



Course Outline

PSYC7409

Professional & Ethical Practice (Forensic) 1

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T1, 2022

Last updated 11.02.2022

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Anita McGregor	amcgregor@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	90657923
Workshops	various			

2. Course information

Units of credit:	6
Pre-requisite(s):	Enrolled Master of Psychology (Forensic) or Combined PhD/Master of Psychology (Forensic) student
Teaching times and locations:	Postgraduate Timetable

2.1 Course summary

Introductory training in psychological assessment, treatment skills and ethical practices as required in the professional context. This course is associated with the Readiness Module at the UNSW Forensic Psychology Clinic.

2.2 Course aims

Focus on the professional skills and ethical decision making required for the practice of Forensic Psychology. Clinical skills related to the assessment and treatment of clients are introduced and practiced through role plays leading to in vivo practice within placements. This course is offered through lectures and workshops.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Apply knowledge of forensic psychology to their practice including psychological frameworks and theories, as well as research, to the involvement of individuals within legal processes, procedures and proceedings.
2. Practice culturally responsive assessment practices including the development of an assessment protocol, understanding of psychological testing, and risk assessment.
3. Gain understanding of common factors within intervention strategies, session preparation.
4. Gain an understanding of ethical issues in various forensic settings and frameworks for ethical decision making.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

Program Learning Outcomes									
CLO	1. Knowledge of the Discipline	2. Ethical, legal & professional matters	3. Assessment & Measurement	4. Intervention Strategies	5. Research & evaluation	6. Communication & Interpersonal Relationships	7. Working Cross Culturally	8. Practice Across the Lifespan	Assessment
1.	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Workshops, placements		Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	1,2,4 readiness module
2.	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Workshops, placements		Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	1,2,4 readiness module
3.	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Workshops, placements		Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	1,2, readiness module
4.	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Workshops, placements		Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	Lectures, workshops, placements	1,2,4 readiness module

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

Working with the Scientist-Practitioner model, a sound understanding of ethical practice and the development of practical evidence based skills is essential to a practicing forensic psychologist. Presented through lectures and workshops, material is balanced between lecture, case presentations and hands on experiential learning leading to in vivo experience in student placements.

Consistent with the Learning and Teaching Philosophy of UNSW, this course aims to provide maximal opportunity for student engagement workshops, lectures, discussion of lecture material, student presentations, written assignments, opportunities for experiential/ practical learning, and case discussion. When possible, role-play exercises, guest speakers and multimedia will be used to facilitate learning; other methods to facilitate learning may be used at the discretion of the instructor.

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](#), including the statement on Inherent Requirements of the program, and the Master of Psychology (Forensic) Program Guide available on the School website <https://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/postgraduate-coursework/master-psychology-forensic>.

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.

Students must attend 80% of lectures and workshops to ensure they are consistently working towards achieving the professional graduate competencies for specialised areas of practice required by the APAC Accreditation Standards. These Accreditation Standards are incorporated in Program and Course Learning Outcomes. Any absence must be accompanied by a medical certificate or other reason for absence. Additional self-study material may be assigned by the Course Convenor to ensure that the trainee has covered any material missed as a result of being absent from workshops or meetings.

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

4. Course schedule and structure

This course consists of approximately 28 hours of seminars and approximately 70 hours of workshops (the workshop schedule varies from year to year and are provided in section 10.0). Students are expected to take an additional 40 hours of self-determined study to complete placements, assessments, and readings.

