



PSYC8987

Child and Adult Psychopathology 1

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Psychological Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Lecturer

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Contact via Dialogue Forum on iLearn site for this unit

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MCLinPsych

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this Unit, you will develop conceptual and diagnostic understanding of the mental disorders contained within the DSM-5's categories of depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma- and stressor-related disorders, and the obsessive-compulsive and related disorders. We will discuss the evidence (or lack of evidence) for these disorders and their existing theoretical models of the DSM, its applications, cultural and ethical considerations, and alternative approaches to classification and differential diagnosis. You will also be introduced to evidence-based frameworks of case formulation. A lifespan approach will be taken, by exploring potential variations in mental disorders in childhood, adulthood, and later life. You will also be provided with an overview of the biological basis of and pharmacotherapies for ADHD/ASD, anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, substance-related and addictive disorders, and for schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders.

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:

ULO1: Recognise, differentially diagnose, and assess DSM disorders, taking into account an individual's context. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

ULO2: Identify risk factors, protective factors, and appropriate theories and models underlying a disorder and for guiding its culturally responsive assessment and treatment in different settings. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner; Capability 3: Engaged global citizen)

ULO3: Apply the DSM, recognising some of its strengths and limitations. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar; Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

ULO4: Demonstrate understanding of the neuroscience and pharmacology of common mental disorders. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

ULO5: Critically integrate scientific findings into culturally informed case formulations and treatment planning, including conducting a suicide and risk assessment and mandatory reporting in line with regulatory frameworks. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar; Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task, including due dates/times, will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration. **No further submissions will be accepted after the marked assignments are returned and feedback is released to students.**

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Suicide and Risk Assessment Quiz	30%	Yes	17/03/2025

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
In-class test	30%	Yes	25/03/2025
Psychopathology practice-based task	40%	No	02/06/2025

Suicide and Risk Assessment Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **17/03/2025**

Weighting: **30%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

You will complete a quiz assessing suicide risk and mandatory reporting in professional practice. The assessment is a hurdle as it relates to key competencies required for clinical practice related to registration with AHPRA.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically integrate scientific findings into culturally informed case formulations and treatment planning, including conducting a suicide and risk assessment and mandatory reporting in line with regulatory frameworks. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar; Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

In-class test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **25/03/2025**

Weighting: **30%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

You will complete a multiple-choice test. The assessment is a hurdle as it relates to key competencies required for clinical practice related to registration with AHPRA.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the neuroscience and pharmacology of common mental

disorders. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

Psychopathology practice-based task

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **02/06/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

You will present a clinical case formulation that takes into account scientific research findings and culturally informed differential diagnostic considerations.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise, differentially diagnose, and assess DSM disorders, taking into account an individual's context. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Identify risk factors, protective factors, and appropriate theories and models underlying a disorder and for guiding its culturally responsive assessment and treatment in different settings. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner; Capability 3: Engaged global citizen)
- Apply the DSM, recognising some of its strengths and limitations. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar; Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Demonstrate understanding of the neuroscience and pharmacology of common mental disorders. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Critically integrate scientific findings into culturally informed case formulations and treatment planning, including conducting a suicide and risk assessment and mandatory reporting in line with regulatory frameworks. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar; Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online and face-to-face learning

activities, including readings, online modules, videos, practical skill demonstrations and seminars. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Required Readings

The DSM-5-TR (APA, 2022) is required for this unit. A hard copy is recommended given this book is required for the career; however, online copies can be accessed through the library.

All other recommended and required readings can also be found on Leganto and on the iLearn site for this unit.

Technology Used

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device, and consistent access to the Internet. This technology will enable you to access this unit's iLearn page. iLearn is required for the following:

- Up-to-date information about the unit
- Leganto link for unit readings
- assessment information
- online quiz
- online submission of the practice-based task assessment
- communication with unit staff and fellow classmates

Students are expected to bring their tablet/laptops to class with them. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library.

Unit Schedule

This Unit integrates science, theory, and critical thinking as the foundation for practice, and integrates this foundation into learning about mood, trauma, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive and related disorders.

Students are required to prepare for seminars by completing assigned readings (journal articles & DSM) and/or other material (e.g., videos, modules, etc.) available via iLearn and Leganto in advance, as well as by developing their own hypothetical cases that reflect the symptoms, theories, and research covered during this unit. Active engagement during and after class is also essential.

Please see iLearn for the weekly schedule.

Policies and Procedures

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

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)

- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)

- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Inclusion & Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)