



PSY 399

Psychological Science: Putting Theory into Practice

S2 Day 2014

Psychology

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General Information

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Credit points
3

Prerequisites
[PSY234 and PSY235 and PSY236 and PSY246 and PSY247 and PSY248] or [(6cp from PSY234 or PSY235 or PSY236 or PSY246 or PSY247 or PSY248) and (admission to BA or BSc)]

Corequisites
3cp in PSY units at 300 level

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit encourages students to reflect on their undergraduate degree, and to integrate their knowledge from the sub-disciplines of psychology into a more holistic understanding of psychology. This unit also assists students to understand their options with a psychology degree, the standards of professional practice that will be required of them as psychologists, and pathways to higher study or employment. In order to help students gain a more practical understanding of the psychology profession, and to make informed decisions about their own future, this unit includes a mandatory 32 hour placement with an organisation that deals with issues relevant to psychology.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence

Engage with a local organization in order to learn about a significant social issue and how it is being addressed in that organisation, and to develop practical skills and knowledge

Critically evaluate a body of literature on a social issue in relation to relevant psychology sub-disciplines

Integrate and synthesise knowledge from various psychology sub-disciplines

Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities

Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate to the purpose, medium and audience

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Due |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <u>Literature Review</u> | 20% | September 5 COB |
| <u>Project Report</u> | 40% | October 20 COB |

| Name | Weighting | Due |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Final Examination | 40% | Final exam period |
| Volunteer Placement | 0% | Log book November 17 COB |
| Ethics Modules | 0% | NA |
| Reflection | 0% | NA |
| Self-Reflection writing skills | 0% | NA |

Literature Review

Due: **September 5 COB**

Weighting: **20%**

This task involves identifying a significant social issue, and integrating existing knowledge from various disciplines in psychology to understand the issue.

In this assessment task you have just 700 words to write an integrated and critical analysis that will showcase your research, integration, critical analysis and writing skills.

In this brief literature review you are required to:

a) Identify an important social issue that is yet to be adequately addressed in Australian society, and that you would ideally like to learn about during your placement (for example, domestic violence, burn out in the work place, services for those with psychotic illness, to name just a few of many possible topics);

Please note: it may not always be possible to obtain a placement directly relevant to your nominated area of interest. Nevertheless, this literature review should be in this area of interest to you.

b) Locate and critically evaluate a body of literature related to this social issue and communicate this clearly, coherently and concisely in your review. These are core skills specified by the Australian Psychological Society for graduate psychologists.

c) In the review, you must integrate literature from at least four of the following psychology sub-disciplines:

- i. Animal behaviour
- ii. Clinical psychology
- iii. Cognition
- iv. Developmental psychology
- v. Emotion
- vi. Evolutionary psychology

- vii. Health psychology
- viii. Learning and behaviour
- ix. Neuro/biopsychology
- x. Organisational psychology
- xi. Perception
- xii. Personality psychology
- xiii. Psychology of relationships
- xiv. Social psychology

d) You have just 700 words – that is around 150 words for each sub discipline and 50 words to introduce the issue and 50 words to make a conclusion. You may choose to write about each discipline separately or to integrate knowledge across disciplines as they relate to each point you make. Either way, there must be a critical evaluation of what you present and evidence that you have integrated the knowledge from the 4 disciplines into a more holistic understanding of the issue. Usually this would be easier to demonstrate by illustrating essay points with examples from a range of psychology sub-disciplines than by dealing with each sub-discipline separately.

Critical criteria in the assessment of your Literature Review and Proposal include the integration of knowledge from various psychology disciplines, synthesis of this knowledge, critical analysis of what you have read, and the clarity of the arguments put forward. These are all highly important graduate skills. The table below is a guide as to how this task will be assessed.

How your Literature Review will be assessed

The table below outlines the skills and standards which will be used to assess your work

Skills Superior Standard Satisfactory Standard Below Expected Standard

Research Skills

Locating relevant, peer-reviewed literature from reputable academic journals and relevant books, and then selecting the most pertinent material in order to address the essay question

Evidence of adequate reading from high quality sources. Provides a balanced report of research from relevant studies. Key theories and study findings directly relevant to the topic are clearly identified. Recent research is included.

Adequate source material - finds several relevant studies. Adequate reporting of recent research and research that has adequate relevance.

Limited research and reading around the topic. May use inappropriate source material e.g., opinions, non-peer reviewed material, material sourced from internet etc.

Identifying relevant theoretical issues

Are pertinent theoretical/ conceptual issues in the question clearly defined and addressed?

