



UNSW Course Outline

PSYC1011 Psychology 1B - 2023

Course Code : PSYC1011
Year : 2023
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Delivery Mode : Multimodal
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington

General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC1011
Year : 2023
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Science
Academic Unit : School of Psychology
Delivery Mode : Multimodal
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 psychology as a biological science. The emphasis is on understanding the links between the neurobiology of the brain, sensory organs and nervous system and human behaviour. The lecturers on this course will provide students with diverse perspectives on psychology from various experimental traditions and levels of analysis – behavioural, cognitive

and neurophysiological. Topics covered in lectures and tutorials on this course include memory and cognition, animal learning, psychobiology, perception, and abnormal psychology. Through interactive tutorials, group presentations, research participation and a written essay, the aim of the course is to develop fundamental skills in finding, evaluating, generating, and integrating psychological research evidence.

There is no assumed knowledge, and the course is suitable for any UNSW undergraduates with an interest in experimental psychology, cognitive science, clinical psychology and neuroscience.

Course Aims

This course introduces the content and methods of contemporary psychological science, with emphasis on the biological and neural bases of human behaviour. Our aim is to illustrate the diverse approaches that psychologists use to understand the way we think about, learn about and perceive the world. The course also begins to develop student understanding of how psychologists and clinicians define and understand conditions that arise from abnormalities in these processes.

Assessment is a mixture of individual and group work. The aim of group presentations is to develop collaborative scholarship activities of finding/evaluating information, generating and communicating research ideas and concepts. The aim of individual essay assignment is to develop students' ability to integrate research into evidence-based arguments.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major psychological issues.
CL02 : Locate reliable and relevant information using online research database searches to support scholarly activities.
CL03 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics.
CL04 : Work in groups and individually to effectively communicate concepts and ideas related to psychology.
CL05 : Link psychological research, theories and principles to concrete examples of their application in everyday life.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Recognise diverse but complementary theoretical and experimental approaches to major psychological issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Examination • Research Participation • Essay
CL02 : Locate reliable and relevant information using online research database searches to support scholarly activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentation • Essay

CLO3 : Evaluate psychological research in terms of the scientific method and research ethics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentation • Final Examination • Research Participation • Essay
CLO4 : Work in groups and individually to effectively communicate concepts and ideas related to psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentation • Essay
CLO5 : Link psychological research, theories and principles to concrete examples of their application in everyday life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Examination • Research Participation • Group Presentation

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

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.

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, contact the Course Administrator on d.chen@unsw.edu.au. If you are enrolled in a Friday tutorial and cannot attend university due to illness, a replacement tutorial is not possible. Ensure that you submit a medical certificate to your tutor so that your attendance is explained on your record. 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. 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. Failure to do so will be recorded as 'unsatisfactory class work'. 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.

Additional Course Information

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 1B covers the following topics: memory and cognition; psychobiology; animal learning; perception; abnormal psychology.

Each topic will be given by either a different lecturer, so that you will have the benefit of their different specialised interests and knowledge. Lecturers may 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 1B tutorials have two main roles. First, 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. Second, they ground psychological theory in practical demonstrations. 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 you to evaluate your understanding of course material and consolidate learning.

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](#) 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

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Group Presentation Assessment FormatGroup	26%	Start DateWeek 3 Due DateWeek 9
Final Examination Assessment FormatIndividual	35%	Start DateExam period Due DateExam period
Research Participation Assessment FormatIndividual	4%	Start DateWeek 1 Due DateWeek 10
Essay Assessment FormatIndividual	35%	Start DateWeek 2 Due DateWeek 7

Assessment Details

Group Presentation

Assessment Overview

The group presentation assesses your ability to think critically and creatively about psychological research, as well as your communication and collaboration skills. You will work in groups of 3-5 students, to present and critically evaluate empirical research in Psychology. Your group will then

identify a gap in the research literature in that area of Psychology, and present an original idea for an experiment that can fill this gap. Each group presentation will be about 12 minutes long, and will be submitted as a link to an online video recording. The presentation assessment contributes 26% of your final grade, and your mark will consist of a group mark (90% of your mark) and an individual mark based on your contribution to the group (10%).

General presentation instructions as well as a marking rubric will be available on Moodle in Week 3.

Your tutor will give you details of your presentation group in Week 4. The presentation will typically be due to be uploaded as a video in either Week 8 or Week 9.

Your final mark will be based both on the performance of your group as a whole (90%), as well as your individual contribution to the presentation, as assessed by your peers. Students are also required to provide feedback on the contribution of other students and so the feedback on your presentation is peer feedback as well as a marked rubric.

