

## PSYC6823: Advanced Human Cognition

Callaghan and Ourimbah

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

### Course Description

PSYC6823 examines psychological processes such as attention, memory, word recognition, reasoning and problem solving. Laboratory exercises are used to demonstrate these basic psychological processes.

This course forms part of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council's accredited sequence.

Related courses:

PSYC6824, PSYC6825, PSYC6833, PSYC6831

### Requisites

This course is only available to students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Science program [40223]

### Contact Hours

#### Laboratory (Tutorial)

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per Week for 10 Weeks

*Note:* Laboratory classes will run across Weeks 2-12 (check your timetable and the Course Schedule for more information).

#### Lecture

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 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

[www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)

CRICOS Provider 00109J

## CONTACTS

### Course Coordinator

#### Callaghan and Ourimbah

Dr Rachael Wynne

[Rachael.Wynne@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Rachael.Wynne@newcastle.edu.au)

Please include the subject code "PSYC6823" in the subject line of any emails you send.

+61 2 4921 7885

**Consultation:** Consultation times will be published on Canvas.

### Teaching Staff

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

### School Office

#### School of Psychological Sciences

W210 - Behavioural Sciences Building

Callaghan

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## SYLLABUS

### Course Content

- Attention
- Memory
- Language
- Reasoning
- Problem solving

### Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the links between experimental psychological methods and cognitive psychology principles.
2. Explain the importance of cognitive psychology to applied psychology (e.g., clinical).
3. Proficiently apply the scientific methodology of psychology.
4. Write formal psychology reports at a professional level.

### Course Materials

**Required Reading:** *Note: Earlier editions may have slightly different page numbers and examples.*

- Reisberg, D. (2022). *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind* (8th International Student Edition). New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

*Note: Earlier editions may have slightly different page numbers and examples*

# SCHEDULE

| Week | Week Begins | Lecture Topic   | Tutorial Activity                            | Assessment Due              | Expected Study Activities<br>(average of 6-7 hrs/week)  |
|------|-------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---|
| 1    | 26 Feb      | Intro to Cognitive Psychology                             | NO TUTORIALS                                 |                             | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 1<br>Review lecture material  |
| 2    | 4 Mar       | The Neural Basis of Cognition                             | 1. Lab Reports                               |                             | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 2<br>Review lecture material  |
| 3    | 11 Mar      | Perception  | 2. Brief Report 1                            |                             | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 3+4<br>Review lecture material<br>Complete Brief Report 1 (based on tutorial activity).   |
| 4    | 18 Mar      | Attention   | 3. Perception                                | Brief Report 1              | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 5<br>Review lecture material<br>Submit Brief Report 1.  |
| 5    | 25 Mar      | Memory I  | 4. Attention<br><i>Tue - Thur tutorials</i>  |                             | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 6-8<br>Review lecture material<br>Revise for Online Quiz 1.   |
| 6    | 1 Apr       | Memory II   | 4. Attention<br><i>Friday tutorials only</i> | Online Quiz 1               | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 6-8<br>Review lecture material<br>Revise for Online Quiz 1.   |
| 7    | 8 Apr       | Knowledge   | 5. Brief Report 2 + Memory                   |                             | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 9+11<br>Review lecture material<br>Review Brief Report 1 feedback; complete Brief Report 2 (based on tutorial activity).  |
|      | 15 Apr      | <b>MID-TERM BREAK</b>                                     |  |                             |   |
|      | 22 Apr      | <b>MID-TERM BREAK</b>                                     |  |                             |   |
| 8    | 29 Apr      | Language and Reading I<br>Guest Lecturer: Kristen Pammer  | 6. Memory + Lab Report Experiment            | Brief Report 2              | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 10<br>Review lecture material<br>Submit Brief Report 2<br>Revise for Online Quiz 2<br>Draft Method section for Lab Report (based on tutorial activity). Start literature review for lab report. |
| 9    | 6 May       | Language and Reading II<br>Guest Lecturer: Kristen Pammer | 7. Knowledge + Lab Report Results            | Online Quiz 2               | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 10<br>Review lecture material<br>Draft Results section for Lab Report (based on tutorial activity). Continue literature review, draft introduction.   |
| 10   | 13 May      | Decision Making<br>Guest Lecturer: Jess Grimmond          | 8. Language                                  |                             | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 12<br>Review lecture material<br>Draft Discussion for Lab Report.   |
| 11   | 20 May      | Problem Solving and Intelligence                          | 9. Reasoning                                 |                             | <b>Reading:</b> Chapter 13+14<br>Review lecture material<br>Integrate Brief Report 2 feedback into Lab Report Draft.  |
| 12   | 27 May      | Social Cognition and Emotion                              | 10. Social Intelligence                      |                             | <b>Reading:</b> Refer to Canvas<br>Review lecture material<br>Finalise Lab Report.<br>Revise for Online Quiz 3.   |
| 13   | 3 Jun       | NO LECTURE  | NO TUTORIALS                                 | Lab Report<br>Online Quiz 3 | Submit Lab Report.<br>Revise for Online Quiz 3.   |
|      | 10 Jun      | <b>EXAMINATIONS PERIOD</b>                                |  |                             |   |
|      | 17 Jun      | <b>EXAMINATIONS PERIOD</b>                                |  |                             |   |

# 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 | Brief Lab Reports      | Report A: Week Starting 18/03/24 (Due 1 week after <u>enrolled</u> tutorial class)<br>Report B: Week Starting 29/04/24 (Due 3 weeks after <u>enrolled</u> tutorial class) | Individual  | 20%       | 1, 3, 4           |
| 2 | Full length lab report | 03/06/2024, 11.59pm   | Individual  | 30%       | 1, 3, 4           |
| 3 | Online Module Quizzes  | Quiz 1 (weeks 1-4): 07/04/2024, 11.59pm<br>Quiz 2 (weeks 5-7): 12/05/2024, 11.59pm<br>Quiz 3 (weeks 8-12): 09/06/2024, 11.59pm  | Individual  | 50%       | 1, 2, 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.

