

## BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

### MODULE DESCRIPTION

#### **PSYC121 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.

#### **PSYC122 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.

#### **PSYC123 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.

#### **PSYC216 Foundations of Sport and Exercise Psychology**

The objective of PSYC216 is to identify, explain and apply the foundational principles of sport and exercise psychology across a broad range of sport and exercise settings. The key skills that students will learn are to critically examine the ways that multiple principles may apply to any particular situation, and to design and evaluate effective and evidence-based interventions. The subject has a dual focus on exercise psychology (e.g., why people become physically active) and sport psychology (e.g., why some people perform well under pressure), as well as key principles that cut across both fields (e.g., motivation, goal setting). Lectures will cover the foundational principles, while tutorials and assessment tasks are designed to help students to apply those principles in practice.

#### **PSYC231 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.

#### **PSYC250 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.

#### **PSYC241 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.

#### **PSYC236 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

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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.

#### **PSYC251 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.

#### **PSYC234 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.

#### **PSYC120 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.

#### **PHIL107 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.

#### **BCM110 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 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.

#### **ELL182 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.

#### **SOC 104 - Social problems: Sociological responses**

"How do sociologists make sense of the world? How can we determine if research is trustworthy? How can we support sociological claims? What is the role of sociology beyond the university campus? What will be the role of sociology moving into the future? These questions are more complex than they seem. In this subject we look at how sociologists go about gathering and producing relevant and accurate information about society. We will investigate social issues such as climate change, unemployment, structural inequality, and crime, and consider how different research methods can produce different kinds of results. This subject will offer an introduction to sociological analysis with an emphasis on applied social problems and research techniques. We will then consider a series of contemporary social problems and plan research projects that could help to address these real world problems. Finally, the subject considers the role of activism and social movements in order to understand how sociology can inform responses to injustice. This subject is an ideal complement to SOC103. It explores how to gather information about and develop systematic understandings of social life."

#### **BCM 111 Global Media and Culture**

In an era of globalisation, communication across cultures is key to our capacity to thrive in diverse workplaces. This subject introduces students to key issues in communication and media and how these overlap with developments in transnational media industries and practices. We examine the historical impact of media technologies and institutions on the formation of local, national, and international cultural communities and explore contemporary sites of opportunity or crisis produced by the emergence of global communication networks.

#### **PSYC358 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.

#### **PSYC327 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.

#### **PSYC324 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.

#### **PSYC330 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.

#### **PSYC325 History and Philosophy 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 causal views of psychology, behaviourist analyses of mental processes, psychoanalytic explanation, rationalist and phenomenological accounts of mind and ethical and ideological considerations in psychology.

#### **PSYC326 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.

#### **PSYC357 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.

#### **PSYC361 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.

**NOT OFFERED AT SIM:**

**NMIH108 Introduction to Health Behaviour Change**

This subject introduces students to the theories and strategies of health behaviour change at the levels of the individual, the group or community, and the population. The subject also reviews the ethical and practical issues related to motivating people to change their health-related behaviours.

**LING210 Communication Across Cultures**

This subject addresses the issues involved in communication among people of different linguistic and 'cultural' backgrounds. 'Culture' is referred to here in a broad sense to encompass dimensions such as class, gender, sex, professions, institutions, and national boundaries. This interdisciplinary course will raise students' awareness of how culture, cognition, and communication are intermeshed in complex ways, touching on how sounds, symbols, and other semiotic resources (e.g. eye contact, gestures) are used for communication, how different languages use linguistic resources and communication strategies differently, and what can go wrong when people from different backgrounds interact in various settings. Students will gain a critical appreciation of the linguistic and non-linguistic issues surrounding intercultural communication, and learn some strategies to help maximise successful communication in intercultural situations.

**NMIH204 Reflection and Practice**

Facilitation of the skills of reflection is through a structured process of critical thinking and logical argument. This subject builds on the skills related to the identification, accessing and evaluation of clinically relevant literature illuminated by exposure in clinical practice. Students are assisted to further develop the skills of personal and professional reflection. It includes: the notion of reflective professional practice; identifying, accessing and evaluating information and its relevance to practice; identification, development and refining of relevant questions; practical reasoning skills; critical analysis skills, and focusing on lines of argument.

**ECTE182 Internet Technology**

This subject introduces students to the fundamentals of computer communications. These fundamentals are then used to outline the Internet Architecture, and describe its key components. Following this, the operation of the World Wide Web (WWW) will be detailed. Topics covered include packet switching, switched networks, layered protocols, Local and Wide Area networks, WWW operation, network components (e.g routers), access technologies (e.g modems). Laboratory exercises will illustrate key computer communications concepts.

**PSYC 101 Introduction to Behavioural Science**

This subject provides an introductory overview of areas of psychological investigation, introducing students to the study of individuals and human experience. It aims to acquaint non-psychology majors with the discipline, but may also provide additional background to students intending to specialise in psychology. Topics covered include learning, cognition, motivation, emotion, personality and lifespan development. The aim of this course is to introduce the major areas of study in the science of psychology.