PSYC3020 – Applications of Psychological Science

Unit of Study Code: PSYC3020

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Format of Unit:
2 x 1 hour lectures/week x 13 weeks
1 x 2 hour tutorial/week x 10 weeks

Credit Point Value: 6 Credit Points

Prerequisites:
Students must have completed 12 credits points in Junior Psychology and 12 credit points in Intermediate Psychology

Assessment:

Classwork:

Tutorial Quizzes. 5 tutorial quizzes, each worth 4% of the total marks for this unit of study (together worth 20% of total mark). See tutorial outline for dates. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will assess the following information:
Quiz #1: Weeks 1-2 Organisational Psychology lectures, tutorials & book chapters
Quiz #2: Weeks 3-5 Forensic Psychology lectures, tutorials & book chapters
Quiz #3: Weeks 6-8 Health Psychology lectures, tutorials & book chapters
Quiz #4: Weeks 9-10 Health Psychology lectures, tutorials & book chapters
Quiz #5: Weeks 11-12 Health Psychology lectures, tutorials & book chapters

Essay. In addition, as part of the course requirement, students will write a 2,000 word essay (worth 30% of total mark). The essay is due on 22nd September 2014 at 4pm.

Examination:
A 2 hour examination, consisting of short-answer and multiple choice questions, is worth 50% of the total marks for this unit of study. The examination will cover material from the lectures, tutorials, and textbook.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Quiz</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Week 3 Tutorial</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Week 6 Tutorial</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>Tutorial Quiz</td>
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<td>Week 9 Tutorial</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment (2200 word Essay)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4pm Mon 22nd September</td>
<td>&quot;4pm Oqp&quot; 42th October,</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Week 11 Tutorial</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
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<td>Week 13 Tutorial</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>During exam period at the end of semester</td>
<td>University Final Results Release date</td>
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**Total** 100%

Completion of compulsory components is necessary to pass this unit. Students who fail to do so will receive an Absent Fail regardless of their final overall mark. **Essay submissions will NOT be accepted after this time.**

It is very important that you read the general administrative guidelines for submission of written work, penalties for late work, assessment criteria, procedures for applying for extensions and special consideration in the Undergraduate Student Guide – available on the e-learning site as well as here:


Also, students who apply for and are granted either special arrangements or special consideration for examinations in units offered by the Faculty of Science will be expected to sit any replacement assessments in the two weeks immediately following the end of the formal examination period. Later dates for replacement assessments may be considered where the application is supported by appropriate documentation and provided that adequate resources are available to accommodate any later date.
Essay Questions:
Students are asked to answer the following research question:

There is an increasing commercial imperative for organisations to more completely provide gender equitable employment opportunities to a larger proportion of the community. During this course we discuss a number of factors that are relevant to this issue. Your task is to critically consider these issues in relation to the following assignment question:

As an organisational psychologist you have been tasked by your CEO to write a “white-paper” policy document to present to his board. It should inform the board of three identified factors: 1) motivational determinants, 2) decision making biases in selection and training and 3) leadership issues, and how together they relate to work-life balance in what the CEO has labelled as the “gender problem”.

The policy document should be presented as a critical piece of written work in APA format. It must clearly state the CEO's core problem (as understood in the literature), concisely define and summarise the important psychological constructs as they relate to the 3 identified factors, how these factors interact (or not) with each other, and how together they determine important work-related outcomes. The aim is for you to present a document with a coherent set of arguments that lead toward a proposal of no more than 4 evidence-based recommendations to address the CEO’s problem. Your white paper will be evaluated on the coherence and accuracy of the information presented, and the alignment between the arguments for your case and the recommendations provided. It should have a professional tone and not be emotive. The document should be no longer than 2,000 words excluding Reference List, and any Tables and Figures, but including in-text references and an Abstract of no more than 150 words. All evidence presented must be appropriately referenced following APA guidelines. There is no room for personal anecdotes.

See http://www.siop.org/WhitePapers/default.aspx for examples of white papers presented by Organisational Psychologists (academics)

Lectures:

Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard, and echo360 will be used to record the lectures. However, we strongly encourage you to attend all lectures.

Tutorials:

Tutorials are an essential and compulsory part of this course, and therefore your attention is drawn to the following:

1. **Your tutorial time.** You must attend the tutorial to which you have been allocated. It will not be possible to switch or change tutorial classes once allocations are finalised. Be aware that late enrolments have fewer choices of times, and students may not be able to sign up for the time of choice.
2. **Tutorial attendance.** Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of every tutorial class.
3. **Missing tutorials.** Inadequate attendance (less than 80%) may result in failure to pass the course.
4. **Tutorial content.** Due to the nature of class, some topics that will be covered may make you feel uncomfortable or uneasy (e.g., descriptions of crimes, discussions and death and dying). If this is the case it is important that you contact the course coordinator, or another member of the team as soon as possible to discuss this with them. You are not required to share confidential information with us if you don’t wish to however, as the content of the tutorials is examinable it is important for you that we can assign you a comparable reading and study materials. If you attend the tutorial but at any point you feel uncomfortable, you are free to leave the tutorial, after indicating this to your tutor. However you should contact one of the lecturing staff afterwards, who will be happy to assign you comparable readings and study materials.

Text:

A custom textbook will be created for this unit of study which includes the following:


**Recommended Reading:**


**Unit of study general description:**

The aim of this unit is to introduce students to various ways in which psychological theory and research can be applied in the real world. In particular, the main focus will be on Health Psychology, Forensic Psychology, and Organisational Psychology. The Health Psychology component of this course includes investigation into why we engage in risky health behaviours including smoking, overeating and alcohol use; inequalities in health including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health; dealing with chronic illness including death & dying, and survivorship. The Forensic Psychology component of the course includes investigation into lie detection, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and eyewitness memory. The Organisational Psychology component of the course will focus on personnel selection, training in organisations, performance measurement, workplace motivation, and leadership.

