

LEVEL 5 MODULES

Developmental Psychology (5PSY1004: 15 credits, Semester A)

Module team: Dr Nuala Ryder (module leader), Dr Samantha Rogers.

Prerequisite: Introductory Developmental and Language Psychology

Selected topics have been chosen to illustrate important aspects of developmental psychological research. These topics will typically include methodological issues in developmental psychology, brain development and early abilities, the development of perceptual and cognitive abilities, the development of reasoning and problem solving, the development of memory, the development of social knowledge and skills, the development of theory of mind.

Biological Psychology (5PSY1007: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Dr Paul Jenkinson (module leader), Dr Lucy Annett.

Prerequisite: Brain and Behaviour

This course will consider brain mechanisms underlying various psychological processes and behaviours including vision, attention, movement, memory, emotion and motivation, sleep and dreaming. This will involve looking at the contributing roles of cortical regions and several sub-cortical structures including the hippocampus, hypothalamus and the midbrain dopamine system. The course will also consider genetic influences on brain function and evolutionary psychology concepts.

Cognition (5PSY1005: 15 credits, Semester A)

Module team: Dr Rebecca Knight (module leader)

Prerequisite: Foundations of Social and Cognitive Psychology

This course will examine theories, evidence and applications relating to selected areas of cognitive psychology. Topics such as long-term memory, problem solving, judgement and decision-making, intelligence, language, perception and action will be addressed.

Contemporary Social Psychology (5PSY1007: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Dr Stefanie Schmeer (module leader), Dr Dave Williams

Prerequisite: Foundations in Social and Cognitive Psychology

Open to PSY2 and JH2 students who have fulfilled the prerequisite.

This module will extend students' knowledge and understanding of more recent theories and applications in Social Psychology. Presented theories and research are likely to focus on stereotype suppression effects, Terror Management Theory, evolutionary approaches in Social Psychology, culture and acculturation, crowd behaviour, predicting prejudice, and the origins of tyranny. For each topic, recent theoretical approaches, research paradigms and empirical evidence will be presented and applications discussed.

The recommended reading will consist of recent journal articles specified in the lectures and on

Cyberpsychology (5PSY1009: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Dr George Georgiou (module leader)

Prerequisite: None

Open to PSY2 and JH2 students.

The module will introduce students to a variety of recent theoretical developments and empirical evidence in the field of Cyberpsychology and how these may be relevant in various applied settings. Cyberpsychology is the study of online behaviour, looking at how technologies such as the Internet affect the thinking and behaviour of individuals and groups. More broadly the field is also interested in how individuals interact with emerging and connected technologies. Topic areas that may be covered include: online behaviour (e.g. consumer, gambling, addiction); online education and health; online impression formation/disclosure; social networking; online relationships; online aggression & cyber-bullying.

Nonverbal Behaviour (5PSY1011: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Dr Daniel Gurney (module leader)

Prerequisites: Introductory Developmental and Language Psychology, Foundations of Social and Cognitive Psychology

Open to PSY2 and JH2 students who have fulfilled the prerequisites.

This module introduces the study of nonverbal behaviour in psychology (including facial expressions, eye gaze and posture) with a main focus on hand gestures. On this module, we'll look at how we can communicate and interpret information from others nonverbally and learn what this reveals about their social and cognitive skills throughout different stages of development. In addition, this module will explain how we can apply this knowledge to the real world (such as in interviews, attraction and deception detection). For more information on this course, please contact Daniel Gurney.

Schools of Psychotherapy (5PSY1012: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Sonja Falck (module leader), Dr George Georgiou

Prerequisite: None

Open to PSY2 and JH2 students.

This module introduces major schools of psychotherapy, their theoretical underpinnings and founders. Various methods of psychotherapy will be explored and critically discussed, typically including Psychodynamic, Humanistic, and Cognitive behavioural therapy. In addition other approaches to counselling and psychotherapy will be covered. This course will also focus on practical, methodological, ethical and legal issues that are likely to affect the impact of psychotherapy in various settings. Information on essential reading will be provided throughout the module in lectures and on StudyNet.

Understanding Individuals: Personal Construct Psychology (5PSY1010: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Dr Sue Anthony (module leader), with Guest Speakers

Prerequisite: Foundations of Social and Cognitive Psychology

Open to PSY2 and JH2 students who have fulfilled the prerequisite.

This module will introduce you to Personal Construct Psychology (PCP). PCP is a particular psychology based on George Kelly's personal construct theory; rather than looking at external factors that may affect behaviour, it offers a way of understanding both the behaviour of other individuals and one's own behaviour. PCP has a wide range of applications in non-clinical and clinical settings. PCP is rarely considered in any detail in undergraduate psychology degrees and so this module offers an unusual opportunity to discover an alternative way of thinking about how to make sense of why people behave in the ways they do and understanding issues around behaviour change. The module will combine lectures and practical sessions in which some background theory and methods of applying PCP will be taught.

