

PSYC6501: Professional and Ethical Practice

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



OVERVIEW

Course Description	Standards of professional and ethical practice are the pillars of psychological practice which safeguard the welfare of clients and clinicians. In this course, students will be encouraged to explore their own values and develop critical thinking frameworks for ethical decision making as a psychologist. Course material focuses on developing the foundational knowledge and skills in ethical and professional practice required to commence clinical practice.
Requisites	This course is only available to students enrolled in the Master of Professional Psychology [40117], the Master of Clinical Psychology [40187], or the Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) [11539].
Assumed Knowledge	It is assumed that students will have completed a four-year program in Psychology that has been accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC).
Contact Hours	Callaghan Seminar Face to Face On Campus 18 hour(s) per Week for 2 Weeks This course is taught in intensive mode during the week before commencement of Semester 1 and during Week 1 of Semester 1.
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.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Callaghan Dr Jay Raman Jay.Raman@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: email, by 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

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 'scientist-professional' model and evidence-based practice.• Professional ethics and codes of conduct.• Legislation relating to the professional practice of psychology.• Record keeping, report writing, and practice management.• The organisational contexts for the practice of psychology.• Diversity, including indigenous and multicultural issues.• Personal health and safety, including stress management and aggression minimisation.• Negotiation and conflict resolution skills.• Public safety including assessing and managing risk.
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Define the various roles of psychologists within the organisational contexts of their professional practice. (Competency 3.11)2. Demonstrate and apply the relevant legal and ethical codes to their practice. (Competencies 3.11, 3.12, 3.14)3. Demonstrate clinical skills in developing a therapeutic relationship including confidentiality and risk assessment. (Competencies 3.12)4. Write clear, concise, and relevant reports and keep appropriate records of their work. (Competency 3.13)5. Demonstrate sensitivity to human diversity, including intercultural and Indigenous issues. (Competencies 3.3, 3.14)
Course Materials	<p>Recommended Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The APS Code of Ethics and APS Ethical Guidelines Anderson, S.K. & Handelsman, M.M. (2010). <i>Ethics for Psychotherapists and Counselors: A Proactive Approach</i>. Wiley. DOI:10.1002/9781444324303 Additional recommended reading references will be provided by lecturers at the start of the lecture and in course readings on the Canvas site.

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Quiz: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
- Assessment 2 - Written Assignment: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
- Assessment 3 - Viva Voce: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.

SCHEDULE

PSYC6501 TIMETABLE 2024			
DAY 1: Friday, 16 February 2024			
Location	Time	Content	Lecturer
V205	9:00- 9:30	Welcome, Introduction to the course, Assessment outlines	Dr. Jayanthi Raman
V205	9.30 - 11:00	Psychopharmacology: Part 1	Prof. Michael Breakspear
V205	11.00- 12:00	Working with Diversity	Dr. Jayanthi Raman
V205	1:00-3:00	Working with Diversity (cont'd)	Ms. Marnie Britton, Ms. Kelly Penniment & Kylar Goff
V205	3.00-4:30*	Mental Health, Competency & Risk Assessment* Part 1	A/Prof. Ross Wilkinson
DAY 2: Monday, 19 February 2024			
V205	9:30-12:00	Clinical notes, report writing and files: Part 1	Dr. Oren Griffiths
V205	1:00-4:00	Clinical notes, report writing and files: Part 2	Dr. Oren Griffiths
DAY 3: Tuesday, 20 February 2024			
V205	9:00-12:00	Child Protection: Part 1	Ms. Kylie Croxton
V205	1:00-4:00	Child Protection: Part 2	Ms. Kylie Croxton
DAY 4: Wednesday, 21 February 2024			
V205	09:00- 12:00	Risk Assessment Practicum	Dr. Jayanthi Raman Ms. Sonja Pohlman
V205	1:00-4:00	Working with social and emotional wellbeing of Indigenous families: A focus on professional and ethical practice	Dr. Stacey McMullan Darren (Charlie) Faulkner Mary Watson
DAY 5: Thursday, 22 February 2024			
V205	9:00-12:00	Regulation of the Practice of Psychology	Prof. Chris Willcox
V205	1:00-4:00	Scientist-Practitioner Model/Prof Issues	Ms. Sonja Pohlman
DAY 6: Friday, 23 February 2024			
V205	9:00-12:00	Supervision, Personal health & Safety	Prof. Lynne McCormack
V205	1:00-2:30	Psychopharmacology: Part 2	Prof. Michael Breakspear
V205	2:30- 4:00**	Mental Health, Competency & Risk Assessment: Part 2**	A/Prof. Ross Wilkinson
*This lecture is online. You can find a link to it on CANVAS. You will need to complete the suicide risk section in preparation of the practicum on the Wednesday morning.			
** This lecture is online. You can find a link to it on CANVAS.			