**Graduate Attributes for Applications in Psychological Science (PSYC3020)**

This course is structured around the graduate attributes associated with the scientist-practitioner model, the basis for the training of psychologists in Australia and internationally. Graduate Attributes are the generic skills, abilities and qualities that students should acquire during their university experience and the School of Psychology is committed to providing an environment to promote these skills. In addition, this unit of study will provide students with generalised and transferable skills that will also be useful in careers outside psychology.

The following graduate attributes will be developed through lectures, tutorials and assessment activities:

**Graduate Attribute 1: Core Knowledge and Understanding of Applied Psychology**

Students will acquire an understanding of core topics in the discipline (and how they can be applied in organisational, forensic, and/or health settings). Knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends will be assessed in the quizzes and final exam. Key core topics include:

i. abnormal psychology
ii. biological bases of behaviour
iii. cognition, information processing and language
iv. learning
v. motivation and emotion
vi. social psychology
vii. history and philosophy or psychology
viii. intercultural diversity and indigenous psychology

**Graduate Attribute 2: Research Methods in Psychology**

Students will understand, apply, and evaluate basic research methods in psychology. Knowledge and understanding of research design, data analysis (including qualitative and quantitative methods), and data interpretation will be assessed in the quizzes and final exam.

**Graduate Attribute 3: Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will apply knowledge of the scientific method in thinking about problems related to behaviour and mental processes. Students will learn to evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence
from speculation. They will use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend, and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals. Critical thinking skills will be assessed in the essay and the short answer component of the final exam.

**Graduate Attribute 4: Values, research, and professional ethics**

Students will use information in an ethical manner (e.g., acknowledge and respect the work and intellectual property rights of others through appropriate citations in oral and written communication). This will be assessed in the essay.

**Graduate Attribute 5: Communication Skills**

Students will demonstrate effective written communication using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions. This will be assessed in the essay. Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills in various formats (e.g., group discussion, presentation, tutorial activities) and for various purposes (e.g., interviewing in organisational, forensic, and health settings). Oral communication skills will not be assessed.

**Graduate Attribute 6: Learning and the Application of Psychology**

Students will be able to describe major areas of Applied Psychology (i.e., organisational, forensic, and health psychology). They will be able to understand and apply psychological principles to personal and social issues. For example, they will be able to apply knowledge of psychology, society, and the workplace/influencing systems. They will be able to apply knowledge of consumer and carer participation in psychological care. Learning and the application of psychology will be assessed in the quizzes, essay, and exam.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this unit of study students will be able to:

i. Describe and critically evaluate key empirical studies and theories in Forensic Psychology including:
   - Theories of crime
   - Treatment and assessment of offenders
   - Detection of deception
   - Eyewitness memory
   - Police selection, discretion, and stress
   - Victims of crime

ii. Describe and critically evaluate key empirical studies and theories in Organisational Psychology including:
   - Job analysis
   - Selection
   - Training
   - Leadership and teamwork
   - Job performance and satisfaction

iii. Define health within a biopsychosocial framework

iv. Describe and critically evaluate the key models and theories in Health Psychology

v. Define qualitative research and distinguish between main qualitative approaches

vi. Describe the application of psychological theory and research to:
   - Health behaviours
   - Illness
   - Preparation for hospitalization
   - The management of adverse psychological sequelae arising from illness/treatment/hospitalization
   - Health risk and health enhancing behaviours

vii. Discuss inequalities in health, including SES inequalities and ATSI

viii. Describe sociocultural, psychosocial and systemic factors which impact illness/treatment outcomes

ix. Describe the psychosocial and sociocultural factors that influence the experience of illness amongst patients and their families.

x. Describe the role of doctor-patient-family communication in influencing illness outcomes

**Evidence of learning:**
The quality of students’ performance in tutorial quizzes and practical exercises, in a written assignment, and in examinations will be taken as evidence of learning.
Student feedback is very important to us and we do our best to incorporate student evaluations into our teaching and unit coordination. For example, we originally didn’t record our lectures using Lectopia, however we responded to student feedback and implemented the recording system. On Unit of Study Evaluations this has resulted in 28% more students agreeing that computer-based resources helped their learning. We have also changed the tutorial content quite extensively to achieve better evaluations. We have added four new tutorials and provided tutors with extensive instructions using a comprehensive tutor manual that we revise and refine each year. On Unit of Study Evaluations this has resulted in 33% more students agreeing that tutorials are worthwhile. These changes that we have made, among others, have been very popular and consequently overall satisfaction with the quality of the unit has increased substantially.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Lecture Title</th>
<th>Chapter in custom textbook</th>
<th>Tutorial Topic</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>29/07/14</td>
<td>Damian</td>
<td>Introduction/ What is Organisational Psychology?</td>
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<td>Damian</td>
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<td>Career Values and Decision Making</td>
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<td>Celine</td>
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<td>Celine</td>
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<td>Catalina</td>
<td>What is health? What is Health Psychology?</td>
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<td>QUIZ #2: Forensic (Weeks 3-5)</td>
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<td>Rebecca</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Catalina</td>
<td>Risk behaviour and health enhancing behaviours: Moving Towards Intervention</td>
<td>Chapter 3, 4, 6, 7</td>
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<td>Managing stress; Stress and illness moderators</td>
<td>Chapter 11, 12, 13</td>
<td>Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islanders’ health and welfare</td>
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<td>Being ill: Adjustment to illness</td>
<td>Chapter 9, 10</td>
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<td>Pain</td>
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<td>Chapter 10</td>
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