



Course Outline

PSYC4073

Psychology Honours Research Project (12 UOC)

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T3, 2021

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations
Course Convenors	Denovan Begg	honours.psychology@unsw.edu.au	By email
	Thomas Whitford		

2. Course information

Units of credit:	12
Pre-requisite(s):	An APAC-accredited 3-year major sequence in psychology (or equivalent), including advanced research methods.
Teaching times and locations:	Thesis due: 4pm Wednesday, 13 October 2021 (online) Honours Conference: Thursday, 21 October 2021 (virtual)

2.1 Course summary

Students are required to write and submit a thesis based on research carried out across the year. The exact nature and form of research will be determined by the student and supervisor.

2.2 Course aims

The overall aim of this course is to provide research training and advanced disciplinary knowledge.

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 judgement in developing new understanding.
2. Demonstrate cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesize knowledge.
3. Identify and formulate solutions to complex problems with intellectual independence.
4. Demonstrate a broad understanding of a body of knowledge and theoretical concepts with advanced understanding in some areas.
5. Demonstrate initiative and judgement in scholarship.
6. Demonstrate an ability to adapt knowledge and skills in diverse contexts.
7. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability for own learning and practice and in collaboration with others within broad parameters.
8. Demonstrate communication skills to present a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences.

9. Construct a research project that demonstrates technical skills in research and design.
10. Demonstrate coherent and advanced knowledge of the underlying principles and concepts in one or more disciplines, and knowledge of research principles and methods.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

Program Learning Outcomes							
CLO	1. Knowledge	2. Research Methods	3. Critical Thinking Skills	4. Values and Ethics	5. Communication, Interpersonal and Teamwork	6. Application	Assessment
1.		Supervision, research project	Supervision, research project				Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
2.	Supervision, research project		Supervision, research project				Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
3.	Supervision, research project		Supervision, research project				Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
4.	Supervision, research project		Supervision, research project				Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
5.			Supervision, research project	Supervision, research project			Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
6.	Supervision, research project				Supervision, research project	Supervision, research project	Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
7.					Supervision, research project		Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
8.					Supervision, research project		Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
9.		Supervision, research project					Thesis, Proposal, Presentation
10.	Supervision, research project	Supervision, research project					Thesis, Proposal, Presentation

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

This is a component of the UNSW Psychology Honours program. It consists of no formal classes: instead students meet with their supervisor(s) and undertake independent research.

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](#).

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 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.

4. Course schedule and structure

This course consists of no lecture material or face to face tutorials but will have weekly meetings with their supervisors. Students are expected to take an additional 420 hours of self-determined study to complete research and assessments.

Week	Topic	Activity
Week 1 starting 13/09/2021	Research Project	Supervision and Research
Week 2 20/09/2021	Research Project	Supervision and Research
Week 3 27/09/2021	Research Project	Supervision and Research
Week 4 04/10/2021	Research Project	Supervision and Research
Week 5 11/10/2021	Research Project (Thesis Due on 13 October 2021 @ 4pm)	Supervision and Research
Week 6 18/10/2021	Research Project (Honours Conference held 21 October 2021)	Supervision and Research
Week 7 25/10/2021	-	-
Week 8 1/11/2021	-	-
Week 9 8/11/2021	-	-
Week 10 15/11/2021	-	-

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: Thesis	15,000	100%	/100	Wednesday 13 October, 4pm
Assessment 2: Research proposal and panel meeting	8 pages and 1-hour panel meeting	0% (formative)	-	Completed in T1
Assessment 3: Honours Conference talk	10 minutes	0% (formative)	-	Thursday 21 October; details TBC

Assessment 1: Students are required to write and submit a thesis based on research carried out across the year. The exact nature and form of research will be determined by the student and supervisor. However, research projects should be guided by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council's Rules and Accreditation Standards for Psychology Courses (<http://www.apac.psychology.org.au/>), which state, among other things, that (Section 4.1.11):

- the research project must include an individual research question, individual intensive empirical literature review, individual data analysis, individual reporting of results and discussion, but may involve shared data collection; and.
- the research project should be structured so that students participate in all of the steps involved in research including the formulation of research questions, the design of the study including selection of appropriate methodology, the collection and analysis of data to test the research question, the interpretation of the findings and the writing up of the report.

However, as previously advised, please note that we have relaxed the requirement that students collect their own data for their Honours thesis, due to the difficulties associated with data collection in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The maximum length of the thesis (excluding tables, figures, bibliography and any appendix) is 15,000 words, (around 60 pages of double-spaced typing at about 240-250 words per page). Students receive written feedback from two examiners (neither of whom are their supervisor).

Assessment 2: To assist in the development of the research study, students are required to write a research proposal and discuss this proposal with a panel consisting of the supervisor and two other academic staff members. The proposal should be about 8 pages in length, and summarises the planned research, its rationale and expected outcomes. The following headings should be incorporated: Background (practical or theoretical problem of interest, summary of literature), Aims/hypotheses, Design, Equipment/procedures, and Analysis/Expected outcomes. The purpose of the proposal is for student to set out clearly what student is planning to do, why is it being done, how it is going to be done, and how are the results going to be interpreted. Research panels consist of three academic staff members: thesis supervisor, and two other academic staff members who provide

feedback and advice about research design, methodology, and analysis. Where possible, panel members are assigned so that at least one member has expertise in a similar area of psychology. *At least three working days prior* to the panel meeting, students are expected to provide each panel member with their written research proposal. At the panel meeting, student is expected to speak on each of these points, and to lead the discussion of the proposed research. At panel meetings these staff members will get the opportunity to gain some familiarity with the proposed research and to evaluate student's understanding of the area. Feedback will be provided directly during the panel meeting.

Assessment 3: Students will be required to participate in the honours conference following submission of their thesis. This involves presenting an ~ 10 minute talk (plus time for questions). The talk will summarise the thesis, including background, aims, methods, results and discussion.

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: [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>.

An extension is not a possible outcome for a special consideration application for the thesis. The only possible outcomes are a full, partial or no waiver of the penalty for late submission. Refer to the "*Late Penalty Policy for Honours Thesis*" document on Moodle.

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

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

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	N/A	Examiners	Online	Written
Research proposal & Panel presentation	During meeting	Supervisor & Panel members	On campus	Verbal
Honours Conference	During conference	Conference chairperson	Online	Verbal

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

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.](#)

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>.

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

7. Readings and resources

Textbook	Nil
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	School of Psychology Student Guide.
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning Centre ELISE Turnitin Student Code of Conduct Academic Integrity Email policy UNSW Anti-racism policy UNSW Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy

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/academic-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/>