Week	Topic	Activity	Related
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			CLO
Week 1	Overview of term, assessments and assignments. Regulatory considerations for provisional psychologists	Review of course and assignments, discussion of regulatory bodies (AHPRA, APS and APAC)	1,4
Week 2	Ethics, Informed consent, note taking	Identification of ethical problem solving, informed consent procedures and practice, note taking for therapy and assessment procedures (student will need to have read APS Code of Conduct and ethical guidelines prior to class and informed instructor of same)	1,2,3,4
Week 3	Interview Procedures	Demonstration and role play of consent, family history, education and work history (preparation of interview proforma for sections required prior to class).	1,2,
Week 4	Interview Procedures	Demonstration and role play of consent, relationship history and health/mental health sections of assessment (preparation of interview proforma for sections required prior to class).	1,2,
Week 5	Interview Procedures	Demonstration and role play of consent, substance abuse and offence sections of assessment (preparation of interview proforma for sections required prior to class).	1,2,
Week 6	Interview Procedures	Demonstration and role play of consent, current functioning sections of assessment (preparation of interview proforma for sections required prior to class).	1,2,
Week 7	Interview Procedures	Review of assessment process and discussion of case formulation, testing considerations, writing the report	1,2,4
Week 8	Initial session of therapy	Demonstration and role play of consent, introduction of ROM, identification of issues, explanation of CBT	1,2,4
Week 9	Initial session of therapy	Demonstration and role play of homework and troubleshooting	1,2,4
Week 10	Initial session of therapy and course debrief	Writing up session notes, case formulation, and session preparation for session two. Course debrief	1,2,4

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	CLOs
Summative Assessments					
Assignment 1: Actuarial and Structured Professional Judgment Assessments & report writing	various	30%	/30	Friday 5pm week 7	2
Assessment 2: Review	90 mins	40%	/40	As booked	1,2,3
Assessment 3: PEP log book	N/A	10%	/10	5pm Friday week 11	1
Assessment 4: Skill development	N/A	20%	/20	ongoing	2,4
Compulsory Activities					
Attendance: workshop and lecture attendance	N/A	P/F	P/F		1
Placements: Readiness Module	100 hrs	P/F	P/F	ongoing	1,3

Assignment 1: Actuarial and Structured Professional Judgment Assessment and Report Writing. In conjunction with the workshops on assessment and report writing, students will choose one Actuarial/Structured Professional Judgment. Tests can be chosen through the test library at the UNSW Forensic Psychology Clinic (all tests subject to need by clinics). Students must choose unique tests from one and other – the process for choosing tests will be discussed in class. Students must develop a case and conduct the test. Additionally, students must provide a written section of the report (Results of Testing) that includes a description of the test, limitations and interpretation of the results found in administration, as well as the documentation utilised (e.g., test profiles, etc.). If using an SPJ, students must show evidence of consideration of confirming and discrepant information for risk factors

Assessment 2: Review (see below for preparation for Review*) – Agenda required. Written documents must be sent at least three business days prior to Review to gain feedback (ensure you add an agenda item regarding review of written documents if you want feedback during the meeting). All documentation to be sent electronically to amcgregor@unsw.edu.au. **Review must be booked by end of week 9 via Doodle Poll (if you cannot make the time you have indicated on the poll, you are responsible for finding another available timeslot or exchanging a timeslot with another student).** Documentation includes:

- Agenda (time marks for require criteria, feedback on documentation (if desired), identification of learning from video assignment)
- Two original consent forms (for assessment and treatment and written by the student, do not use UFPC consent forms). Must cover all aspects of informed consent as per APS code of

- conduct.
- Presentation section for assessment role play
- Scan of notes from assessment, utilizing your own assessment protocol
- Therapy session plan (for following session)
- FIT forms
- Session Impact Grid (template provided)
- Session summary from therapy role play (NOT a HOSRAPS, but should include relevant information and meet minimum criteria for record keeping)
- Consent practice form (for sighting – will need to be completed by end of Psyc7419)

Assessment Video – Forensic assessment of a client at presentence who has been referred for an assessment of their general functioning. Conduct a thorough clinical interview (no testing). Criteria for agenda:

- Informed consent,
- asking open and closed ended questions,
- validation,
- listening skills,
- following a thorough and appropriate interview structure (i.e., your protocol)

Therapy Video – First session of therapy, client is motivated to attend and in ‘action’ stage of change. Criteria for agenda includes:

- informed consent,
- administration of the ORS with description of ROM,
- brief assessment/intro (the mini-A), including a FIDI where appropriate,
- introduction to CBT,
- explanation of homework,
- summary of session, including administration and discussion of the SRS
- scheduling.