## Extensions

All extensions are processed through Adverse Circumstances. The maximum extension that can be approved is based on the return time for assessments. Quizzes are returned within 10 business days weeks, written assessments within 3 weeks. Once feedback has been provided to students, submissions can no longer be accepted.

**NOTE:** When applying for an extension for a written assessment, you may be asked to supply evidence of work completed thus far.

## Use of AI

**NOTE: Use of AI in this course is prohibited**

Students must not use AI assistance in any assessments in this course. Any assessment suspected of using AI will be referred to the Student Academic Conduct Officer. The penalty for use of AI in an assessment will be a 0 mark for the assessment (even if AI is found to be used in only a part of the assessment).

## Assessment 1 - Brief Lab Reports

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Assessment Type     | Written Assignment  |
| Purpose             | Practice laboratory report writing skills and using concise language.   |
| Description         | Two short laboratory reports based on experiments conducted in tutorial classes. Reports will need to be presented in the format for scientific writing developed by the American Psychological Association.<br>Further information provided in the Assessment Information document on Canvas.  |
| Weighting           | 20%   |
| Length              | 400 words.<br>Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references and appendices. 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 440 words. |
| Due Date            | Report 1: Week Starting 18/03/24 (Due 1 week after enrolled tutorial class)<br>Report 2: Week Starting 29/04/24 (Due 3 weeks after enrolled tutorial class)   |
| Submission Method   | Online  |
| Assessment Criteria | Supplied via Canvas   |
| Return Method       | Online  |
| Feedback Provided   | Online, three weeks after due date.<br>Your written assignment will receive individual comments in addition to marking criteria sheet.  |

## Assessment 2 - Full Length Lab Report

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Assessment Type</b>     | Written Assignment  |
| <b>Purpose</b>             | Practice laboratory report writing skills: developing a literature review and rationale, conduct a scientific study, analyse, and report research results, interpretation of research findings.   |
| <b>Description</b>         | Full length laboratory report based on an experiment conducted in tutorial class. The report will include abstract, literature review, research hypotheses, method, results, and discussion. Report must follow the format for scientific writing developed by the American Psychological Association. Further information provided in the Assessment Information document on Canvas. |
| <b>Weighting</b>           | 30%   |
| <b>Length</b>              | 1500<br>Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes, and referencing but does not include the list of references and appendices. 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.                     |
| <b>Due Date</b>            | Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024, 11.59pm   |
| <b>Submission Method</b>   | Online  |
| <b>Assessment Criteria</b> | Supplied via Canvas   |
| <b>Return Method</b>       | Online  |
| <b>Feedback Provided</b>   | Online, three weeks after due date.<br>Your written assignment will receive individual comments in addition to marking criteria sheet.  |

## Assessment 3 - Online Module Quizzes

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Assessment Type</b>   | In Term Test  |
| <b>Purpose</b>           | Test understanding of course content.   |
| <b>Description</b>       | The online quizzes will cover the content from assigned readings, lecture material, and tutorial topics. The assessment piece will be broken up into three quizzes of equal weighting, spread out throughout the semester.  |
| <b>Weighting</b>         | 50%   |
| <b>Due Date</b>          | Quiz 1: Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2024, 11.59pm<br>Quiz 2: Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2024, 11.59pm<br>Quiz 3: Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, 11.59pm  |
| <b>Submission Method</b> | Online.<br>Students must complete the quizzes on their own. Quiz questions are primarily conceptual which means a thorough understanding of the course material is essential for completing the quizzes and during each quiz you will not have the time to review the content and it will NOT be possible to determine the answers by searching the internet. |
| <b>Return Method</b>     | Online  |
| <b>Feedback Provided</b> | By 10 business days after the due date, students will receive an overall quiz grade.  |

## 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<br>(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<br>(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: **Laboratory (tutorial)**

Students are strongly advised to attend lectures and laboratories in order to gain a full understanding of the theoretical and practical skills required in this discipline.

Notes and recordings provided on Canvas are designed to supplement attendance, not replace it. Students who miss lectures and laboratories may not be able to satisfactorily complete assessment items/exams and may fail the course.

## 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.

If you have a question about the course content or assessment, we encourage you to post it on the Canvas Discussion Forum, so that all students can see the answer.

Please make sure you check your official University of Newcastle email address regularly. ALL email communication must be through your University of Newcastle email address.

Please note we do not monitor the discussion form or respond to emails on evenings, weekends, or university holidays. It may take up to 3 working days to respond to your email.

## 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:

- The end of semester exam has been replaced with in-semester quizzes. Content will be assessed in smaller modules rather than a large, end of semester exam.
- Lab Report due date has been moved to the end of semester.

## 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.

## 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

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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>

**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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