



UNSW Course Outline

PSYC1001 Psychology 1A - 2024

Published on the 30 Jan 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC1001

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Science

Academic Unit : School of Psychology

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course introduces the key concepts, theories and methods which underpin psychology as a science. It begins by reviewing historical and scientific foundations for the study of human behaviour. Lectures and tutorials then cover a series of key research topics in psychology, including development, social, emotional, and cultural influences on behaviour, theories of personality and application of psychology to health and wellbeing. Through interactive tutorials, online activities, research participation and written assessments, the course aims to train students in psychological research methods, developing research questions, and critically evaluating research.

There is no assumed knowledge, and the course is suitable for any UNSW undergraduates with an interest in contemporary psychology, behavioral science research methods and the important role of psychological science in modern society.

Course Aims

This course aims to provide a broad perspective on scientific approaches to studying psychology. Each topic is delivered by a different lecturer, including world-leading researchers in the topic that is being presented. This structure aims to provide students with insight into the different methods, scientific traditions and motivations driving modern psychological science.

The written coursework, research participation, tutorials and online activities are designed to:

- (i) Help you understand how empirical approaches can be used to ask questions about how our minds work;
- (ii) Critically evaluate psychological research in terms of its scientific value, and research ethics;
- (iii) Develop analytic and creative skills that are necessary to carry out novel scientific research;
- (iv) Provide students with perspectives on how basic understanding of psychological processes can be applied to benefit society.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major topics in psychology.
CL02 : Carry out effective targeted information searches;
CL03 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics;
CL04 : Formulate psychological research questions and propose ways to scientifically and ethically test these questions.
CL05 : Apply psychological research, theories, and principles to everyday life.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major topics in psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological Research in Action • Final Examination
CL02 : Carry out effective targeted information searches;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a research rationale
CL03 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological Research in Action • Building a research rationale • Final Examination
CL04 : Formulate psychological research questions and propose ways to scientifically and ethically test these questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological Research in Action • Building a research rationale
CL05 : Apply psychological research, theories, and principles to everyday life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Examination • Psychological Research in Action • Building a research rationale

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

Lectures

The aim of the lectures is to give you the opportunity to learn about the content, issues, and theories in the major topic areas of modern psychology. Psychology 1A covers the following topics: Psychological and Clinical Perspectives; Developmental Psychology; Social Psychology; Personality, individual differences and their measurement; Emotion and Motivation; Health Psychology; Cultural Psychology.

Each topic will be given by either one or two different lecturers, so that you will have the benefit of their different specialised interests and knowledge. Lecturers will often present several different theories about the same body of data. We hope you will find this diversity both challenging and exciting. It reflects the dynamic nature of scientific understanding in psychology, and means there should be something of interest to every student who is curious about how the mind works.

Tutorials

Psychology 1A tutorials have two main roles. Firstly, they are an opportunity for you to engage with your tutor and other students in a more interactive form of learning than is often possible in lectures. Secondly, they ground psychological theory in practical demonstrations. In tutorial classes you will reflect on your experience participating in research, collaborate on conducting simplified experiments and other interactive class activities. Interactive discussion will also be encouraged. Although the tutorials are related to the lecture component, many tutorials will also contain independent research-related material.

Self-guided study

Online activities, including interactive modules and revision quizzes are available and should be completed on a regular basis, to allow students to evaluate their understanding of course material.

The recommended course textbook supplements the lecture, tutorial and online material. Independent study using the textbook will enrich student's understanding of the topics covered on the course and provide a more rounded understanding of links between different areas of psychology.

School Policies

The School of Psychology Student Guide (available on the Course Moodle page) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct

- Student complaints and grievances
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide

Additional Course Information

Students are expected to be aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

Students are expected to have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide (available on the course Moodle page).

Students are expected to check Moodle and their student emails regularly. All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email.

The final exam for this course will take place during the UNSW examinations period. Students should not arrange travel or make other arrangements during the UNSW exam period until the date of the final exam has been released. Students who arrange travel prior to the release of the final exam date will not be granted consideration in the event they are scheduled to be out of country when the final exam is to occur. This is especially important for study abroad students – do not arrange travel home until the final exam date has been released.

You must attend the tutorial in which you are enrolled for the duration of the session. You are not allowed to change tutorials once enrolments have closed. Attendance at tutorials is a necessary part of the course and tutorial content is examinable. Attendance at tutorials is also essential in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure. Additionally, it is the University policy that students who attend less than 80% of their possible classes may be refused final assessment or may not be issued with a final grade for the course. If you are unable to attend your scheduled tutorial in a given week for medical reasons retain a copy of your medical certificate (if available) and contact the Course Administrator on d.chen@unsw.edu.au. Where possible, material from the tutorial will be published on Moodle for revision purposes.