Discusses relevant theories/proposed explanations related to the social issue of interest. These should come from a range of psychology disciplines,. Where there are differing views on a

particular topic these are clearly articulated.

Refers to theories/proposed explanations, and demonstrates an adequate understanding of the issues. Some attempt to integrate theories from different disciplines. Adequately coherent

Theories/explanatory processes are not adequately discussed. Failure to address topic across disciplines.

Critical Evaluation of Empirical Research

The extent to which theories/explanations are supported by empirical research and methodological strengths and limitations of the studies are discussed. Does the student approach the topic in a fresh and interesting way?

Brief but adequate discussion of the strengths and limitations of studies, and identification of unanswered questions which still need to be resolved. Critical engagement is analytical and incisive. May identify ways studies could be improved and argue for a possible alternate outcome if new methodology used.

Evaluates studies using basic criteria Identifies strengths and limitations, and adequately applies these in interpreting study results and supporting the arguments being put forward.

Does not show critical discrimination in evaluating research evidence. May make sweeping criticisms that are not supported or explained adequately, or overvalue the importance of findings, or describe research in superlative terms that are undeserved.

Level of Integration, Synthesis, analysis,

Integration of research findings a) across disciplines; b) across studies; c) with relevant theories; and d) with the social issue the Literature Review focuses on

Comprehensive integration/synthesis of different theories and different research studies from several psychology disciplines with respect to how they relate to each other and to the topic.

Some attempt to synthesise/integrate information from different sources and disciplines to address the social issue of interest. Does not integrate information from different disciplines or studies. Does not make clear the relevance of the source material reported to the social issue addressed.

Writing Style and Structuring

Are issues to be addressed in the essay clearly stated? Are points/arguments a) clearly stated and b) supported by examples? Are arguments logically structured and developed? Is grammar, punctuation and paragraph structure correct? Is language appropriate to academic work?

Writing style is economical and clear; usually chooses words aptly; observes conventions of written English and academic writing in Psychology; Essay is well structured. Paragraphs logically support the developing argument with specific details and examples provided; there are smooth transitions between paragraphs, with linking sentences.

Paragraphs consist of distinct units of thought which develop the argument. Adequate clarity, grammar and succinctness, with little repetition Major issues with clarity of writing, spelling, grammar and academic conventions of presentation. Simplistic structure, wanders from one topic to the next. Ideas not arranged logically. Use of colloquial language, slang or jargon.

References

Are references complete and correct? Are they correctly formatted? Are in text references appropriately formatted? Does reference list match in text references? Are references appropriate? Are sources of high quality? Primary citations wherever possible (rather than secondary 'as cited in' citations).

Judicious choice of references and accurate and complete citations in text and reference list according to APA guidelines.

Generally conforms to APA guidelines.

Major inaccuracies, omissions with referencing, failure to conform to APA guidelines. In text references do not align with reference list.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate a body of literature on a social issue in relation to relevant psychology sub-disciplines
- Integrate and synthesise knowledge from various psychology sub-disciplines
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities
- Demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate to the purpose, medium and audience

Project Report

Due: **October 20 COB**

Weighting: **40%**

The Project Report is 1500 words in length. You have a choice of two report formats:

1. a standard project report in 5 parts:
 1. planning for the placement;
 2. development of professional skills during placement;
 3. using academic skills during placement;
 4. reflecting on undergraduate experience and the placement; and
 5. devising practical solutions to the relevant social issue.

OR

2. a *critical experience analysis* of in 5 parts

1. planning for the placement;
2. the critical experience: context, events, thoughts, feelings and actions;
3. what did you learn from the critical experience?;
4. reflecting on undergraduate experience and the critical experience at placement;
and
5. devising practical solutions to the relevant social issue.

It is understood by the unit staff that both of these report styles are different to any sort of assignment you may have done previously in your undergraduate degree. However, as already noted, this is a unit that requires a different type of learning due to its focus on professional practice and practical learning. These projects are designed to stretch your learning in ways that will assist you to be prepared for professional practice and for future endeavours with your psychology degree. Remember, these projects are equally new to ALL students in the unit, and that your undergraduate degree is designed to facilitate learning in ways that will sometimes take students out of their 'comfort zone'.

In this Project Report the student is expected to provide information on ways that they have engaged in practical learning (learning by experience) during this unit, and should indicate reflective practice, planning for a practical placement in a way that would maximise its benefit, a mental shift from insular understandings of psychological theory to understanding psychological theories as they relate to the whole person and 'real world' practice, as well as practical learning through the placement itself.