Demonstrated skills include:

- rapport building skills (common therapeutic factors),
- Understanding of ROM
- ability to communicate understanding of CBT, homework and to share that understanding with low functioning client or client without knowledge of CBT.

* Preparation for Review: Each PEP course has video requirements for the Review, which involves organising role plays with a PEP4 student who will be your ‘client’ – remember, this means that you will likely need to reciprocate and be their ‘client’ for their videos. Video your role plays (while doing role plays, please video both the ‘therapist/assessor’ and the ‘client’) **ensuring that sound quality is adequate (if inadequate, then cannot assess the required skills)**. Ensure that you prepare your partner for their task (it generally does not work well to tell your ‘client’ to “wing it”). Provide (and ask for) feedback from your role play partner subsequent to the tasks.

Assessment 3: PEP log book - Notations of activities with a focus of reflections on learning through lectures and workshops as part of professional development.

Assessment 4: Skill Development – All ethics documentation provided on Teams must be read by Ethics class (class 2), with completion of ethics quick (available on Moodle) completed by 5pm on Friday of week 10. Student will develop their own assessment protocol throughout the year, beginning in the workshop in Orientation week. This individual protocol will form the basis for preparation for most weeks coursework where students will practice and refine their protocols. Skill development will also be assessed through classroom participation in role plays and debriefings at the end of class.

Compulsory activity: Attendance – see Section 3.2 on Expectations of Students.

Compulsory activity: Placements - Students must successfully complete Readiness Module in preparation for Orientation placement and submit all associated documentation and logs to Clinic Director. This is a course requirement; if the Readiness Module is deemed as an “unsuccessful completion”, the Program Director has the discretion to fail the student in the course and implement a remedial plan. A second failure can result in termination of the student’s program.

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

Written assessments: In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy must be submitted online via Turnitin. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted.

Late penalties: deduction of marks for late submissions will be in accordance with School policy (see the [School of Psychology Student Guide](#)).

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>.

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

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
Assessment 1	Week 7	Anita McGregor	By email	Marking rubric
Assessment 2	During review	Anita McGregor	During review	Verbal & written
Assessment 3	During review	Anita McGregor	During review	Verbal
Assessment 4	During review	Anita McGregor	In class, online, during review	Verbal
Attendance	Ongoing	Anita McGregor and	Ongoing	email

		workshop facilitators		
Placement	Ongoing	Anita McGregor and Supervisor(s)	Ongoing	As per Basic Contract and Learning Plan

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the most recent edition of 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.

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>

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	Must have read APS Code of Ethics and Ethical guidelines School of Psychology Student Guide Master of Psychology (Forensic) Program Guide
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning Centre ELISE Turnitin

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

	Student Code of Conduct Academic Integrity Email policy UNSW Anti-racism policy statement UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement
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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
- 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

- 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/>

10. Workshop Schedule*

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	WORKSHOP NAME
9 Feb	9-1pm	zoom	Orientation to the Program (all staff, all students)
10 Feb	9-5pm	Mat 226	Basic Counselling Skills (Anita)
11 Feb	9-5pm	Mat 226	Assessment Skills (Anita)
16 Feb	1-5pm	Mat 311	Supervision training (Anita)
17 Feb	9-5pm	Mat 301	Risk Assessment (Anita)

TBA	9-2pm	Long Bay CC	Field Trip (clinic staff)
24 Feb	9-5pm	Mat 301	Forensic Assessment Tools (Anita)
08 April	9-5pm	Mat 313	Report Writing (Anita and TBD)
7 April	10-4pm	Pioneer International Theatre	Mandatory Reporting
April 14	9-1 pm	Zoom	NZ corrections – cultural practice in corrections

* There may be alumni or other events that are also mandatory for attendance. Dates and time TBD