Final Examination

Assessment Overview

The final exam is worth 35% of the overall mark. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and cover all material covered in the course. The exam typically lasts between 30 and 45 minutes and will be held in the UNSW exam period. Further details will be released in the later part of the term (TBA).

Research Participation

Assessment Overview

You are able to participate in psychological research within the School for up to 12 participation hours. You receive a SONA point for each hour of research participation. 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).

The deadline for completing all research participation hours is at the end of term (TBA).

Participating in on-going research allows you to learn first-hand about the ways in which research in psychology is conducted, and to experience the application of concepts you learn about in the course, as well as find out about areas of investigation that are beyond the course. Progress in psychological science depends on the contributions of research participants and we ask that you act in a responsible way to ensure your research participation provides useful data to researchers within our school.

There is no compulsion to participate in any particular study and it is ok to decline to participate after an explanation of what is involved has been given.

Feedback is given about the motivation of the research study/question, methodological and ethical considerations after each participation is completed.

Essay

Assessment Overview

The essay assessment is designed to familiarise you with the formal style of writing about psychological research, including the basic elements of effective and efficient scientific communication, and to further develop your information literacy skills. Writing essays in any area of science is an essential skill that reflects your ability to synthesise empirical (research-based) material and report empirical conclusions clearly and concisely. In order to successfully complete the essay, you will need to develop a logical and concise argument, supported by empirical and theoretical evidence. It is an exercise that requires a considerable level of theoretical and conceptual understanding and critical analysis. The essay is worth 35% of your final mark. It is an individual exercise, which means that each student will submit an essay that they have prepared on their own.

The topic of the essay will be on an area of experimental research with a bearing on psychological theory. Detailed information regarding the content and format of the essay will be available on Moodle in Week 2 and the essay will typically be due either Week 7 or 8. Feedback is provided through marked rubric and written comments on the essay.

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 can apply for Special Consideration. Special Consideration applications should include a medical certificate or other documentation and be submitted via myUNSW 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 : 11 September - 15 September	Lecture	Course orientation lecture
	Lecture	Memory & Cognition lecture 1
	Lecture	Memory & Cognition lecture 2
Week 2 : 18 September - 22 September	Lecture	Memory & Cognition lecture 3
	Lecture	Memory & Cognition lecture 4
	Lecture	Memory & Cognition lecture 5
	Assessment	Essay assignment set
Week 3 : 25 September - 29 September	Lecture	Animal Learning lecture 1
	Lecture	Animal Learning lecture 2
	Lecture	Animal Learning lecture 3
	Tutorial	Memory & Cognition tutorial
	Assessment	Group presentation assessment set

Week 4 : 2 October - 6 October	Lecture	Animal Learning lecture 4
	Lecture	Animal Learning lecture 5
	Lecture	Psychobiology lecture 1
	Tutorial	Animal Learning tutorial
Week 5 : 9 October - 13 October	Lecture	Psychobiology lecture 2
	Lecture	Psychobiology lecture 3
	Lecture	Psychobiology lecture 4
	Tutorial	Psychobiology tutorial
Week 7 : 23 October - 27 October	Lecture	Psychobiology lecture 5
	Lecture	Psychobiology lecture 6
	Lecture	Perception lecture 1
	Tutorial	Perception tutorial 1
	Assessment	Essay assessment due
Week 8 : 30 October - 3 November	Lecture	Perception lecture 2
	Laboratory	Perception lecture 3
	Lecture	Perception lecture 4

	Tutorial	Perception tutorial 2
Week 9 : 6 November - 10 November	Lecture	Perception lecture 5
	Lecture	Abnormal Psychology lecture 1
	Lecture	Abnormal Psychology lecture 2
	Tutorial	Abnormal Psychology tutorial
	Presentation	Group presentations due
Week 10 : 13 November - 17 November	Lecture	Abnormal Psychology lecture 3
	Lecture	Abnormal Psychology lecture 4
	Tutorial	Abnormal Psychology lecture 5
	Tutorial	Evaluating Psychological Research
	Assessment	SONA research participation due

Attendance Requirements

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

General Schedule Information

Lectures for this course are online only and lecture recordings will be released week-by-week. Tutorials are in-person beginning in Week 3.

Information on weekly course content is provided in the Course Schedule and the Course Timetable posted on the course Moodle page.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Not applicable

Recommended Resources

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

Bernstein et al. (2020). Psychology: Australia and New Zealand (3rd ed.) Cengage Australia: Melbourne, VI

Additional Costs

Not applicable

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	David White	david.white@unsw.edu.au	Mathews 1002		By appointment	Yes	No
Administrator	Danny Chen	psychology@unsw.edu.au				Yes	Yes
Convenor	Nadia Menon	n.menon@unsw.edu.au				Yes	No

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](#)