It is understood by unit staff that a small number of students may not have completed their placement by the due date for this assignment. This assignment has been designed so that it can be completed while the placement is still underway – you would simply write about your experiences up to the time of writing.

A. Standard Project Report Format

Write 1500 words under the subheadings below.

i. Planning for the placement (about 300 words)

Describe clearly the learning outcomes you planned to achieve during your 32 hour volunteer placement and your strategic plan for maximising the likelihood of meeting those goals during placement (i.e., what did you want to achieve and how did you plan to achieve it?)

ii. Development of professional skills during placement (about 300 words)

A key part of the practical placement component of the unit is the development of professional skills – knowing how to behave in a professional setting, and using that knowledge in the placement setting to facilitate appropriate professional behaviours. Describe clearly your understanding of the key components of good professional practice and briefly describe 2

incidents that occurred during your placement, during which the importance of good professional behaviour in the workplace was made clear to you (for example, during the working through of an ethical dilemma). Note any additional learning about good professional practice that was acquired during the placement.

iii. Using academic skills during placement (about 300 words)

Describe clearly and briefly the key academic skills you have developed over the course of your undergraduate degree. Describe ways in which 3 of these skills were important to your professional practice during placement.

iv. Reflecting on undergraduate experience and the placement (about 300 words)

Briefly and clearly describe the ways in which you reflected on your undergraduate degree and on your placement experience during this semester. For example, you may have set aside half an hour per week or you may have spent a half day thinking about your degree and making plans for the future. What did you reflect on? What decisions were made, and/or what did you learn as a result of your reflections?

v. Devising practical solutions (about 300 words)

With regard to (1) the integration of knowledge from at least 4 psychology sub-disciplines as they apply to a social issue dealt with in a practical way at your placement (and the learning from your earlier literature review), (2) your reflections on the same social issue, and (3) what you have learned during your placement, briefly and clearly describe one original idea of your own about how this issue could be addressed on a practical level. Include the theoretical and practical reasons it might work.

B. Critical Experience Format

This format includes two of the above sections – planning for the placement and devising a practical solution. The rest of the report will focus on a defining experience – a key aspect of your placement (something you saw or experienced or a relationship you developed) that changed your thinking and has been (or will be) crucial in defining your life direction. This report is NOT about describing a minor or major crisis on placement or some other negative event. Rather, it is about describing a part of your placement that helped define your thinking about an issue or about your future life direction. In the past, some students have interpreted this question to be simply about how they dealt with a crisis. This is a simplistic interpretation of the question. Although a crisis may or may not be part of your critical experience, the key to answering this question is to describe events or people that led to you having an ‘Aha’ moment that changed your life direction.

For the critical experience analysis, write 1500 words using these headings:

i. Planning for the placement (about 300 words)

Describe clearly the learning outcomes you planned to achieve during your 32 hour volunteer placement and your strategic plan for maximising the likelihood of meeting those goals during placement (i.e., what did you want to achieve and how did you plan to achieve it?). This section is particularly crucial in your critical experience analysis, as the defining incident you write about may have resulted in an outcome that was either congruent or incongruent with your

expectations.

ii. The critical experience: context, chain of events, your thoughts, feelings and actions (about 300 words)

This section relates to a critical experience (or relationship) that occurred during placement and was 'defining' for your life direction (**NOTE:** From here on, the term 'critical experience' will be taken to mean either *events, experiences OR relationships with a person or persons* that had a profound influence on your thinking and/or your future life direction). Begin by putting the critical experience into context. What was the placement about? What situation did the critical experience occur in? What were you thinking and feeling prior to the experience? Then describe the critical experience itself. How did it unfold? What you were thinking or feeling? If a relationship, what was it about the other person that inspired you and changed your thinking? Describe any concerns you had at the time, and any noteworthy demands on you during the experience (if any). Describe your own actions (if relevant).

iii. What did you learn from the critical experience? (about 300 words)

In this section, describe clearly and succinctly what you learned from the critical experience. The lessons from such experiences will be very different for each person, and so prescribing parameters for such a description is not appropriate. What is important in this section is to be clear, and to link what you learned to specific aspects of the critical experience. You may need to reflect at length on what you actually did learn from the critical experience in order to answer this question.

iv. Reflecting on undergraduate experience and the critical experience (about 300 words)

