersonal skills and abilities that are transferable to the workplace. The course provides an introduction of the key areas of psychology for students with no prior background in the discipline. There are five main psychological perspectives used to study different aspects of human behaviour and mental processing: biological; cognitive; behavioural; socio-cultural and developmental. Biological, cognitive and behavioural perspectives will be covered in Module 1, where you will examine how a person's perceptions, thoughts, feelings, and behaviours influence how we interact with the world around us. Other perspectives in psychology focus on individuals and groups in society, and how social and cultural factors can influence and shape our thoughts and behaviour. Some perspectives are clinical in nature and can be related to psychological therapy. Developmental perspectives aim to understand how thoughts and behaviours change over time. You will learn about these perspectives in Module 2. In this module you will also learn about how psychology can be used to inform our understanding of human behaviour in forensic contexts. This course is not part of an APAC accredited sequence.

**Academic Progress Requirements**

Nil

**Contact Hours**

**Online Self-Directed Learning**

Online

4 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

**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>	Dr Melissa Freire <a href="mailto:Melissa.Freire@newcastle.edu.au">Melissa.Freire@newcastle.edu.au</a> Consultation: Please contact me by email to arrange a Zoom consultation.
<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

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	Module 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neuroscience</li><li>• Sensation and perception</li><li>• Learning</li><li>• Memory</li><li>• Thinking and intelligence</li></ul> Module 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personality theories and assessment</li><li>• Social psychology</li><li>• Indigenous and cross-cultural psychology</li><li>• Developmental psychology</li><li>• Forensic psychology</li><li>• Abnormal psychology</li></ul>
<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. Describe and identify the major fields of psychology and understand the core concepts and theoretical approaches relevant to each of these.</li><li>2. Apply the principles of psychology in personal and professional contexts to develop a better knowledge and understanding of other people.</li><li>3. Explain basic and foundational elements of neuroscience, sensation and perception, learning, memory, and thinking and intelligence.</li><li>4. Explain basic and foundational elements of, personality theories and assessment, social psychology, Indigenous and cross-cultural psychology, developmental psychology, forensic psychology, and abnormal psychology.</li><li>5. Organise and communicate information using professional formats.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	<b>Lecture Materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- See PSYC6000 Canvas site for lecture materials.</li></ul> <b>Required Text:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Griggs, R. A., &amp; Jackson, S. L. (2019). Psychology: A concise introduction (6th edition). Worth Publishing. eBook ISBN: 9781319358129.</li><li>- See PSYC6000 Canvas site for other required readings.</li></ul> <b>Other Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- See PSYC6000 Canvas site for other resources.</li></ul>

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week starting	Module	Topic	Required readings	Assessments
1	29 Jan	Module 1	The Science of Psychology	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 1	
2	5 Feb		Neuroscience	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 2	
3	12 Feb		Sensation and Perception	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 3	
4	19 Feb		Learning	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 4	Quiz 1 due 25 February at 11.59pm
5	26 Feb		Memory	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 5	
6	4 Mar		Thinking and Intelligence	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 6	Conversation piece due 10 March at 11.59pm
7	11 Mar	Module 2	Personality Theories and Assessment	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 8	Quiz 2 due 17 March at 11.59pm
8	18 Mar		Social Psychology	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 9	
9	25 Mar		Indigenous and cross-cultural Psychology	Online readings will be made available on Canvas	
10	1 Apr		Developmental Psychology	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 7	Quiz 3 due 7 April at 11.59pm
11	8 Apr		Forensic Psychology	Online readings will be made available on Canvas	Oral presentation due 14 April at 11.59pm
12	15 Apr	Abnormal Psychology	Griggs & Jackson text, Chapter 10		
Exam week	22 Apr				Quiz 4 due 28 April at 11.59pm