There are strict University regulations on class sizes so it is not permissible to simply attend an alternative tutorial, without first getting approval by contacting the Course Administrator. You should not attend alternative tutorials other than in exceptional circumstances and with approval,

as it could significantly impact your assessment. If you are enrolled in a tutorial that is affected by a public holiday, you will be informed of alternative arrangements that will be made for the affected tutorial.

Unless specifically identified as being voluntary, all class work set during a course must be completed. Because the assignments are designed to assess key student learning outcomes of the course, as stipulated by the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC), failure to complete one of these may result in performance below that required for accreditation, and you may be refused admission to other Psychology courses.

Students registered with Equitable Learning Services must contact the course coordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Psychological Research in Action Assessment Format: Individual	8%	Start Date: Week 1 Due Date: Week 5 (Part B), Week 10 (Part A)
Building a research rationale Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Start Date: Week 1 (Part A) and Week 2 (Parts B and C) Due Date: Week 3 (Part A), Week 4 (Part B), Week 8 (Part C)
Final Examination Assessment Format: Individual	42%	Start Date: Exam period Due Date: Exam period

Assessment Details

Psychological Research in Action

Assessment Overview

The Psychological Research in Action Assessment consists of 2 parts – Part A:SONA Research Participation, and Part B: Research Discussion

Part A requires you to participate in psychological research within the School for up to 12 participation hours. 4 hours of research participation are compulsory (4% course credit for 4 SONA points) and up to 8 hours are optional (up to 4% bonus credit @ 0.5% per SONA point).

Part A is due in Week 10.

Part B is the the Research Discussion task, which aims to get you thinking about designing and justifying psychological research, which in turn will prepare you for the Building a Research Rationale (Assessment 2).

For this task, you will be required to attend your scheduled tutorial in Week 5, and to discuss a research study design, with reference to your SONA research participation experience (you will be given detailed instructions by your tutor). You will be eligible for up to 4% course credit for participating in and contributing to the tutorial, based on peer evaluation, and contingent on submitting your own peer feedback.

Further instructions for the task will be made available on Moodle in Week 1.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major topics in psychology.
- CLO3 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics;
- CLO4 : Formulate psychological research questions and propose ways to scientifically and ethically test these questions.
- CLO5 : Apply psychological research, theories, and principles to everyday life.

Detailed Assessment Description

The Psychological Research in Action Assessment consists of 2 parts – Part A:SONA Research Participation, and Part B: Research Discussion

Part A requires you to participate in psychological research within the School for up to 12 participation hours. 4 hours of research participation are compulsory (4% course credit for 4 SONA points) and up to 8 hours are optional (up to 4% bonus credit @ 0.5% per SONA point). Part A is due in Week 10.

Part B is the the Research Discussion task, which aims to get you thinking about designing and justifying psychological research, which in turn will prepare you for the Building a Research Rationale (Assessment 2).

For this task, you will be required to attend your scheduled tutorial in Week 5, and to discuss a research study design, with reference to your SONA research participation experience (you will be given detailed instructions by your tutor). You will be eligible for up to 4% course credit for participating in and contributing to the tutorial, based on peer evaluation, and contingent on submitting your own peer feedback.

Further instructions for the task will be made available on Moodle in Week 1.

Submission notes

Submission instructions will be made available on Moodle

Building a research rationale

Assessment Overview

The Building a Research Rationale assessment consists of 3 parts. Part A: Research Skills Modules (3%); Part B: Research Summary Task (7%) and Part C: Research Proposal (40%). The assessment is structured so that earlier parts develop the skills required in later parts.

Assessment 2 Part A: Research Skills Modules (3%)

This section requires completing 3 online interactive modules: 1) Academic Integrity and APA referencing 2) Writing in Psychology and 3) Psychology in the Media.

Together, the modules develop your understanding of academic integrity, information literacy, critical thinking, and written communication skills, all of which are necessary to successfully complete Parts B and C (below). All modules will be available on Moodle from Week 1. You must complete all 3 modules to be awarded the 3% credit. It is your responsibility to ensure that each module is recorded as complete on Moodle. Part A is due in Week 3.

Assessment 2 Part B: Research Summary Task (7%)

In this task you will conduct a targeted information search to locate an academic article, which reports original psychological research findings. This article will relate to the same topic as the Research Proposal (Part C; below). You will briefly summarise the key points of the article, and then critically evaluate it, for example by considering limitations and possible future extensions of the research. Part B is due in Week 4.