Very briefly describe the ways in which you reflected on your undergraduate degree and on this critical experience during this semester. For example, you may have set aside half an hour per week for thinking about your degree and your future, or you may have spent a half day reflecting on the critical experience. What did you reflect on? What decisions were made, and/or what did you learn, as a result of your reflections (you can refer to the previous section here if necessary)? A significant portion of this section should clearly explain **why**, on reflection, the critical experience was so defining for you. What decisions did you reflect on? What decisions did you make? How will the things that you have learned, and the decisions you have made, impact upon your future role as a psychology professional? There may be some aspects of your response to the critical experience or your subsequent decision-making that you feel uncomfortable about sharing. If this is the case, write that you will not be specifying these things for personal reasons, but provide enough information so that your marker can assess your reflective practice and its impact as regards the critical experience you are writing about. If you are unsure about what to write, look at the rubric on the following page to make sure you are clear about what is expected in this report, and what is expected as regards reflective practice.

v. Devising practical solutions to a social issue (about 300 words)

With regard to (1) the integration of knowledge from at least 4 psychology sub-disciplines as they apply to a social issue dealt with in a practical way at your placement (and the learning from your earlier literature review, if this aligns with your placement), (2) your reflections on the same social issue, and (3) what you have learned during your placement, briefly and clearly describe one

original idea of your own about how this issue could be addressed on a practical level. Include the theoretical and practical reasons it might work.

Skills

Superior Standard

Satisfactory Standard

Below expected Standard

Demonstrates integrated and holistic understanding of human psychology;

Applies this knowledge to 'real world' practice

Is human psychology presented in an holistic way?

Is integrated knowledge applied appropriately to examples from placements and to 'real world' social issues?

Clear integration of sub-disciplines of psychology into a holistic understanding of human psychology. Clear application of this knowledge to real world examples from the placement and to the social issue of interest to that student.

Attempts to integrate theories from sub-disciplines in psychology but may fall back to looking at one aspect of psychological functioning at the expense of others in places. Limited or some inappropriate application of this integrated knowledge to placement examples and/or 'real world' issues

Tendency to use sub-theories of psychology to explain phenomena with little attempt to integrate them into a more holistic explanation or approach. No nor little application of integrated or multiple psychological approaches to the placement examples and/or 'real world' issues. Inappropriate application of psychological theories to practical examples.

Demonstrates reflective practice

Is it clear that the student reflected on the unit, the placement, and the issues related to their social issue of interest?

Did this reflection result in any changed understandings or course of behaviour?

Describes explicitly Ideas and/or actions that stemmed directly from reflective practice. Ideas presented are clearly well thought-through and fully developed, and suggest a more holistic understanding of human psychology

Some ideas and/or actions seem to have stemmed from reflective practice. Most ideas presented are thought-through, but may not be fully developed. Some suggestion of a holistic understanding of human psychology

Ideas presented are haphazard and may not be consistent with each other. Ideas do not seem to have been well thought-through. Descriptions of psychological processes do not seem to be suggestive of a holistic approach

Demonstrates learning by experience and acquired skills through the volunteer placement

process

Is it clear that the student learnt by experience during placement?

What skills were acquired?

Each section clearly showcases what the student has learnt in the section topic area. Acquired skills are clearly evident in what the student has written.

Student demonstrates some learning in each facet written about, but these may be less clear or not fully articulated. Acquired skills are evident in what the student has written but not clearly articulated.

Student learning not evident from what was written, or is somewhat evident in some sections but not others. Acquired skills are not evident in what the student has written

Brevity and staying on topic

Is each section concisely written?

Does each section relate only to the topic area?

Are there irrelevant or unnecessary facts included?

Conveys a number of ideas in each section clearly, with a minimum of words. No redundancy (repetition) of ideas or facts. Each part of the report stays 'on topic' dealing directly and clearly with the section topic and instructions

Conveys information fairly economically but some redundancy of ideas or facts and/or too many words used to explain some concepts. Generally 'on topic' but may stray once or twice into unrelated areas

Only able to deal with a small number of ideas/facts within the word count and/or multiple redundancy of ideas or facts. Long, 'rambling' sentences. Does not clearly answer question or follow section instructions. Wanders 'off topic' more than once in a section.

Writing Style and Structuring

Are issues to be addressed in the essay clearly stated?

Are points/arguments a) clearly stated and b) supported by examples?

Are arguments logically structured and developed?

Is grammar, punctuation and paragraph structure correct?

Is language appropriate to academic work?

Writing style is economical and clear; usually chooses words aptly; observes conventions of written English and academic writing in Psychology; Essay is well structured. Paragraphs logically support the developing argument with specific details and examples provided; there are smooth transitions between paragraphs, with linking sentences.

