PSY 934

Dissertation

S1 Day 2016

Department of Psychology

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**General Information**

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Maria Kangas
maria.kangas@mq.edu.au

Credit points
8

Prerequisites
Admission to MClinPsych and PSY933

Corequisites

Co-badged status
PSY934 FY

Unit description
This unit involves the conduct of research appropriate to the discipline of clinical psychology, and requires the submission of a piece of research in the form of a journal article, usually of around 5000–8000 words plus a literature review in the form of a critical review paper. This work and the literature review started in PSY933 are submitted together for external marking.

**Important Academic Dates**
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/](http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/)

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Conducting critical evaluations of theories and empirical studies for a particular population/ topic relevant to clinical psychology.
2. Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
3. Writing a literature review in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.
4. Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

**Assessment Tasks**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>50%</td>
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http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/58691/unit_guide/print
Literature Review

Due: 17th June 2016  
Weighting: 50%

PSY934 consists of two main pieces of work submitted together in binded thesis:

1. The Literature Review paper
2. The Empirical journal paper

• The Literature Review must involve a critical appraisal of a specific topic area relevant to clinical psychology.

The Literature Review can be closely related to; and can be used in the formulation of the Empirical Journal Article, however the introduction section of the empirical paper should not be a simple cut and paste job of select paragraphs from the Literature Review paper.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Conducting critical evaluations of theories and empirical studies for a particular population/ topic relevant to clinical psychology.
• Writing a literature review in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

Empirical paper

Due: 17th June 2016  
Weighting: 50%

PSY934 consists of two main pieces of work submitted together in binded thesis:

1. The Literature Review paper
2. The Empirical journal paper

The Literature Review can be closely related to; and can be used in the formulation of the Empirical Journal Article, however the introduction section of the empirical paper should not be a simple cut and paste job of select paragraphs from the Literature Review paper.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Conducting critical evaluations of theories and empirical studies for a particular population/ topic relevant to clinical psychology.
• Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
• Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

**Delivery and Resources**

Students will be required to find a Supervisor from a member of staff from the Department of Psychology who agrees to supervise their dissertation work by mid-Session 1 (of enrolling in prerequisite unit for PSY933). The supervisor will assist the student to complete the requirements of this unit as well as unit PSY934.

For Unit PSY934 there are no seminars as students are required to receive regular supervision from their nominated supervisor.

**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:


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/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).
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 Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities
PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills
Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes
- Conducting critical evaluations of theories and empirical studies for a particular population/ topic relevant to clinical psychology.
- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
- Writing a literature review in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.
• Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

Assessment tasks
• Literature Review
• Empirical paper

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking
Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes
• Conducting critical evaluations of theories and empirical studies for a particular population/ topic relevant to clinical psychology.
• Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
• Writing a literature review in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.
• Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

Assessment tasks
• Literature Review
• Empirical paper

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability
Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes
• Conducting critical evaluations of theories and empirical studies for a particular population/ topic relevant to clinical psychology.
• Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
• Writing a literature review in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.
• Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

Assessment tasks
• Literature Review
• Empirical paper

PG - Effective Communication
Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes
• Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
• Writing a literature review in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.
• Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

Assessment tasks
• Literature Review
• Empirical paper

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens
Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome
• Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.

Assessment task
• Empirical paper
PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.

**Assessment task**

- Empirical paper