Assessment 2 Part C: Research Proposal (40%)

Your final submission for this assessment is worth 40% course credit and is due in Week 8. To support you in producing a high quality final version we strongly encourage you to submit a draft of your assessment for feedback via the Studiosity platform (see Studiosity hub in course Moodle page).

The Research Proposal task asks you to present a short, coherent literature review and develop a rationale for future original research. You will research the theoretical background to a provided topic area and write a short literature review based on your reading of a few papers. You will then be required to build a convincing and logical rationale for further experimentation. You need to think carefully and creatively about the research that has been conducted. What are the remaining questions in this field? What were some of the problems with the previous experiments? How might these questions be answered in a future experiment?

Completing this task will further develop your information literacy skills, as well as your ability to critically evaluate research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics. This task will familiarise you with the first step in the formal reporting style of psychological research, including the basic elements of effective and efficient scientific communication. Writing research reports in any area of science is an essential skill that reflects your ability to synthesise empirical (research-based) material and report your conclusions clearly and concisely. It is an exercise that requires a considerable level of both theoretical and conceptual understanding, critical analysis and creative thinking.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL02 : Carry out effective targeted information searches;
- CL03 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics;
- CL04 : Formulate psychological research questions and propose ways to scientifically and ethically test these questions.
- CL05 : Apply psychological research, theories, and principles to everyday life.

Detailed Assessment Description

The Building a Research Rationale assessment consists of 3 parts. Part A: Research Skills Modules (3%); Part B: Research Summary Task (7%) and Part C: Research Proposal (40%). The assessment is structured so that earlier parts develop the skills required in later parts.

Assessment 2 Part A: Research Skills Modules (3%)

This section requires completing 3 online interactive modules: 1) Academic Integrity and APA referencing 2) Writing in Psychology and 3) Psychology in the Media.

Together, the modules develop your understanding of academic integrity, information literacy, critical thinking, and written communication skills, all of which are necessary to successfully complete Parts B and C (below). All modules will be available on Moodle from Week 1. You must complete all 3 modules to be awarded the 3% credit. It is your responsibility to ensure that each module is recorded as complete on Moodle. Part A is due in Week 3

Assessment 2 Part B: Research Summary Task (7%)

In this task you will conduct a targeted information search to locate an academic article, which reports original psychological research findings. This article will relate to the same topic as the Research Proposal (Part C: below). You will briefly summarise the key points of the article, and then critically evaluate it, by considering limitations, and possible future extensions of the research. Part B is due in Week 4.

Assessment 2 Part C: Research Proposal (40%)

Your final submission for this assessment is worth 40% course credit and is due in Week 8. To

support you in producing a high quality final version we strongly encourage you to submit a draft of your assessment for feedback via the Studiosity platform (see Studiosity hub in course Moodle page).

The Research Proposal task asks you to present a short, coherent literature review and develop a rationale for future original research. You will research the theoretical background to a provided topic area and write a short literature review based on your reading of a few papers. You will then be required to build a convincing and logical rationale for further experimentation. You need to think carefully and creatively about the research that has been conducted. What are the remaining questions in this field? What were some of the problems with the previous experiments? How might these questions be answered in a future experiment?

Completing this task will further develop your information literacy skills, as well as your ability to critically evaluate research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics. This task will familiarise you with the first step in the formal reporting style of psychological research, including the basic elements of effective and efficient scientific communication. Writing research reports in any area of science is an essential skill that reflects your ability to synthesise empirical (research-based) material and report your conclusions clearly and concisely. It is an exercise that requires a considerable level of both theoretical and conceptual understanding, critical analysis and creative thinking.

Submission notes

Submission instructions for each part will be made available on Moodle

Assessment information

Building a Research Rationale Part C: Research Proposal task - Short extension available

According to the School of Psychology student guide (available on the course Moodle page), short extensions (48 hours) may be available on assessments in which students submit a major piece of written work. Therefore, if you are struggling to meet the deadline for the Research Proposal task (A2 Building a Research Rationale: Part C), you may apply for a short extension of 2 days (48 hours). Your short extension application must be submitted before the assessment due date. For details on how to apply, and the conditions on applying, please visit the [UNSW Special Consideration website](#).

Please note that the short extension provision is only available for Assessment 2 (Building a Research Rationale): Part C Research Proposal. It does not apply to the other parts of Assessment 2, and also does not apply to the other assessments in this course.

Final Examination

Assessment Overview

This exam is held during the University examination period and is designed to promote an understanding of diverse theoretical and empirical approaches, across a broad range of psychological issues. Questions on the final examination will be based on material covered in all lectures and tutorials. Further details will be released at the beginning of Week 11.

