



Course Outline

PSYC1023

Abnormal Psychology

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T2, 2019

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2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts of abnormal psychology with regard to: risk factors, classification, aetiology and treatments of common mental disorders.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method in order to understand how these principles are applied in abnormal psychology research and clinical settings.
3. Apply critical thinking skills in order to intellectually engage with literature, differentiate quality empirical evidence from speculation, develop an argument and critique those of others.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of the historic context, ethical principles and values in the area of abnormal psychology.
5. Demonstrate effective written communication skills in psychology for the purpose of informing and debating.

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

The lecture content of this course is presented entirely online via the [Moodle](#) eLearning website. The lectures will be delivered in video format (new lectures have burned-captions). Where applicable, PDF copies of the slides will be made available (note that not all lecturers for this course utilise slides and transcripts will be available for these lectures). Students should watch the lectures and write separate notes to maximise their understanding and retention of the material. A Reading and Study Companion will be made available each week to help students deepen their understanding and integrate the information that they have gained from the various course activities.

The weekly resources will be made available each Monday and will be left online for the duration of the course. This staggered release format is designed to encourage “distributed practice” (i.e. not “cramming”). The lecture material, prescribed textbook readings and online activities will provide students with the information required to gain an in depth knowledge of abnormal psychology – not only of specific disorders, but also of the scientific processes utilised in the study of them. The textbook and information presented in the online tutorial (Week 10: “You are getting sleepy!”) is examinable. Although the lectures, textbook and online activities will cover the same broad topics, and there may be some overlap in content, students should expect to learn different information from each of these different resources.

Formative topic revision quizzes are available on a weekly basis to provide an opportunity for students to evaluate their understanding of course material. Timely completion of the weekly quizzes will assist students in gaining a proper understanding of each topic.

Students will be placed into Study Groups at the beginning of the term. Students should use this group to discuss and debate the Discussion Points in Weeks 1 and 8. This group can also be used as a private forum to share ideas, ask peers questions, seek clarification and peer-feedback and also to give/receive motivation to help stay on-track.

The Course Content Discussion Forum provides students with an opportunity to question and clarify the lecture and textbook material. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with this forum by posting questions or comments, and reading, answering, and replying to other student’s posts to help build a sense of community, enhance understanding of the content, critical thinking, and written communication skills.

Research and Writing skills workshops will provide students with an important introduction to the essay assessment and an opportunity for students to develop their research and writing skills. Students will learn how to find relevant information (using databases), understand and summarise that information, and then clearly communicate these ideas in an essay format. These workshops will also introduce students to the APA referencing system.

The essay will give students an opportunity to consolidate their learning of course material and to demonstrate independent research and analytical skills. The mid-session and final examinations will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of examinable course material.

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 students must read these documents and watch the Course Introduction Video. Following this, students are required to complete the Course Information Quiz to demonstrate their understanding of course administration information. This may be attempted open book. The quiz is untimed and may be attempted as many times as needed to score 100%. Successful completion will allow access to the course materials.

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.

Although this is an online course, it is expected that students dedicate the same amount of time each week to studying for this course as they would for an 'on-campus' course. "Independent, self-directed practice" is a UNSW Graduate Attribute and an important aspect of online study. Timely completion of online activities is essential. In accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure, students are required to watch the lectures in the week in which they are set and to complete the assigned readings for that week. In accordance with UNSW and School of Psychology policy, failure to meet these expectations may result in rejection of: special consideration applications, essay extension requests, supplementary exam/assessment requests, fee remission etc.

Given that the course content and some assessable components are delivered online, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable

4. Course schedule and structure

The expected weekly engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term. This course involves 1 hour of lecture material (average; range: 37-117 minutes) and 1 hour of online modules per week. In addition, students are expected to engage in 7 hours of self-determined activities

Week 4 24/06/2019	Anxiety disorders Lecture 1: Specific phobias (36 mins) Lecture 2: Treating specific phobias (23 mins) Lecture 3: Social Phobia (26 mins) 80 mins total	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 4 (pp 118-124; 135-140; 141-145) 16 pages, approx. 1 hr
Week 5 01/07/2019	Schizophrenia and psychotic disorders Lecture 1: What is schizophrenia? Myths and positive symptoms (17 mins) Lecture 2: Negative and disorganised symptoms (17 mins) Lecture 3: Causes and treatments (26 mins) 60 mins total	Revision quiz Online Activity: Writing and APA Referencing workshop	Readings: Chapter 12 (pp 445-454; 456-472) 25 pages, approx. 1.5 hrs
Week 6 08/08/2019	Substance use and abuse Lecture 1: Substances and substance abuse (12 mins) Lecture 2: What causes substance abuse? (12 mins) Lecture 3: Treating substance abuse (13 mins) 37 mins total	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 10 (pp 367-398) 31 pages, approx. 1.5 hrs
Week 7 15/07/2019	Developmental disorders Lecture 1: Autism (44 mins) Lecture 2: ODD and Conduct Disorder (36 mins) 80 mins total	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 2 (pp 64-65) and Chapter 13 (pp 481-482; 492-497; 404-405) 10 pages, approx. 30 mins

Week 8



Week 9 29/07/2019	Cognitive disorders Lecture 1: Amnesia, delirium and Alzheimer's disease (20 mins) Lecture 2: Causes and treatments for dementias (28 mins) 48 mins total	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 13 (pp 505-520) 15 pages, approx. 45 mins
Week 10 05/08/2019	Eating and sleep disorders Lecture 1: Eating disorders and their causes (30 mins) Lecture 2: Theories and treatments for eating disorders (21 mins) 51 mins total	Online Tutorial: "You are getting sleepy!" Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 8 (pp 283-319) 36 pages, approx. 1.75 hrs
Study period 12/08/2019			Revision/Exam preparation
Exam period 16/08/2019 – 31/08/2019			Revision/Exam preparation

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment task	
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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

Essay: In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy the essay 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: [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.

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
Topic revision quizzes	■			

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 6th edition.](#)

Referencing

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
- Disability Support 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>

Disability Support Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disabctud9.13> AMCID 409.13 Tmq/1 0 0 1 274.13 429