# 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	Online Quizzes	Quiz 1 must be completed by 11.59pm on Sunday 25 February 2024. Quiz 2 must be completed by 11.59pm on Sunday 17 March 2024. Quiz 3 must be completed by 11.59pm on Sunday 7 April 2024. Quiz 4 must be completed by 11.59pm on Sunday 28 April 2024.	Individual	40% Quiz 1 10% Quiz 2 10% Quiz 3 10% Quiz 4 10%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Conversation Piece	11:59pm AEDT on Sunday 10 March 2024.	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Oral Presentation	11:59pm AEDT on Sunday 14 April 2024.	Individual	30%	1, 2, 4, 5

## 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.

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## Assessment 1 - Online Quizzes

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	The online quizzes are designed to test students' understanding and application of key content learned during the course.
<b>Description</b>	<p>There will be four (4) multiple choice online quizzes to complete. Each quiz will cover two-three weeks of content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 1 assesses knowledge of content from weeks 1, 2, and 3.</li><li>• Quiz 2 assesses knowledge of content from weeks 4, 5, and 6.</li><li>• Quiz 3 assesses knowledge of content from weeks 7 and 8.</li><li>• Quiz 4 assesses knowledge of content from weeks 10, 11, and 12.</li></ul> <p>Once a quiz is opened, you will have thirty (30) minutes to complete it, and you must complete it in a single session. Each quiz contains ten (10) questions and will be worth 10% of the final grade, thus collectively, the four quizzes will constitute 40% of your final course mark. The questions are drawn from the course readings, lectures, and associated content. See the PSYC6000 Canvas site for further details.</p>
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Due Date</b>	<p>Quiz 1 must be completed by 11.59pm on Sunday 25 February 2024. Quiz 2 must be completed by 11.59pm on Sunday 17 March 2024. Quiz 3 must be completed by 11.59pm on Sunday 7 April 2024. Quiz 4 must be completed by 11.59pm on Sunday 28 April 2024.</p>
<b>Submission Method</b>	<p>Online Each quiz contains ten (10) multiple choice questions</p>
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Students will receive one mark for each correct answer, and no marks for an incorrect answer.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Quiz grades will be available via the Grades page in Canvas within 3 weeks after the due date, or once all students have completed the relevant quiz if prior to the due date.

## Assessment 2 - Conversation Piece

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Online Learning Activity
<b>Purpose</b>	To develop appropriate tools and strategies to understand and effectively communicate psychological research to diverse audiences.
<b>Description</b>	See the PSYC6000 Canvas site for full details.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	<p>1000 words Word limits include headings, sub-headings, 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 assessed. In other words, the marker will STOP reading at 1100 words.</p>
<b>Due Date</b>	11:59pm AEDT, Sunday 10 March, 2024.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Marks are awarded in accordance with the Grading Scheme provided in this course outline. See PSYC6000 Canvas site for full details.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online – Assessment grades and written feedback will be returned within three weeks of submission via the PSYC6000 Canvas site.

## Assessment 3 - Oral Presentation

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Presentation
<b>Purpose</b>	To understand and digest the key principles of psychological research and to effectively communicate these principles of psychology in a professional context.
<b>Description</b>	See the PSYC6000 Canvas site for full details.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	<p>10-minute presentation The time limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum time limit will not be assessed. In other words, the marker will STOP the presentation at 2200 words.</p>
<b>Due Date</b>	Must be completed prior to 11:59pm AEDT on Sunday 14 April 2024.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Marks are awarded in accordance with the Grading Scheme provided in this course outline. See PSYC6000 Canvas site for full details regarding presentation marking criteria.

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<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Assessment grades and written feedback will be returned within three weeks of submission via the PSYC6000 Canvas site.

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

- Authentic assessment revisions – written and oral assessments have been revised to ensure that students are equipped with the tools to effectively consume, understand, critique, and apply psychological research in various contexts.
- Marking rubrics were refined.
- Additional quiz questions were developed.

### 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>

**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.

**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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