

UNSW Course Outline

# PSYC1022 The Psychology of Addiction 2023

Course Code PSYC1022

Year 2023

Term 2

Delivery in Period T2

Delivery Mode Online

Delivery Format Standard

Delivery Location Kensington

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Delivery in Period T2

Subject Course No

Unit Faculty of Science

Unit School of Psychology

Delivery Mode Online

Delivery Format Standard

Delivery Location Kensington

Campus Sydney

Student

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[Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details Outcomes

### Course Description

Have you ever wondered why some people become addicted to drugs or alcohol while others do

not? Is addiction nature or nurture? Has the War on Drugs been effective at reducing illicit drug use? Is substance use a modern cultural phenomenon? Will using drugs *really* fry your brain? These questions and more will be explored in The Psychology of Addiction.

PSYC1022 is a first-year introductory course with no prior knowledge of Psychology required. The course content is accessible to both science students and those in non-science programs. PSYC1022 provides foundational understanding of biopsychosocial issues relevant to licit and illicit drug use, the development and maintenance of addiction, and the

developing effective learning and academic skills.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment
CLO1 : Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major transdisciplinary concepts, theories, research findings, and trends in the field of drug addiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essay</li><li>• Final examination</li><li>• Self-regulated learning activities</li></ul>
CLO2 : Describe and evaluate psychological research methods used in the field of drug addiction and interpret numerical data in relation to theoretical issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essay</li><li>• Final examination</li><li>• Self-regulated learning activities</li></ul>
CLO3 : Apply critical thinking skills in order to use empirical evidence from psychological science to understand physiological, behavioural, cognitive, and social factors involved in drug addiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essay</li><li>• Final examination</li></ul>
CLO4 : Demonstrate effective written communication skills for the purpose of informing and arguing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essay</li></ul>
CLO5 : Apply self-regulated learning strategies to study course content for the purpose of developing effective learning and academic skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-regulated learning activities</li><li>• Essay</li></ul>

## Learning Objectives

Moodle - Learning

The Moodle discussion forum should be the first line of contact with the Course Coordinator (meeting requests, personal or Equitable Learning Support matters can be sent by email in the first instance). Due to the online nature of the course, under no circumstances are specific quiz questions/answers to be discussed online or via email, such matters can only be discussed during consultation meetings with the Course Coordinator.

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.

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

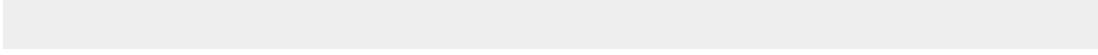
they can be placed into a group.

**Online lessons** Researching, APA style, and Scientific Writing Skills online lessons will help students understand the important features of scientific writing and will show students how to conduct research by finding journal articles. These lessons are designed to help students develop effective researching, APA referencing, and writing skills required for the essay. The essay instructions will not be released to students until they have completed these four lessons.

**Smart thinking** This course uses the Smart Thinking writing support resource offered by UNSW. More information on this resource can be found in the Smart Thinking hub in Moodle. Submission of a written essay draft, or bullet point essay plan, i

- Health and safety

It is expected that



There will be a 45-minute examination held online during the official University examination period (time and date TBA). The examination is comprised of 60 multiple choice questions covering lecture and reading material from Weeks 1-10.

#### Assessment

45 minutes.

#### Submission

This is not a Turnitin assignment

### Self-regulated Learning Activities

Throughout the course there are five self-regulated learning activities (e.g. icebreaker post, written examples of types of instrumental learning, neuropharmacology mind map, set of multiple-choice questions, learning reflection post) which are designed to encourage collaborative/peer learning in your online study group, regular revision of course material, and active learning of the course content. Each activity is worth 2%, so you can earn a total of 10% of your final grade by submitting each activity by the due date (Sunday of Weeks 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10). Marks and feedback on each self-regulated learning activity is provided 10 working days after submission.

#### Assessment

Varied

#### Submission

Submit each SRL activity via the study group forum for each activity.

#### Submission

This is not a Turnitin assignment

### Special Consideration

**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.

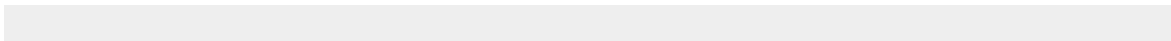
**Important** UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond 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>.