LEVEL 6 MODULES

People and Society (6LMS0035: 15 credits, Semester A)

Module Team: Dr Stefanie Schmeer (Module leader), and Dr Dave Williams

The course will extend students' knowledge and understanding of principles, processes and applications in social psychology, focusing on how variables of the social context affect both the cognitive processes and behaviour of individuals and social relations within and between groups. Topics to be studied are likely to include social perception (including prejudice), causal attribution, interpersonal attraction and relationships, group processes, inter-group conflict and social constructionism. Students will be introduced to the principles that underlie much of human social behaviour and demonstrate how these are related to different social psychological phenomena. Material will typically be presented within lectures using notes, OHPs, formative MCQs and suggested reading. In addition each lecture has an attendant seminar which those registered on the module will be assigned to. Within seminars key set papers will be discussed.

Personality: Past and Present Debates (6LMS0028: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module Team: Dr Roberto Gutierrez (Module Leader) and Dr Dan Gurney, Dr Dave Williams.

This module introduces students to a critical analysis of personality theory and measurement, with particular reference to historical background and conceptual debates. Approaches typically covered will include: - Psychodynamic - Humanistic - Trait - Biological – Interactionist – Disordered. Critical consideration will also be given to methodological issues associated with personality throughout the course, which includes the measurement and validity of personality constructs. The course will be presented using lectures and in class debate, practical exercises, set reading and formative MCQs. The exam is of a 'semi seen' type, where the wording of questions will be made known in advance, but not which questions will appear in the exam.

Health Psychology (6PSY0057: 15 credits, Semester A)

Module team: Dr Nicholas Troop.

Prerequisite: Foundations in Social and Cognitive Psychology

Open to all PSY3 and JH4 students who have fulfilled the prerequisite.

This module introduces some key theories and principles of health psychology in relation to the maintenance of health, the development of illness and the adoption of healthy behaviours. In particular the emphasis will be on health in its broadest sense (i.e. a state of complete social, physical and mental well-being) rather than simply the absence of illness. The content includes cognitive factors (social cognition and intentions), emotional factors (stress and emotion regulation) and social factors (social support and social inequality) as well as responses to illness (coping, adjustment and adherence). These will be considered in relation to their application to health rather than taking a purely theoretical perspective.

Advanced Topics in Thinking (6PSY1009, 15 credits, Semester A)

Module team: Dr Sue Anthony. Prerequisites: Foundations of Social & Cognitive Psychology and Cognition, with a minimum overall grade of 50% achieved for the Cognition module.

Open to PSY3 and JH4 students who have fulfilled the prerequisites.

The main focus of the module is an in-depth look at the how we make judgements about how similar and/or different two things are to each other and why this should be considered a crucial process to understand in all areas of psychology with serious implications for 'real life'. You will learn about some recent research evidence and theories in this area and then be required to think about this material and decide how it fits together to aid our understanding of 'thinking' and how

our knowledge of objects in the world is 'mentally organised' such that it enables us to make predictions about our environment and support certain types of judgements and decisions. You will be expected to read experimental or theoretical papers between lectures and be ready to further study and discuss what you have read in class. The module is unusual in that all of the lectures and reading are designed to prepare you to tackle the essay (the title is shown in the first week of the module) and there are 2 tests on the reading you have undertaken to provide feedback on how well or poorly you have understood the material up to that point. Assessment is therefore through two multiple choice in class tests based on papers you will have read (15% each) and an essay (70%). You need to be willing to read and think about the material carefully and also to contribute to the discussion sessions. There are five voluntary seminars offered to support you in your learning for the essay.

Psychology of Performing Arts (6PSY1004: 15 credits, Semester A)

Current Module team: Dr Peter Lovatt (module leader) and other psychology staff.

Prerequisite: None

Open to PSY3 and JH4 students.

This course examines the theoretical and applied aspects of psychology as it relates to the performing arts. The performing arts are broadly defined and include things like magic and illusions, humour and comedy, music and dance (we'll even touch on public executions). But what is the "psychology" of these things? In this course we'll address questions such as: How do magicians misdirect our attention?, Why do we laugh?, Why have so many musicians committed suicide at a similar age? Why don't dancers get dizzy? Why does moving your body change the way you think and solve problems? And why does dancing seem to reduce some of the symptoms associated with neurodegenerative disorders? These questions will be addressed with reference to theories in psychology that come from the four corners of the discipline (e.g. social, developmental, cognitive and biological psychology). The course is delivered by Dr Peter Lovatt (module leader), Professor Richard Wiseman and Dr Nick Troop.

Brain Disorders (6PSY1008: 15 credits, Semester A)

Current Module team: Dr Lucy Annett (Module Leader)

Prerequisite: passed Biological Psychology/Biological Psychology 2 with at least 50%

Open to PSY3 and JH4 students who have fulfilled the prerequisite.