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*	25 th February 10 th March, 24 th March 2024	Individual	20%	1, 2, 5
2	Written Assessment*	1 st April 2024	Individual	40%	1, 2, 4, 5
3	Clinical viva and practical demonstration*	Week of 29 th April 2024 (individual times will be given via Canvas)	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

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 Quizzes

Assessment Type Description

Quiz

This course is delivered as an intensive covering many different topics. Scheduling online quizzes in the weeks following the lectures will allow students to revise course materials and embed learning from the intensive modules. Quizzes will be scheduled every two weeks in the six weeks following completion of lecture delivery (3 quizzes x 10 multiple choice questions). Students are required to re-attempt each quiz until 100% accuracy is achieved.

Weighting Compulsory Requirements

20%

Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.

Due Date Submission Method Return Method Feedback Provided Opportunity to Reattempt

25th February, 10th March, 24th March 2024

Online

Online

Online

Students WILL be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Students are required to obtain 100% for each quiz to demonstrate competency. Students will be able to re-attempt each quiz within the designated timeframe until competency is demonstrated.

Assessment 2 - Written Assessment

Assessment Type Description

Written Assignment

Ethics Autobiography: This written assessment is a task which encourages you to reflect on your personal ethics, so you develop a solid understanding to begin to successfully integrate these which your chosen professional guidelines and ethical practices. The questions you are asked to explore in the Ethics Autobiography focus on how your existing personal guidelines developed, how they influence your ethical decision making, and how you believe they will interact with your work as a psychologist.

Use the material that you write in your journal entries, lecture content, and reading you do to help you answer the following questions (based on Anderson & Handelsman, 2010):

Ethics Autobiography: This written assessment is a task which encourages you to reflect on your personal ethics so you develop a solid understanding to begin to successfully integrate these which your chosen professional guidelines and ethical practices. The questions you are asked to explore in the Ethics Autobiography focus on how your existing personal guidelines developed, how they influence your ethical decision making, and how you believe they will interact with your work as a psychologist.

Use the material that you write in your journal entries, lecture content, and reading you do to help you answer the following questions (based on Anderson & Handelsman, 2010):

(A) Motivations, values, and virtues (approx. 750 words)

1. What motivations, values and virtues are most important to you, as a person, in your relationship with other people?
2. Where do these originate from (e.g. family, friends, school, religion, other role models or experiences)?
3. How similar are your motivations, values, and virtues to those of other members of the cultures to which you belong (i.e., any group of people who share some of your values, traditions or ideals)?

(B) Integrating new professional values (approx 750 words)

Choose one of the General Principles of the APS Code of Ethics and discuss your understanding of this principle. In your discussion, refer to how your personal motivations/values/virtues may make working with this guideline easier or more challenging for you.

40%

Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.

1500 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 1650 words.

Weighting
Compulsory Requirements
Length

Due Date
Submission Method
Assessment Criteria
Return Method
Feedback Provided
Opportunity to Reattempt

1 April 2024- 11.59 PM

Online

Assessment rubric will be available on the course Canvas site.

Online

Online

Students WILL be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Students may be permitted to re-attempt one failed compulsory course requirement and can achieve a maximum possible mark of 50% for that assessment item.

Assessment 3 - Clinical viva and practical demonstration

Assessment Type
Description

Viva Voce

30-minute examination Viva Voce (face to face)

Students will be presented with a brief case presentation and required to conduct a short section of a simulated initial clinical interview with a psychologist taking the role of the client. This practical demonstration is designed for the individual student to demonstrate competency in the delivery of a confidentiality statement and suicide risk assessment. This interview will be followed by a brief discussion about the ethical and professional issues raised in the case. The assessment will be video recorded and marked by a psychologist.

Marks are awarded in accordance with Table 1 from the Grading Scales in the 2017 Course Management and Assessment Procedure Manual (Policy 000996) at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/000996.html>

Guidance notes:

Arrive at least 10 mins early to read the case and make some notes

You may use reference materials.

People who don't arrive at least 10 minutes early will not be given a printed copy of the case presentation before their viva.

All paper materials to be returned at the end of the viva

As this is a professional and ethical viva, a good knowledge of the following is essential:

- PsyBA/APS Code of Ethics
- APS guidelines
- State legislation

Weighting	40%
Compulsory Requirements	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
Length	30 minutes
Due Date	Week of 6 May 2023 (individual times will be given via Canvas)
Submission Method	Specific Location - Oral Examination
Assessment Criteria	Assessment rubric will be available on the course Canvas site.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Students may be permitted to re-attempt one failed compulsory course requirement and can achieve a maximum possible mark of 50% for that assessment item.

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).

Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Seminar (Method of recording: Record of attendance will be via a sign on record.)

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](#).

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). 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>
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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