Paragraphs consist of distinct units of thought which develop the argument. Adequate clarity, grammar and succinctness, with little repetition.

Major issues with clarity of writing, spelling, grammar and academic conventions of presentation. Simplistic structure, wanders from one topic to the next. Ideas not arranged logically. Use of colloquial language, slang or jargon.

References

Are references complete and correct?

Are they correctly formatted?

Are in text references appropriately formatted?

Does reference list match in text references?

Are references appropriate?

Are sources of high quality?

Primary citations wherever possible (rather than secondary 'as cited in' citations).

Judicious choice of references and accurate and complete citations in text and reference list according to APA guidelines.

Generally conforms to APA guidelines, but some inaccuracies. Lower quality of source references.

Major inaccuracies, omissions with referencing, failure to conform to APA guidelines. In text references do not align with reference list. Some sources for references are dubious (e.g., websites inappropriate texts), or important sources are missing.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)
- Demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate

to the purpose, medium and audience

Final Examination

Due: **Final exam period**

Weighting: **40%**

A key outcome for this unit is for students to learn and understand the various codes of ethical conduct for psychologists and allied professions, and the professional standards enshrined in the governing legislation that affects psychologists. It is also important for students to demonstrate that they have reflected on and developed their capacity to integrate information from various disciplines in psychology in the pursuit of a more holistic understanding of psychology. A significant part of this learning is done through lectures and readings, and will be tested through a final examination in the University Examination period. This examination will consist of 80 multiple choice questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge from various psychology sub-disciplines

Volunteer Placement

Due: **Log book November 17 COB**

Weighting: **0%**

This task involves engaging as a volunteer with an organisation in the wider community to find out, first hand, about a significant social issue. This task receives a grade of Complete or Incomplete but is not given a mark

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence
- Engage with a local organization in order to learn about a significant social issue and how it is being addressed in that organisation, and to develop practical skills and knowledge

Ethics Modules

Due: **NA**

Weighting: **0%**

Ethics Modules. All students are expected to undertake Ethics Module 1. This module is fully examinable but the task itself does not count towards the final grade and will give students a sense of the types of issues that may be encountered in professional practice and the sorts of ethics scenarios that might be examined later in the unit. Students undertaking placements requiring ethical clearance are expected to also complete Ethics Module II. This module does not count towards the final grade BUT completion is mandatory for ethical clearance to be obtained

for some activities

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Reflection

Due: **NA**

Weighting: **0%**

Students will be expected to spend at least 30 minutes per week (or equivalent) reflecting on their undergraduate coursework, on how the different subdisciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, and on ways that they will use their psychology major in their future endeavours. Some guidance on setting up a personal reflection time will be provided in tutorial 1.

please note that the project report has an assessed section in which students describe their personal reflection practices during the semester

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence
- Integrate and synthesise knowledge from various psychology sub-disciplines
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Self-Reflection writing skills

Due: **NA**

Weighting: **0%**

Self-Reflection on Critical Analysis and Writing Skills: Essay marking grids are provided to students in this unit guide, outlining the standards against which their Literature Review and Project Report will be assessed. Students are encouraged to examine carefully these criteria and bring any questions to tutorials, where further guidance will be given. Students will also engage with the tutors fortnightly to discuss their progress with their placement and major projects, and to receive feedback about how they are progressing, along with practical advice

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate a body of literature on a social issue in relation to relevant psychology sub-disciplines
- Integrate and synthesise knowledge from various psychology sub-disciplines

Delivery and Resources

Classes

Lectures: 1*1hour lecture each week on Thursdays, 9.00am – 10.00am, in the Macquarie Theatre.

Tutorials: 2-hour tutorial fortnightly. Students will be divided into an A and a B Stream. The A Stream will begin tutorials in the second week of semester, and the B Stream in the third week.

Tutorial Times and Rooms:

Mondays, 10.00am - noon, C5A404 (Tutor: Ms Niree Kraushaar)

Mondays, 10.00am - noon, E5A150 (Tutor: Ms Hayley Watson)

Mondays, noon - 2.00pm, C5A307 (Tutor: Ms Hayley Watson)

Mondays, 6.00pm - 8.00pm, C5A404 (Tutor: Ms Niree Kraushaar)

Tuesdays, 9.00 am - 11.00am, C4A404 (Tutor: Ms Bree Tebbutt)

Tuesdays, 10.00 am - noon, C5A310 (Tutor: Ms Niree Kraushaar)

Tuesdays, 6.00pm - 8.00pm, C5A404 (Tutor: Ms Niree Kraushaar)(Tutorial on hold)

Thursdays, 10.00am - 12noon, C4A404 (Tutor: Ms Hayley McDonald)

Thursdays, 12 noon - 2.00pm, C4A404 (Tutor: Ms Hayley McDonald)

Tutorial Attendance: There are no marks allocated for tutorial attendance, but, in line with Psychology Department policy, tutorial attendance is compulsory.

