Course Outline

PSYC7403

Experimental Psychology and Law

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T3, 2022

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Prof Richard Kemp	richard.kemp@unsw.edu.au	By appointment Mathews 1005	Email
Lecturer				

2. Course information

Units of credit:	6
Pre-requisite(s):	Honours in Psychology; PSYC7402
Teaching times and locations:	Monday 4:00-6:00. By default classes will be online. Any in person classes will be in room 1616.

2.1 Course summary

This course involves an in-depth study of selected topics from the field of Psychology and law that have been subjected to rigorous experimental study. Classes will be delivered by lecturers with expertise on substantive topics in experimental psychology and law. The course particularly focuses on the design of research in Psychology-law, on the relationship between research and policy and on attempts to use research to inform changes to public policy and law.

2.2 Course aims

This course is designed to allow students to explore the research related to selected topics in the field of Forensic psychology. Selected topics are used to illustrate the issues associated with undertaking applied research in Forensic psychology. Particular emphasis is placed on problems associated with research design and with the process of using research to inform policy change.

The course aims to develop the students' knowledge of the discipline, and to develop a greater understanding of the problems facing researchers working within this field. This will help develop students as both researchers in their own right and as informed consumers of published research who can critically evaluate published research and use this to inform their own clinical practice and policy development.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the latest research in the field of psychology law and provide critical summaries of this research enabling you to address applied questions within the field.

2. Understand ethical constraints in psychology-law research and describe alternative methodological approaches to overcome these constraints.

3. Understand research methods in forensic psychology allowing you to design research programs, critically evaluate studies, and summarise a body of literature to draw valid conclusions.

4. Communicate research findings to a non-specialist audience and lead research discussions with peers.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

CLO	Program Learning Outcomes						Assessment
	1. Knowledge	2. Ethics & Professional	3. Assessment	4.Interventions	5. Research & Evaluation	6. Communication & Interpersonal	
1.	Seminars, readings, discussions	Seminars, readings, discussions			Seminars, readings, discussions	Seminars, readings, discussions, presentations	Critical reviews, Report 1, Report 2.
2.	Seminars, readings, discussions	Seminars, readings, discussions			Seminars, readings, discussions		Critical reviews, Report 1, Report 2.
3.	Seminars, readings, discussions	Seminars, readings, discussions			Seminars, readings, discussions	Seminars, readings, discussions, presentations	Critical reviews, Report 1, Report 2.
4.	Seminars, readings, discussions				Seminars, readings, discussions	Seminars, readings, discussions, presentations	Critical reviews, Report 1, Report 2.

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

The design of the structure, content and assessment of this course has been informed by the policy document "Guidelines on learning that inform teaching at UNSW" (see www.guidelinesonlearning.unsw.edu.au). In particular, seminars are designed to encourage active, challenging and enjoyable learning which builds on learning that has occurred in other psychology courses and is relevant to profession practice in the field of forensic psychology. The teaching employs a variety of different methods and encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning, to develop skills of critical analysis, and to work cooperatively and collegially. Assessments have been designed to reflect the learning outcomes and structure of the course.

The topics covered in this course have been chosen to reflect areas of forensic psychology with a strong, active field of research and where there are particular challenges relating to the application of this research to the field and the development of evidence based policy. The selected topics also reflect the areas of particular expertise of the teaching staff involved so they are able to provide students with the most up to date knowledge of the field.

The sessions are delivered through small group seminars which are designed to encourage active, challenging and enjoyable learning which builds on learning that has occurred in other psychology courses and is relevant to profession practice in the field of forensic psychology.

All students are required to read a series of relevant papers prior to each seminar and on selected weeks are required to prepare written summaries of these papers for their fellow students. They will also lead a discussion about the relevance of the study, its strengths and weaknesses and the extent to which it advances theory and practice within the field.

3.2 Expectations of students

It is expected that students are 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.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

Participation is compulsory to ensure students are consistently working towards achieving the foundational graduate competencies required by the APAC Accreditation Standards. These Accreditation Standards are incorporated in Program and Course Learning Outcomes. Participation is monitored.

It is vital that you complete the allocated readings prior to each class so that you come to the class with an understanding of the key findings in the field and are in a position to engage in a debate about the implications and value of the research.

All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their student emails regularly to keep up to date.

Students registered with Disability Support Services must contact the course co-ordinator 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.

4. Course schedule and structure

Each week this course typically consists of 2 hours of seminar/tutorial material, Students are expected to take on average an additional 5 hours each week of self-determined study to complete assessments, and online activities. Classes marked (*) are online. All other classes are in person.

