

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Foundations in Psychology A

This subject is a pre-requisite for enrolment in second year psychology subjects. With PSYC122 & PSYC123, it comprises an introduction to the science theories and practical skills in psychology. The content will focus on the way the individual's biological and psychological systems function. In particular, the subject will examine the historical context of psychology, biological bases of human behaviour, lifespan development, motivation and emotion, personality theory and assessment, individual differences and states of consciousness.

Foundations in Psychology B

This subject is a pre-requisite for enrolment in second year psychology subjects. The subject examines the way in which individuals perceive and learn about their world, the ways in which group membership influences behaviour, the nature of psychological dysfunction, and the role of psychology in influencing health. Topics covered include learning, perception, intelligence, memory, cognition, psychology of abnormality, social psychology, and human relations.

Research Methods and Statistics

This subject is a pre-requisite for enrolment in second year psychology subjects. With PSYC121 & PSYC122, it comprises an introduction to theories, and practical skills in psychology such as research design and statistical analysis. PSYC123 introduces students to statistics and methodology in the science of psychology. The content will focus on the use of a range of elementary statistical procedures, descriptive statistics and exploratory data analysis, normal probability and sampling distributions, and the use and interpretation of statistical tests, the correlation coefficient and chi-square. The use of computers in statistical calculations will be introduced. The method component considers the context of scientific research, theories and hypotheses, varieties of research design, experimental comparisons, correlation and causation, reliability and validity, and ethical issues.

Psychology of Physical Activity and Health

This subject examines evidence on the health benefits of physical activity; how physical activity habits may be measured; how physical activity is distributed in populations; its major determinants; how psychological theories or models can guide interventions to promote physical activity; the evidence base on which interventions can be developed; and evidence on the outcomes of trails of interventions, including community, mass media and public health policy initiatives.

Personality

This subject will provide students with an understanding of the past and current theories in personality development, theories and change. For the personality theories relevant current research will be highlighted. Related areas of individual differences will be highlighted. Related areas of individual differences will be covered including measurement issues in personality, personality culture, situation, stability and change will be covered. Additionally the major issues in intelligence and its measurement will be outlined.

Quantitative Methods in Psychology

This subject will give you a solid basic knowledge in data analysis techniques for simple experimental designs and correlational studies. These techniques will be developed around an understanding of experimental and quasi-experimental methods. Considerable attention is given to explaining the conceptual rationale underlying each analysis covered in the subject, and its application to research in the behavioural sciences. The content of the practical classes entail extensive use of SPSS, a statistical package.

Developmental and Social Psychology

This subject discusses core issues in child, adolescent and adult development with an emphasis on behaviour in the perceptual, cognitive, and social environment. Half of the subject will provide a developmental framework from the neonatal stage through adulthood. Key theories and empirical aspects in perceptual, cognitive and emotional development will be covered. Ethical issues concerning research involving children will also be addressed. The second half emphasises the contributions of social psychology to understanding individual behaviour in societal context including the workplace. The development of social cognition will be covered. The implications of issues arising from these core topics to indigenous psychology will be considered.

Cognition and Perception

This subject provides an overview of two broad content areas in experimental psychology. Perception is the study of how information is acquired from the environment through sensory organs. Cognition is concerned with the storage, manipulation and retrieval of such information. Lectures draw upon findings from both behavioural and neuropsychological studies. Topics covered include visual perception, attention, memory and language. Students learn how to conduct, analyse and interpret experimental research.

Psychopathology

This subject takes a developmental approach to mental health issues. It seeks to examine some of the common factors leading to these issues in both childhood and adulthood. An introductory exploration of the most prevalent issues is undertaken, using a variety of therapeutic models.

Biological Psychology and Learning

This subject will begin to examine the biological mechanisms underlying behaviour and changes in behaviour brought about by experience, as well as examining the psychophysiological and behavioural measures frequently employed to study these processes. Topics will include genetics, the nervous and endocrine systems, arousal, attention, learning, memory, language, Pavlovian and instrumental conditioning, habituation and orienting reactions. The practical component will include an introduction to the techniques and experimental methods used in study of learning and psychophysiology, including the recording of the electrocardiograph, skin conductance, and electroencephalograph.

Critical thinking and communication skills in Psychology

This subject delivers a holistic overview of the requirements for the successful completion of an undergraduate degree in Psychology at UOW. This course will cover a broad range of topics and contextualise course content. It will highlight core concepts in psychology. It will present a science-focussed approach to psychology that will link psychological research with its broader role in evidenced-based clinical practice. It will provide key skills aimed at engaging students in core content, course material and readings and provide practical training that will allow students to develop independent learning skills. It will also provide writing and research skills that they will require throughout their undergraduate degree. It is expected that students completing this course will be able to understand what will be required of them throughout their undergraduate degree.

Topics in Applied Psychology

This subject aims to introduce students to the application of psychology. It demonstrates how psychological principles can be applied in diverse settings. We will cover topics in health psychology, organizational and occupational psychology, and forensic psychology. In each topic area, students will be shown how research, theory and practice are inter-related. Case studies in each area will be highlighted.

