

**PSYC6050: Foundations of Applied Psychology 2**

Online

Trimester 1 - 2024



## OVERVIEW

**Course Description** Applied psychology is concerned with understanding and predicting people's behaviours and attitudes in a variety of life and work settings. This knowledge informs ways to improve wellbeing, effectiveness, and productivity of individuals, groups, and organisations. The course will examine the research methods used in psychology to study and measure variables that influence our attitudes and behaviours, how tests and surveys are used and interpreted, and what makes a good psychological instrument. This course will also provide instruction in research design and communication of psychological research outcomes and will look at methods of evaluating the effectiveness of programs. This course offers an overview of the key areas of applied Psychology for students with no prior background in the discipline. This course is not part of an APAC accredited sequence.

**Academic Progress Requirements** Nil

**Contact Hours** **Online**  
**Online Activity**  
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The science of psychology</li><li>• Research methods in psychology</li><li>• Psychometrics</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 psychological principles as used by researchers and organisations.</li><li>2. Apply basic psychological research methods and techniques to study human behaviour.</li><li>3. Design a research proposal using the correct structure and content for a research proposal in psychology.</li><li>4. Provide examples of the application of psychological research in the workplace.</li><li>5. Review psychological literature and effectively communicate key information using appropriate psychological reporting conventions.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	<b>Lecture Materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- See PSYC6050 Canvas site for lecture materials.</li></ul> <b>Required Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- See PSYC6050 Canvas site. Most readings are from the required text (below). Other readings will be available to students online via Canvas.</li></ul> <b>Required Text:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Burton, L., Goodwin, J., Goodwin, K., Jose, P., Reece, J., Gullifer, J., ... &amp; Lamont-Mills, A. (2018). <i>Psychology Research Methods</i>. Published by Wiley: <a href="https://www.wileydirect.com.au/buy/psychology-research-methods-1st-edition/">https://www.wileydirect.com.au/buy/psychology-research-methods-1st-edition/</a> Print or eBook versions are available. Language: English, ISBN: 9780730363255</li></ul> <p><i>Note.</i> The PSYC6000 text, <i>Psychology: A Concise Introduction</i>, includes some chapters that are highly relevant to PSYC6050 (e.g., Ch. 1: The Science of Psychology). You are encouraged to refer to this text, as many chapters add context to the core content covered in PSYC6050 and in the <i>Psychology Research Methods</i> text.</p> <b>Other Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- See PSYC6050 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	What is Psychology?	Raykov & Marcoulides (2010). Measurement, Measuring Instruments and psychometric theory, pp. 1-12	
2	5 Feb		Introduction to Experiments	Burton text: Ch. 1 (The Scientific Method)	
3	12 Feb		Introduction to Surveys	Burton text: Ch. 4 (Types of Observational Analysis: Section 4.3 <i>Survey Research</i> AND Section 4.4 <i>Creating an Effective Survey</i> )	
4	19 Feb		Report writing	Burton text: Ch. 12 (Research Report Reading and Writing, except for Section 12.2)	
5	26 Feb	Module 2: Research Methods in Psychology	Measurement	Burton text: Ch. 3 (Measurement and validity)	Research proposal (30%), due Sunday 3 March at 11.59pm
6	4 Mar		Descriptive Statistics	Burton text: Ch. 5 (Collecting and organising data, Section 5.1 <i>Descriptive Statistics</i> )	
7	11 Mar		Critical research skills	Online readings will be made available on Canvas	
8	18 Mar		Research ethics	Burton text: Ch. 2 (Ethics)	
9	25 Mar	Module 3: Psychometrics	Introduction to Psychometrics	Wellington (2007). Psychometrics: Measuring Traits and States	Critical review (30%), due Sunday 31 March at 11.59pm
10	1 Apr		Psychometric testing	Shum, O’Gorman, Myers & Creed (2017). Psychological Testing and Assessment. (pp. 101-103 and 106-128)	
11	8 Apr		Measuring diversity	Burton text: Ch. 9 (Section: <i>Correlation and Regression: The Basics</i> AND Burton text: Ch. 10 (Hypothesis Testing and Inferential Statistics pp. 277-285)	
12	15 Apr		Program evaluation	Holden and Zimmerman (2009). Evaluation Planning Here and Now (pp. 7-32)	
Exam week	22 Apr				Online exam (40%). Must be completed by Sunday 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	Written Research Proposal	11.59pm AEDT, Sunday 3 March 2024.	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3
2	Critical Review	11.59pm AEDT, Sunday 31 March 2024.	Individual	30%	1, 4, 5
3	Online Examination	11.59pm AEST, Sunday 28 April 2024.	Individual	40%	1, 2, 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 - Written Research Proposal

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Proposal / Plan
<b>Purpose</b>	This written assessment task is designed to test students' understanding of the necessary components of a psychological research project.
<b>Description</b>	See the PSYC6050 Canvas site for full details.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	1500 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 1650 words.
<b>Due Date</b>	11.59pm AEDT, Sunday 3 March 2024.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Assessment Criteria will be provided on the PSYC6050 Canvas Site.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Marks and written feedback will be returned within three weeks of submission via the PSYC6050 Canvas site.

## Assessment 2 - Critical Review

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	This assessment will demonstrate students' ability to understand and critically evaluate published psychological research.
<b>Description</b>	See the PSYC6050 Canvas site for full details.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	2000 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 2200 words.
<b>Due Date</b>	11.59pm AEDT, Sunday 31 March 2024.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Assessment Criteria will be provided on the PSYC6050 Canvas Site.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Marks and written feedback will be returned within three weeks of submission via the PSYC6050 Canvas site.

## Assessment 3 - Online Examination

<b>Assessment Type</b>	In Term Test
<b>Purpose</b>	The online examination is designed to test the student's knowledge of the course material and their ability to describe, analyse, and hypothesise from this material.

<b>Description</b>	This online exam will consist of short answer questions and long answer questions that test student knowledge of content covered in Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3. Further details will be available on the PSYC6050 Canvas site.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	3 hours
<b>Due Date</b>	11.59pm AEST, on Sunday 28 April 2024.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Assessment Criteria will be provided on the PSYC6050 Canvas Site.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Marks will be available in the grades centre on Canvas after the fully graded date. Comments/feedback will not be made available.

## 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 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 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.
- Final exam questions were revised and amended.

### 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

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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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