Week	Seminar / tutorial topic	Lecturer	Self-determined activities
Week 1 12 Sept	Prepare readings for week 2		Each week: Reading provided papers and linked citations. Preparation of review, preparation to participate in discussion of topic. Preparation of Report 1.
Week 2 19 Sept	Identification evidence: From research to policy	Richard Kemp, UNSW	
Week 3 26 Sept	Traumatic Brain Injury and Offending	Amanda White, UNSW	
Week 4 3 Oct	PUBLIC HOLIDAY		
Week 5 10 Oct	Forensic Psychology Expertise	Kristy Martire, UNSW	
Week 6 17 Oct	Understanding Forensic Evidence	Ben Newell, UNSW	Each week: Reading provided papers and linked citations. Preparation of review, preparation to participate in discussion of topic. Preparation of Report 2.
Week 7 24 Oct	Countering Violent Extremism Programs: Assessment, intervention and management of violent extremist offenders	Naomi Prince, CVE Programs, CSNSW	
Week 8 31 Oct	Facial Identify Verification	David White UNSW	
Week 9 7 Nov	Attachment	Annalese Bolton, *******	
Week 10 14 Nov	Risk Assessment	Sam Ardasinski, Serious Offenders Assessment Unit, Risk Management Programs, CSNSW	

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Mark	Due date
Assessment 1: Critical reviews of two assigned readings.	1-2 pages	20% (10% each)	/10	Assigned weeks
Assessment 2: Reports 1 and 2	3500 words	80% (40% each)	/100	25 October & 28 November

Assessment 1: Prior to attending the classes every student will read the assigned materials and prepare a very brief summary of each of the readings (less than 1 page each). These summaries should include two or more points for discussion. These summaries must be submitted to the lecturer before the start of the relevant class.

In addition, each student will, on two occasions across the 10 weeks of the course, be assigned to prepare a more detailed critical review of one of the week's readings and lead the class in a discussion of that reading. The student must produce a one or two-page review of the reading they have been assigned. The review should contain a brief summary of the study outcomes, together with a more detailed consideration of the theoretical, practical and methodological implications of the research. These reviews must be shared with fellow students and the lecturer prior to the start of the relevant class. Students presenting the papers must also lead a discussion about the significance of the work, its weaknesses and strengths and its practical implications for policy in the field.

Assessment 2: Each student must prepare 2 reports, one based on the topics in the first half of the course, the other from topics in the second half of the course. In each case the student selects the report topic from a list of alternatives provided. The topics specify a particular applied question and target audience for the report. Students are required to undertake a search for research evidence relevant to the topic question, critically evaluate and synthesise this research, and apply it to the practical question posed. Students must present their findings and conclusions in a manner which is suitable for the specified target audience. Reports must be a maximum of 3,500 words in length (including all text except for the references and any appendices). Students may be penalised if they exceed the maximum word count.

UNSW grading system: https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades

UNSW assessment policy: https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment

5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

Further details and marking criteria for each assessment will be provided to students closer to the assessment release date (see 4.1: UNSW Assessment Design Procedure).

5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

Assessment 2: In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy written pieces of assessment must be submitted online via Turnitin. A Turnitin link will be made available on the relevant Moodle page.

Late penalties

UNSW has a <u>standard late submission penalty</u> 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.

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

Special Consideration: Students who are unable to complete an assessment task by the assigned due date can apply for special consideration. Students should also note that UNSW has a Fit to Sit/Submit rule for all assessments. If a student wishes to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, the application must be submitted prior to the start of the exam or before an assessment is submitted. If a student sits the exam/submits an assignment, they are declaring themselves well enough to do so and are unable to subsequently apply for special consideration. If a student becomes ill on the day of the exam, they must provide evidence dated within 24 hours of the exam, with their application.

Special consideration applications must be submitted to the online portal along with Third Party supporting documentation. Students who have experienced significant illness or misadventure during the assessment period may be eligible. Only circumstances deemed to be outside of the student's control are eligible for special consideration. Except in unusual circumstances, the duration of circumstances impacting academic work must be more than 3 consecutive days, or a total of 5 days within the teaching period. If the special consideration application is approved, students may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information see https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration.

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Critical review of assigned readings	10 days from due date	Tutor	Online	Email
Reports 1 and 2	10 days from due date	Tutor	Online	Email or Moodle

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (6th 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 6th edition.

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.[1] 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 and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The *Current Students* site https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism**,** and

- The *ELISE* training site http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/presenting

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

7. Readings and resources

Textbook	Nil
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	- Readings provided on Moodle - School of Psychology Student Guide.
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning Centre ELISE Turnitin Student Code of Conduct Policy concerning academic honesty Email policy UNSW Anti-racism policy statement UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement

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[1] International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

8. Administrative matters

The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) 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
- Disability Support Services
- Health and safety

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

9. Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: https://student.unsw.edu.au/
- Academic Skills and Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing
- Disability Support Services: https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-services
- UNSW IT Service Centre: https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html