Advanced Topics in Cognition

This subject offers more advanced training in experimental psychology, and particularly the method and theories of cognitive psychology. It is one of the subjects that provides a solid grounding in empirical psychology, and will extend students' knowledge of cognitive psychology from the framework acquired in PSYC236. It provides a detailed examination of a number of areas which may include short-term-memory, the psychology of reading, face recognition and reasoning. The practical programme involves extensive experience of experimentation in cognitive psychology where students will act both as participants and researchers. Some of these experiments will be written up as lab reports or short assignments.

Assessment and Intervention

This subject provides students with an overview of widely used psychological assessment procedures (including personality and intelligence assessments). Intervention programmes and their efficacy will also be discussed, as well as ethical and legislative requirements and consumer and carer participation. Areas of focus will include both clinical and non-clinical settings. The subject will also deal with the counselling process by introducing students to interviewing skills used in counselling. Seminar and workshop sessions will provide students with an opportunity to observe counselling micro-skills and participate in group discussions and seminars.

Social Behaviour and individual Differences

This subject allows students to study selected topics in social behaviour and in more detail. The emphasis is on the extent to which one can explain social behaviours (e.g. prejudice, crime, close relationships particular adolescent behaviours) on the basis of individual differences and personality traits. An integral part of the subject will include the formulation of a research proposal by each student.

History and Metatheory of Psychology

This subject introduces (1) the origins and development of major approaches in modern psychology, and (2) important conceptual issues in psychology. It discusses the concepts needed to evaluate the theories, methods, accounts and practices that we encounter in psychology, and applies these concepts to various psychological problems. Topics include materialist and casual views of psychology, behaviourist analyses of mental processes, psychoanalytic explanation, rationalist and phenomenological accounts of mind and ethical and ideological considerations in psychology.

Design and Analysis

This subject develops skills in design and analysis of research investigations involving statistics. It is a pre-requisite into Psychology Honours. Statistical computing is an essential part of the course. Topics covered include statistical techniques in psychological research, experimental and observational research designs, analysis of survey data; analysis of variance and covariance; regression; factor analysis; multivariate analysis; logistics regression.

Changing Perceptions of Nature

This subject introduces students to fundamental issues and debates about the birth of modern science through a historical analysis of the Scientific Revolution of c.1500-1700. Focusing on the contributions made by key figures such as Copernicus, Galileo, Bacon, Descartes and Newton the course will examine the process by which the contemplative Aristotelian view of nature was replaced by a new approach which emphasized experiment, replication, quantification and 'mechanical' forms of explanation. The way these new ideas were shaped by broader cultural, political and economic factors such as religious beliefs, humanism, warfare, exploration and colonization will also be considered.

Introduction to Philosophy

This subject introduces fundamental philosophical problems in ethical theory, personal identity, the nature of the self and epistemology. The first half of the subject examines the nature of ethics, beginning with the question of whether there are objective ethical facts or whether ethical beliefs are subjective or culturally relative. Study utilitarian and rights-based approaches to ethics and look at how these theories are applied to real moral dilemmas. The second part of the subject is concerned with the nature of personal identity. The final section looks at theories of knowledge.

The Psychology of Exceptional Children

This subject will examine the psychological and educational development of children with exceptionalities. Students will be introduced to developmental theories, different categories of exceptionality, methods of studying children and different methods of identifying exceptional children. Its emphasis will be on the way that these exceptionalities impact on identification, learning and behaviour and the families of the students.

Introduction to Communication and Media Studies

This foundation subject introduces students to ways of understanding media and communication practices, institutions and technologies. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding how producers and consumers interact in a media saturated world. The subject will begin with the ways in which the media has been discussed in theory and in practice and go on to examine how our communication practices and adoption and use of different technologies are integrated with our professional, social and political lives.

Effective Writing (ESB)

This subject provides an introduction to academic and professional communication for students of any discipline who have completed their previous studies in English. The subject aims to enhance students' control of a range of skills that are essential for success in academic and professional life, but it also encourages students to take a critical and informed attitude to language use. A range of text types common in academic and professional work contexts are discussed analysed and practices. The subject covers English grammar for writing clearly and coherently and the concepts of style and register in academic writing. The subject focuses on written communication but readings and assessment assume the inter-dependence of all four skills-reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Forensic Psychology

This subject introduces students to the interactions between psychology and the law, specifically focussing the role of the forensic psychologist. It includes a variety of lectures and interactive tutorials covering topics including core legal issues around criminal responsibility and giving expert evidence in court, as well as more applied topics including risk assessment, offender rehabilitation, psychopathy, and youth violence. The tutorials are designed to consolidate and further develop specific topics of contemporary significance in the field.

Child Development

This course addresses contemporary issues in the scientific study of child development. The main emphasis of the course will be 1) to consider why there is now such a focus on the importance of the first 1000 days, 2) to evaluate the evidence base examining how the child comes to actively and autonomously understand the world, 3) to investigate how the environment shapes the opportunities for children to reach their full potential, and 4) to ask how the child builds a conception of himself/herself as a person. Students will be expected to engage with ways in which developmental psychology can provide data driven evidence that can be used to improve and enrich the experiences of children – such as the importance of being talked to, and being liked.