**Interim 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.





	Other	Optional activities as indicated in Moodle at student's discretion.
Week 2 : 5 June - 9 June	Lecture	Topic 4: Harms of Drug Use (2 lectures)  Topic 5: Associative Learning (2 lectures)
	Online Activity	Topic 4 quiz  Topic 5 quiz  Intro to APA style online lesson
	Assessment	Study group: complete SRL 1 (deadline: Sunday 5:00 pm)
	Other	Optional activities as indicated in Moodle.  Exam prep/revision.
Week 3 : 12 June - 16 June	Lecture	Topic 6: Neuropharmacology (3 lectures)  Topic 7: Withdrawal & Tolerance (2 lectures)
	Online Activity	Topic 6 quiz  Topic 7 quiz  Writing skills online lessons
	Assessment	Submit: essay prep. 1 (deadline Sunday 5:00 pm)
	Other	Optional activities as indicated in Moodle.  Exam prep/revision.  Study group.
Week 4 : 19 June - 23 June	Lecture	Topic 8: Positive reinforcement, craving and economic choice (1 lecture)

		Topic 9: Biological mechanisms of reward (1 lecture)
	Online Activity	Topic 8 quiz  Topic 9 quiz  Prescribed Reading: Wise & Koob (2014).
	Assessment	Study group: complete SRL 2 (deadline Sunday 5:00 pm)
	Other	Work on Essay  Optional activities as indicated in Moodle  Exam prep/revision
Week 5: 26 June - 30 June	Lecture	Topic 10: Cognitive Impairments and comorbidity (1 lecture)  Topic 11: Brain mechanisms of impaired behavioural control (1 lecture)
	Online Activity	Topic 10 quiz  Topic 11 quiz  Prescribed reading: Ahmed (2012)
	Assessment	Study group: complete SRL 3 (deadline Sunday 5:00 pm)
	Other	Work on Essay  Optional activities as indicated in Moodle  Exam prep/revision
Week 6: 3 July - 7 July	Other	Work on Essay  Optional activities as indicated in Moodle  Exam prep/revision

		Study group
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Week 7 : 10 July - 14 July

Lecture

Topic 12: Individual differences

		Exam prep/revision
Week 10: 31 July - 4 August	Lecture	Topic 15: Prevention and Prohibition (2 lectures)
	Online Activity	Topic 15 quiz
	Assessment	Study group: complete SRL 5 (deadline Sunday 5:00 pm)
	Other	Exam prep/revision

## Attendance Requirements

Not Applicable - as no class attendance is required

## Course Delivery

Each week this course typically consists of 2 hours of online lecture material and 1-2 hours of online activities. Students are expected to take an additional 5-7 hours of study per week to engage in other self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, optional activities, exam preparation/revision and engage with their study group.

## Course Resources

### Prescribed Resources

The course does not have a prescribed textbook. Two journal articles are set as prescribed readings and will be released on Moodle on Monday at 9 am on designated weeks.

### Recommended Resources

[Academic Integrity](#)

[Email policy](#)

[UNSW Anti-racism policy](#)

[UNSW Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy](#)

## Information | Costs

Nil.

## Course Evaluation and Feedback

At the end of term students are strongly encouraged to complete the myExperience survey to provide feedback on the course and teaching. This feedback is used to improve the learning experience of future students.

## Staff

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Online Support Contact	First Contact
Convenor	Helena Pacitti	<a href="mailto:h.pacitti@unsw.edu.au">h.pacitti@unsw.edu.au</a>	Mathews 915	Email	Virtual meeting via Teams: Monday to Friday 9-5; Face to Face consult Mondays 2-3; Walk and Talk Mondays 1-2 pm.	Yes	Yes
Lecturer	Helena Pacitti	<a href="mailto:h.pacitti@unsw.edu.au">h.pacitti@unsw.edu.au</a>	Mathews 915	Email	Virtual meeting via Teams: Monday to Friday 9-5; Face to Face consult Mondays 2-3; Walk and Talk Mondays 1-2 pm.	Yes	No

## Our Use of 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.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

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