Volunteer Placement Attendance: This is compulsory. Students will be expected to facilitate and attend their volunteer placement, to keep a log book for that placement, and to perform satisfactorily as volunteers. Students who do not get a grade of satisfactory for the placement component of their course will FAIL the unit. The Volunteer Placement section of the Assessment section of this guide provides some general guidance, but detailed instructions are provided in a separate Placement Handbook. STUDENTS MUST READ THE PLACEMENT HANDBOOK CAREFULLY PRIOR TO COMMENCING THE PLACEMENT PROCESS.

Online Ethics Modules. There are 2 Online Ethics Modules – Ethics Module I and Ethics module II. Both can be found on the PSY399 iLearn website. It is mandatory for ALL students to complete Ethics Module I, which is fully examinable. Only students undertaking placements that require ethical clearance must complete Ethics Module II (this must be completed PRIOR to

undertaking those aspects of placement activities that require ethical clearance).

Managing Classes: Changes to all units can be done on-line via eStudent. After the designated last day to add units, no further changes will be allowed unless supporting documentation about the reason for changing is provided and there is space in the tutorial you wish to change into. All requests for changes after the last day to add units should be directed to the concerned tutors.

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

There is no required text for this course. However a set of readings is listed elsewhere in this unit guide, along with the lecture and tutorial schedule. Most items are available from e-journals or from websites (urls provided). Other items will be in special reserve. Only the starred readings are mandatory.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Lectures: Introduce students to material relevant to the transition from undergraduate student to psychology graduate, or to further study. As the majority of students in this unit will be moving to the workforce, the main focus of lectures will be on preparation for a profession that has at its core a psychology degree. Thus, lectures will cover areas relevant to integrating a knowledge of psychology, preparing for and applying for a psychology-based job, professional practice and ethical conduct. Readings extend rather than duplicate the lecture material, and students should be self-directed in reading and integrating readings with the lecture material. The final exam questions will test learned facts, the student's integration of ideas, and their understanding of underlying concepts.

Tutorials: Tutorials are not necessarily linked with the concurrent lecture material. They are primarily concerned with (1) guiding students through the process of producing their major projects, (2) using a 'problem-based learning' approach to examine dilemmas in professional practice, (3) providing ongoing assistance with the process of arranging and completing the practical placement, (4) providing guidance on practical skills such as knowledge integration and reflection, and (5) debriefing about placement experiences.

Placements: Students will need to develop their ability to learn from practical experience during the placement component of the unit, and will be expected to show initiative and be quite self-regulated before and during placement, and throughout the unit. Practical learning during placement will be partly assessed in the major project.

Ethics Modules: Students will learn about ethical practice and participate in solving ethical dilemmas in at least one Ethics Module. The mandatory Ethics Module (I) consists of a series of informative videos and responding to an online problem by using ethical thinking. Students undertaking a placement that requires ethical clearance will do a second module that should extend their understanding of research ethics and assist them to complete the relevant ethics paperwork.

Technologies used and required

Students will need access to broadband internet to access iLearn.

Unit Schedule

| Week, Topic, Related Text |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1: Introduction to the Unit. Dr Wayne Warburton |
| <i>No readings</i> |
| Week 2: Finding a job: Creating a CV, preparing for interviews and other practical advice for job seekers. Ms Justine McKenna |
| *See lecture notes provided on iLearn <i>No readings</i> |
| Week 3: Research Ethics at Macquarie University. Dr Michaela Baker |
| <i>Readings</i> *Ethics Module 1 |
| Week 4: Psychological literacy. A/P Judi Homewood |
| <i>Readings</i> *Cranney, J. and Dunn, D.S. (2012) The Psychologically Literate Citizen. New York, Oxford University Press: Chapter 1 Psychological Literacy and the Psychologically Literate Citizen (pp. 3-12). Library call number BF77 .P754 2012 (Also in e-reserve) |
| Week 5: Pathways to registration; Masters/professional programs; Career opportunities in psychology. Dr John Franklin |
| *See lecture notes provided on iLearn <i>Readings</i> 1. Psychology Board of Australia. 4+2 internship for registration guidelines http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Codes-Guidelines-Policies.aspx |
| Week 6: Case Study 3: Driver Behaviour. Dr Julia Irwin |
| <i>Readings</i> *Hole, G. (2007). <i>The Psychology of driving</i> . Hove: Lawrence Erlbaum. Chapter 5: Driving and the perception of risk. This reading is in e-reserve. |
| Week 7: Integrating psychology disciplines. Case Study 1: Aggressive Behaviour. Dr Wayne Warburton Integrating psychology disciplines. |

