



# Course Outline

PSYC7428

Research Thesis (Forensic) 3

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T3, 2022

Last updated: 22 August 2022

## 1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Prof Richard Kemp	<a href="mailto:Richard.Kemp@unsw.edu.au">Richard.Kemp@unsw.edu.au</a>	By appointment	Email

## 2. Course information

<b>Units of credit:</b>	6
<b>Pre-requisite(s):</b>	Completion of PSYC7426 in Term 1 & PSYC7427 in Term 2
<b>Teaching times and locations:</b>	Individual supervision with research supervisor  TWO CLASSES on Teams – Monday, 5 September and Monday, 26 September 2022 (attendance for the entirety of both sessions is required)  UNSW Forensic and Clinical Psychology Research Conference – Friday, 21 October 2022 (in person COVID permitting; attendance for the entirety of the conference is required)

### 2.1 Course summary

This course involves undertaking a research project under the supervision of a member of academic staff in the School of Psychology. Research projects may be carried out on any topic that is relevant to forensic psychology. Students are required to prepare a thesis in the form of a journal article. Refer to *PART 3: Research Thesis* of the Master of Psychology (Forensic) Program Guide available on the [School website](#).

### 2.2 Course aims

The aim of the course is to further develop trainees' skills in conducting research and teach them to prepare a report in the form of a research article for submission to a journal.

### 2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Construct a research project that demonstrates critical thinking and contributes to knowledge in forensic psychology.
2. Demonstrate cognitive skills associated with review, analysis, consolidation and synthesis of knowledge.
3. Identify and formulate solutions to complex problems with intellectual independence.
4. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of theoretical concepts in relation to forensic psychology.

5. Demonstrate initiative and judgement in scholarship.
6. Demonstrate communication skills in presenting a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences.
7. Construct a research project that demonstrates technical skills in research and design.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of, and competence in, the ethical conduct of forensic psychology research.

## 2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

CLO	Program Learning Outcomes						Assessment
	1. Knowledge	2. Ethical, legal and professional	3. Assessment & Measurement	4. Intervention	5. Research and evaluation	6. Communication and interpersonal	
1.	Supervision, thesis activities	Supervision, thesis activities					Thesis
2.	Supervision, thesis activities						Thesis
3.	Supervision, thesis activities						Thesis
4.	Supervision, thesis activities						Thesis
5.						Supervision, thesis activities	Thesis
6.						Supervision, thesis activities, Conference	Thesis
7.		Supervision, thesis activities			Supervision, thesis activities		Thesis
8.		Supervision, thesis activities			Supervision, thesis activities		Thesis

## 3. Strategies and approaches to learning

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### 3.1 Learning and teaching activities

In this course, students are encouraged to consult, evaluate and be guided by findings in the empirical literature. The development of a research question and the processes of conducting a research project and preparing a journal article for publication develop students' capacity to conduct theoretically-driven and forensically-relevant research. Teaching in this course is delivered via one-on-one supervision from thesis supervisors, and through verbal and written feedback on drafts of the thesis.

### 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](#), the statement on [Inherent Requirements](#) of the program, and the Master of Psychology (Forensic) Program Guide available on the [School website](#).

Students registered with Equitable Learning Services must contact the Course Convenor 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. Equitable Learning Plans must be emailed to the Course Convenor as soon as they are made available.

Information on any course changes will be made available either on Teams and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check for changes.

## 4. Course schedule and structure

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This course consists of individual supervision sessions with academic members of staff and external supervisors (on a case-by-case basis).

Week	Topic	Activity
<b>Week 0</b> Monday, 5 September 3-5pm, Teams	Thesis Presentation Skills #1	Learn skills for presenting thesis research at the annual conference
<b>Week 1</b>	-	-
<b>Week 2</b>	-	-
<b>Week 3</b> Monday, 26 September 2-5pm, Teams	Thesis Presentation Skills #2	Practice thesis presentation and give feedback to peers

<b>Week 4</b>	-	-
<b>Week 5</b> Friday, 14 October 4pm		<b>THESIS DUE</b>
<b>Week 6</b> Friday, 21 October 9am-5pm, John B Reid Theatre		Annual Forensic and Clinical Psychology Research Conference
<b>Week 7</b>	-	-
<b>Week 8</b>	-	-
<b>Week 9</b>	-	-
<b>Week 10</b>	-	-

## 5. Assessment

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### 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
<b>Assessment:</b> Research thesis	7500	100%	/100	4pm Friday, 14 October 2022

**Assignment 1:** Students must submit and pass a research thesis (18 UOC) which constitutes 100% of the mark for this course.

Where adequate progress is made on the thesis, as determined by the supervisor and Program Director, a grade of EC (Enrolment Continuing) will be applied as a holding grade for the Term 1 course (PSYC7426) and Term 2 course (PSYC7427).

The completed thesis is marked by two members of the School's academic staff. The supervisor is not involved in marking the thesis.

Students are permitted to receive feedback from their supervisor/s on written drafts of their thesis Introduction, Method and Results sections only. Students may receive supervisor feedback on each of these sections twice prior to submission. Supervisors are not permitted to review or provide feedback on written drafts of the Discussion section. Students can talk about their plans for the Discussion section with their supervisors, but they may not request or receive feedback on a written draft of this section.

Once the thesis mark is finalised it will be added to the Term 3 course (PSYC7428) and backfilled against the previous two thesis courses, replacing the EC grades.

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

**Thesis:** In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy this must be submitted online via Turnitin.

**Late penalties:** In accordance with the [UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure](#), failure to meet the submission deadline ("the initial deadline") will attract a penalty. Unless an extended deadline has been granted, if an assignment is submitted late, but within five days (120 hours) of the initial deadline, 5% of the maximum possible mark for that assignment will be deducted for each day (including weekend days) it is overdue. For example, if an assignment is worth 100 marks, you will automatically lose five marks ( $100 \times 0.05 = 5$ ) for each day it is late. If you submit the assignment three days after the initial deadline, a penalty of 15 marks will be deducted. Students can submit an assessment late, incurring the late penalty, until the "overdue submission deadline". The overdue submission deadline is five days (120 hours) after the initial deadline. Any assessment submitted after the overdue submission deadline will not be marked and will result in a mark of zero for the assessment. In determining whether an assignment is overdue, the date it was submitted online via Moodle will be used. Assignments submitted late may not receive detailed feedback from markers. 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
Thesis	Term 3 results release date	Examiners & supervisor	By email	Written

## 6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (7<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

**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.<sup>1</sup> 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>

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://www.edi.unsw.edu.au/conduct-integrity/conduct-unsw/student-conduct-integrity/student-code-conduct>.

## 7. Readings and resources

<b>Textbook</b>	No set text; suggested readings provided by supervisor and additional readings obtained as a result of students' literature review
<b>Course information</b>	Available on Moodle
<b>Required readings</b>	<a href="#">APS Code of Ethics</a> and Ethical guidelines <a href="#">School of Psychology Student Guide</a> <a href="#">Master of Psychology (Forensic) Program Guide</a>

<sup>1</sup> International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.



<b>Recommended internet sites</b>	<a href="#">UNSW Library</a> <a href="#">UNSW Academic Skills</a> <a href="#">ELISE</a> <a href="#">Turnitin</a> <a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a> <a href="#">Academic Integrity</a> <a href="#">Email policy</a> <a href="#">UNSW Anti-racism policy</a> <a href="#">UNSW Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion</a>
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## 8. Administrative matters

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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
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

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

## 9. Additional support for students

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- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/>