This module will examine recent research and current thinking regarding the biological mechanisms and behavioural consequences of brain disorders. Topics may include disorders for which brain pathology is clearly evident, for example Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, and disorders for which the biological mechanisms are less well understood, for example schizophrenia and depression. General themes will include the relative importance of genes and environment in the aetiology of the disorder, the use of animal models to understand mechanisms of pathology and

develop treatments, the rationale behind proposed or actual treatments, and the relationship between changes in the brain, psychological processes and behavioural outcomes.

In addition to lectures, students will study topics by searching for and reading relevant published literature in order to prepare a written article summary and an essay. Please note that as reading the published literature requires a reasonable understanding of brain anatomy and pharmacology, a good pass (minimum 50%) for 5PSY1001 Biological Psychology is a prerequisite for this module.

Occupational and Work Psychology (6LMS0024 Semester B)

Module Team: Dr Christeen George (Module leader), Dr Paola Amaldi

Prerequisites: Foundations of Social and Cognitive Psychology

Open to PSY3 and JH4 students who have fulfilled the prerequisite.

This module will provide an introduction to some of the key topics relating to people's behaviour in the workplace. Topics will include stress; relationships in the workplace; error and accidents; leadership; and career development as well as other relevant aspects of organisational behaviour.

Topics in Forensic and Criminal Psychology (6PSY0036: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Dr Dave Williams (Module Leader)

Prerequisite: Foundations of Social and Cognitive Psychology

Open to all PSY3 and JH4 students who have fulfilled the prerequisite.

This course is designed to develop an understanding of the ways in which psychology is applied to the legal process, crime and offenders. Relevant issues, constructs and explanations are

approached from a variety of levels of analysis including both quantitative and qualitative research findings. The course will prove useful as an introduction for those wishing to pursue postgraduate studies within forensic psychology. Topics are likely to include the social construction of crime, eyewitness testimony, jury decision-making, false confessions and interviews, theories of offending behaviour, juvenile offending, theories of sexual offending, rehabilitation, CCTV attitudes, effects and applications, and investigative psychology (offender profiling). Reading for the module will follow one main recommended text with specific additional research papers added in the case of certain topics. Powerpoint slides and notes will be made available on StudyNet for each week. The following is likely to be the main course text. However, lecture material will go beyond the standard text for many topics, so additional reading will be recommended in order to cope adequately with the exam.

Topics in Psychopathology (6PSY0030: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Prof Lia Kvavilashvili (Module Leader), Dr John Done and guest lecturers

Prerequisites: Cognition. Open to PSY3 and JH4 students who have fulfilled the prerequisite.

The aim of this module is to foster a critical appreciation of some of the topical issues in psychopathology. Students will develop an understanding of the nature of several mental health disorders, including schizophrenia, depression and eating disorders as well as other topics in psychopathology and clinical psychology. These topics are examined from a range of perspectives but the focus is on how psychological models, particularly cognitive ones, can aid our understanding of psychopathology and contribute to treatments for mental illness. Students will also learn to evaluate the various methodologies involved in isolating causative factors in mental illness.

Advanced Topics in Memory (6PSY0045: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Prof Lia Kvavilashvili

Prerequisite: Foundations of Social and Cognitive Psychology

Open to PSY3 and JH4 students who have fulfilled the prerequisite.

This module examines latest research into several important memory phenomena and their role in successful everyday memory functioning. Laboratory and naturalistic approaches will be compared and discussed. Specific topics may include autobiographical memory (e.g., involuntary memories, flashbulb memories), prospective memory (e.g., remembering to call the bank or send a message), survival memory and testing effects. Students will be asked to review and evaluate current published research, and encouraged to link and/or apply the material learned to their everyday experiences. For example, learning about the testing effect may help students to better organise their revision strategies to enhance their exam performance. Throughout the course, there will be several seminars and mock exam revision sessions to enhance students' understanding of the assessment criteria involved in marking the exam scripts. In addition to gaining a deeper insight into the marking process, these sessions also reduce students' exam anxiety.

Cognitive Neuropsychology (6PSY0002: 15 credits, Semester B)

Module team: Prof Keith Laws (Module Leader), Dr Paul Jenkinson,

Prerequisites: Foundations of Social and Cognitive Psychology, Brain and Behaviour

Open to PSY3 and JH4 students who have fulfilled the prerequisites.

The course attempts to show how a variety of disorders of perception, language and memory can provide a critical source of evidence through which to understand normal cognitive function. The course will focus on current models of cognition, through the relationship between cognitive function and neuropsychological systems will also be considered. This course aims to provide a thorough grounding in understanding higher mental processes. The following is an indication of module coverage:

- How does the brain process faces? How do we recognise people or facial emotions?
- Does the brain organise our knowledge of the world according to categories?
- Why do some people lose awareness (or even deny) of neurological deficits?
- What can we learn about consciousness from the study of visual processing deficits?
- Delusional misidentification syndromes – why would someone think that their wife, husband or child have been replaced by an identical double?

For a fascinating account of how neuropsychology cases can be used to reveal the cognitive workings of the mind, the classic book *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by the neurologist **Oliver Sacks** is highly recommended.