Most of the total marks for Psychology 1A are determined before the end-of- semester examination. The assessment is, therefore, essentially of the continuous, rather than “one- shot exam” type. The assessment also takes a number of forms and is therefore designed such that no student should be too heavily penalised by a “bad day” or a weakness in one particular form of assessment.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major topics in psychology.
- CL03 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics;
- CL05 : Apply psychological research, theories, and principles to everyday life.

Detailed Assessment Description

This exam is held during the University examination period and is designed to promote an understanding of diverse theoretical and empirical approaches, across a broad range of psychological issues. Questions on the final examination will be based on material covered in all lectures and tutorials. Further details will be released at the beginning of Week 11.

Most of the total marks for Psychology 1A are determined before the end-of- semester examination. The assessment is, therefore, essentially of the continuous, rather than “one- shot exam” type. The assessment also takes a number of forms and is therefore designed such that no student should be too heavily penalised by a “bad day” or a weakness in one particular form of assessment.

General Assessment Information

Special Consideration: Students who experience circumstances outside of their control that prevent them from completing an assessment task by the assigned due date due can apply for Special Consideration. Special Consideration applications should include a medical certificate or other documentation and be submitted within 3 days of the sitting/due date.

Important note: UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam

or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address and advised of the official outcome. If the special consideration application is approved, you may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure and Psychology Student Guide.

Supplementary examinations: will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy and Psychology Student Guide.

All course assessments have been designed and implemented in accordance with [UNSW Assessment Policy](#).

The APA (7th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately: [APA 7th edition](#).

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Lecture	Clinical Perspectives lecture
	Lecture	Psychological Perspectives lecture
	Lecture	Social Psychology Lecture 1
	Assessment	SONA participation, Research Discussion task and Research skills modules set
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Lecture	Social Psychology lecture 2
	Lecture	Social Psychology lecture 3
	Lecture	Social Psychology lecture 4
	Assessment	Research Summary and Research Proposal tasks set
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Lecture	Social Psychology lecture 5
	Lecture	Social Psychology lecture 6
	Lecture	Social Psychology lecture 7
	Tutorial	Social Psychology tutorial
	Module	Research Skills modules due
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Developmental Psychology lecture 1
	Lecture	Developmental Psychology lecture 2
	Lecture	Developmental Psychology lecture 3
	Tutorial	Developmental Psychology tutorial
	Assessment	Research Summary due
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	Developmental Psychology lecture 4
	Lecture	Developmental Psychology lecture 5
	Lecture	Emotion & Motivation lecture 1
	Tutorial	Psychological Research in Action tutorial
	Assessment	Research Discussion task due
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Other	Flexibility week: no scheduled lectures or tutorials
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Emotion & Motivation lecture 2
	Lecture	Emotion & Motivation lecture 3
	Lecture	Personality lecture 1
	Tutorial	Emotion & Motivation tutorial
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Personality lecture 2
	Lecture	Personality lecture 3
	Lecture	Personality lecture 4
	Tutorial	Personality tutorial
	Assessment	Research Proposal due
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	Personality lecture 5
	Lecture	Health Psychology lecture 1
	Lecture	Health Psychology lecture 2
	Tutorial	Health Psychology tutorial
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Health Psychology lecture 3
	Lecture	Cultural Psychology lecture 1
	Lecture	Cultural Psychology lecture 2
	Tutorial	Cultural Psychology tutorial
	Assessment	SONA Research participation due

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

Week-by-week course content is provided in the Course Schedule.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

N/A

Recommended Resources

There are no prescribed texts, however students can support their learning of topics in this course using the following recommended textbook:

Bernstein, D.A. et al. (2024). *Psychology: Australia and New Zealand* (4th ed.) Cengage Australia: Melbourne, VIC.

Additional Costs

N/A

Course Evaluation and Development

We use student feedback from myExperience surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We will identify areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments, so please spare a few minutes to complete our myExperience survey posted at the top of the Moodle page at the end of term.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Nadia Menon		Matthews Level 15		By appointment	Yes	No
Administrator	Danny Chen					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can be located at:

- The [Current Students site](#),
- The [ELISE training site](#), and
- The [Use of AI for assessments](#) site.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Special Consideration

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Important note: UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- [The Current Students Gateway](#)
- [Student Support](#)

- [Academic Skills and Support](#)
- [Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety](#)
- [Equitable Learning Services](#)
- [UNSW IT Service Centre](#)
- Science EDI Student [Initiatives](#), [Offerings](#) and [Guidelines](#)