Readings

- *1. Anderson, C. A., & Bushman, B. J. (2002). Human Aggression. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 53, 27-51.
2. Raine, A. (2008). From genes to brain to antisocial behavior. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 17, 323-328.
3. Huesmann, L. R., Dubow, E. F., & Boxer, P. (2009). Continuity of aggression from childhood to early adulthood as a predictor of life outcomes: Implications for the adolescent-limited and life-course-persistent models. *Aggressive Behavior*, 35, 136-149.
4. Jockin, V., Arvey, R. D., & McGue, M. (2001). Perceived victimisation moderates self-reports of workplace and aggression and conflict. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 86, 1262-1269.

Week 8: Integrating psychology disciplines. Case Study 2: Mass media influences. Dr Wayne Warburton

Readings

- *1. Krahé, B., Berkowitz, L., Brockmeyer, J. H., Bushman, B. J., Coyne, S. M., Dill, K. E., Donnerstein, E., Gentile, D. A., Huesmann, L. R., Kirsch, S. J., Möller, I., & Warburton, W. A. (2012). Report of the Media Violence Commission. *Aggressive Behavior*, 38, 335-341.
2. Anderson, C. A., Berkowitz, L., Donnerstein, E., Huesmann, L. R., Johnson, J., Linz, D., Malamuth, N., & Wartella, E. (2003). The influence of media violence on youth. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, 4, 81-110.
3. Murray, J. P., Liotti, M., Ingmundson, P., Mayberg, H. S., Pu, Y., Zamarripa, F., Liu, Y., Woldorff, M., Gao, J. H., & Fox, P. T. (2006). Children's brain activations while viewing televised violence revealed by (fMRI). *Media Psychology*, 8, 25-37.
4. Anderson, C. A., Shibuya, A., Ihori, N., Swing, E. L., Bushman, B. J., Sakamoto, A., Rothstein, H. R., & Saleem, M. (2010). Violent video game effects on aggression, empathy, and prosocial behavior in Eastern and Western countries. *Psychological Bulletin*, 136, 151-173.
5. Warburton, W. A., & Braunstein, D. (2012). *Growing up fast and furious: Reviewing the impact of violent and sexualized media on children*. Sydney: The Federation Press. Available at <http://www.coop-bookshop.com.au/bookshop/show/9781862878235>

Week 9 Professional organisations. Special Guest from the APS – Ms Katherine Johnson

***APS presentation will be uploaded to iLearn**

No Readings

Week 10: Professional organizations and accreditation. National Practice Standards, and professional behaviour in psychology. Dr Wayne Warburton

Readings

- *1. *Australian Psychological Society Code of Ethics*, as adopted 2007. Available from: <http://www.psychology.org.au/about/ethics/#s1>
2. The Counsellors' and Psychotherapists' Association of NSW (CAPA) Code of Ethics and Good Practice. Available from: <http://www.capa.asn.au/files/CAPAGoodPractice.pdf>
- *3. National Practice Standards for the Mental Health Workforce. Available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mental-pubs-n-workstds>

Week 11: Legislation: The Mental Health Act [2007], Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act [2009], Privacy, Human Rights, Discrimination laws. Dr Warburton

Readings

1. NSW Mental health Act 2007. Available from

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/num_act/mha2007n8155.pdf

2. Guide to the NSW Mental Health ACT 2007.

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mhdao/publications/Publications/pub-act-2007-guide.pdf>

3. Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Psychology Board of Australia. Codes and guidelines

3a – Mandatory Reporting Guidelines

3b - Area of Practice Endorsement Guidelines. Both are at:

<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Codes-Guidelines-Policies.aspx>

4. Federal Privacy Act [1988]. <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A03712>

Quick reference tool for the 13 Privacy Principles at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/privacy-resources/privacy-guides/app-quick-reference-tool>

Information sheets at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/privacy-resources/privacy-fact-sheets/>

6. Human rights, discrimination, equal opportunity resources at <http://www.hreoc.gov.au/>

Week 12: Tips for graduates looking for a new job in psychology. Ms Liz Moore.

***See notes provided on iLearn**

No Readings

Week 13: Professional development: Self care in a high burnout profession and maintaining professional competence. Dr Wayne Warburton

Readings

*1. Psychology Board of Australia. Continuing professional development guidelines

<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Codes-Guidelines-Policies.aspx>

*** Mandatory Readings – you need to study these for the final exam**

Note: Unstarred readings are not mandatory and thus not examinable BUT they will be helpful for students wishing to extend their understanding of the subject matter. It is expected that

students read widely for this unit and reflect on what they have read.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Detailed Assessment Information and Procedures

Volunteer Placement

Students will be expected to undertake a 32 hour volunteer placement. This is described in detail in the PSY399 Student Placement Guide, which can be downloaded from the PSY399 iLearn website and from the Faculty PACE website at: www.humansciences.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/pace.

IT IS CRUCIAL THAT STUDENTS DOWNLOAD THIS GUIDE AND READ IT **VERY CAREFULLY**. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD MEAN MAKING AN ERROR THAT RESULTS IN **FAILING THE COURSE** DUE TO NON-COMPLETION OF THE PLACEMENT.

In the guide you will note that there are a lot of warnings about following instructions properly and behaving well on placement, so it is important to also point out that most students will find their placement a very valuable experience. Last year we surveyed all available PSY399 students, and it was reported back that the placement was the part of the course most enjoyed by students and found most valuable by students. A number of students were offered full time employment, and number found the experience crucial in determining their future life direction. The students who got the most out of the placement were those who engaged with it the most. Our advice is to throw yourself into the placement, engage with it fully, and to give yourself the greatest possible chance of reaping all of the benefits that a placement can provide.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence
- Engage with a local organization in order to learn about a significant social issue and how it is being addressed in that organisation, and to develop practical skills and knowledge
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Assessment tasks

- Project Report
- Final Examination
- Volunteer Placement
- Ethics Modules
- Reflection

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to

professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Assessment tasks

- Project Report
- Reflection

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence
- Critically evaluate a body of literature on a social issue in relation to relevant psychology sub-disciplines
- Integrate and synthesise knowledge from various psychology sub-disciplines
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Assessment tasks

- Project Report
- Final Examination
- Reflection

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically evaluate a body of literature on a social issue in relation to relevant psychology sub-disciplines
- Integrate and synthesise knowledge from various psychology sub-disciplines
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Assessment tasks

- Literature Review
- Project Report
- Final Examination
- Reflection
- Self-Reflection writing skills

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence
- Critically evaluate a body of literature on a social issue in relation to relevant psychology sub-disciplines
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities

Assessment tasks

- Literature Review
- Project Report
- Volunteer Placement

- Reflection

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities

Assessment tasks

- Project Report
- Reflection

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Engage with a local organization in order to learn about a significant social issue and how it is being addressed in that organisation, and to develop practical skills and knowledge
- Critically evaluate a body of literature on a social issue in relation to relevant psychology sub-disciplines
- Demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate to the purpose, medium and audience

Assessment tasks

- Project Report
- Volunteer Placement

- Self-Reflection writing skills

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence
- Engage with a local organization in order to learn about a significant social issue and how it is being addressed in that organisation, and to develop practical skills and knowledge
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Assessment tasks

- Project Report
- Volunteer Placement
- Ethics Modules
- Reflection

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence

- Engage with a local organization in order to learn about a significant social issue and how it is being addressed in that organisation, and to develop practical skills and knowledge
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement)

Assessment tasks

- Project Report
- Volunteer Placement
- Ethics Modules
- Reflection

Changes from Previous Offering

What has changed? The four most important changes to curriculum are: 1. An upgraded software package will be used for matching students with placements. This should match almost all students with a preferred placement; 2. Two additional types of placements have been offered in 2014 - overseas placements with PACE International and early starting placements with selected placement partners. 3. There are less mandatory readings and the project report has been changed to have clearer instructions on how to report a critical experience 4. The various guides (Unit Guide, Student Placement Guide, iParticipate Guide etc.) have been upgraded for clarity. Students should also note that this year the lecture is at a different time and in a different place to last year. In addition the tutorial rooms have changed, as have the tutorial times.

Changes since First Published

| Date | Description |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28/07/2014 | I have removed one staff member, added one staff member and updated details for another staff member who now has a staff number. I have also updated the readings. |
| 05/05/2014 | The Prerequisites was updated. |

| Date | Description |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 16/ 01/ 2014 | The Prerequisites and Corequisites were updated. |