Unit Outline
PSYC1001 Foundations of Psychology
Semester 2, 2016

Unit study package code:  PSYC1001
Mode of study: Internal
Tuition pattern summary: Note: For any specific variations to this tuition pattern and for precise information refer to the Learning Activities section.
Lecture: 1 x 1 Hours Weekly
Tutorial: 1 x 2 Hours Weekly
This unit does not have a fieldwork component.
Credit Value: 25.0
Pre-requisite units: Nil
Co-requisite units: Nil
Anti-requisite units: Nil
Result type: Grade/Mark
Approved incidental fees: Information about approved incidental fees can be obtained from our website. Visit fees.curtin.edu.au/incidental_fees.cfm for details.
Unit coordinator:
Title: Dr
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Location: Building: 401 - Room: 217

Teaching Staff:

Administrative contact:
Name: Student Services Officer
Phone: 9266 7279
Email: HSPsychologyStudents@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 401 - Room: 220

Learning Management System: Blackboard (lms.curtin.edu.au)

Acknowledgement of Country
We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past and present.

Syllabus
Broad outline of the study of mental processes. Introduction to perception, thinking, language, intelligence, consciousness, psychological disorders, and psychological therapies.
Introduction

Welcome to Foundations of Psychology. The aim of this unit is to develop your interest in, and understanding of, the scientific study of behaviour. You will be introduced to several major areas of psychological investigation, with a focus on past and current theories, as well as applications of these theories to psychological practice. No unit in psychology will give you a complete understanding of yourself or of other people, but it should encourage an attitude of inquiry and concern which will enable you to use your knowledge of psychology in forming a better and more realistic understanding of yourself and those around you. The six areas (modules) of study that we will cover in the unit are:

1. Consciousness.
   In this module we will examine the various states of consciousness including sleep and dreams, and the different ways consciousness can be altered, such as through the use of hypnosis, meditation, and drug use.

2. Perception.
   This module is focused on examining how people make sense of their environment. The module will introduce general concepts and issues involved in the study of perception, with specific focus on the various aspects of visual processing such as distance, depth and motion perception, perceptual constancies, Gestalt organisation, and the role of context.

3. Cognition and Language.
   This module will examine what it means to "think". We will examine some common thinking (cognitive) strategies and errors, as well as some functions of thinking, such as problem solving. We will also investigate human language and how it is related to our thinking.

4. Intelligence.
   At some stage, almost every health professional will encounter psychological evaluations of their clients and very often these will include some assessment of intelligence. This module will examine what intelligence is, the different perspectives for understanding and measuring intelligence, and the factors that contribute to differences in intelligence.

5. Psychological Disorders.
   This module will cover some of the main types of psychological disorders and their associated symptoms. We will examine how to determine whether a pattern of thinking, feeling, and behaving is a psychological disorder and discuss some different approaches to understanding psychopathology.

6. Psychological Treatment.
   This module will examine various approaches to the treatment of psychological disorders and the efficacy of the different approaches. We will also briefly examine some of the practical aspects of psychological treatment.

Unit Learning Outcomes

All graduates of Curtin University achieve a set of nine graduate attributes during their course of study. These tell an employer that, through your studies, you have acquired discipline knowledge and a range of other skills and attributes which employers say would be useful in a professional setting. Each unit in your course addresses the graduate attributes through a clearly identified set of learning outcomes. They form a vital part in the process referred to as assurance of learning. The learning outcomes tell you what you are expected to know, understand or be able to do in order to be successful in this unit. Each assessment for this unit is carefully designed to test your achievement of one or more of the unit learning outcomes. On successfully completing all of the assessments you will have achieved all of these learning outcomes.

Your course has been designed so that on graduating we can say you will have achieved all of Curtin's Graduate Attributes through the assurance of learning process in each unit.
Learning Activities

1. Textbook readings will be set for each module of study and will provide you with the basic theoretical and methodological underpinnings of the module content. See the program calendar at the back of this Unit Outline for the assigned textbook readings.

2. The lectures will focus in more detail on key aspects of each module topic. Each lecture will be presented by a staff member of the School of Psychology and Speech Pathology who has knowledge and experience related to the topic. Lectures (recordings of the lecture) will be available each week through the EchoCentre link in Blackboard. However, students are strongly advised to attend lectures each week.

3. In addition to the provision of information regarding each module, the tutorial classes consist of three key components:
   a. Experiential learning activities that provide a hands-on understanding of the module topic. For example, in the intelligence tutorial, students may have the opportunity to use an intelligence test.
   b. Discussion topics that allow students to apply the material to everyday life and to talk through controversial topics such as “What is intelligence?” and “How many types of intelligence are there?” For example, in the intelligence tutorial, the class may discuss what sorts of information we would need to know about an intelligence test before we could say that it is a valid and reliable measure of intelligence.
   c. Revision activities that will assess students’ current knowledge of modules and will provide opportunities to discuss issues and themes with the tutor and classmates.

Learning Resources

Library Reserve

There are resources for this unit in the library Reserve collection. To access these resources, please click on the following link:

http://link.library.curtin.edu.au/primo/course?PSYC1001

Recommended texts

You do not have to purchase the following textbooks but you may like to refer to them.


Note: that this book can be purchased in either hardcopy from the bookstore or as an electronic version from the publisher.
Other resources

Academic Integrity at Curtin: Student guidelines for avoiding plagiarism. If you do not have a copy of this book, please ensure that you download a copy from http://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/global/studentbook.cfm

Guide to APA 6th Edition Referencing Style


Author.

Curtin Library Guide to APA 6th edition referencing:


Assessment

Assessment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value %</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Unit Learning Outcome(s) Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Multiple choice e-Test      | 25 percent | Week: Week 8  
Day: Wednesday 21  
Sept to Friday 23  
Sept  
Time: TBC | 1,2 |
| Written assignment          | 35 percent | Week: Week 6  
Day: Friday 9th  
September, 2016  
Time: 4.30pm | 3,4 |
| Examination                 | 40 percent | Week: Examination  
Fortnight  
Day: TBA  
Time: TBA | 1,2 |
| Research experiences        | Pass/Fail | Week: End of  
Examination Fortnight  
Day: Friday  
November 25, 2016  
Time: 4.30pm | 2 |

Detailed information on assessment tasks

1. There will be one mid-semester multiple-choice test with 30 questions. You will have 40 minutes to complete the test. This test is worth 25% of your final grade and will cover the first three modules: Consciousness, Perception, and Cognition and Language. The test will include questions based on textbook, lecture, and tutorial materials. Questions will assess three levels of knowledge. Factual questions will assess knowledge of material explicitly presented (e.g., definitions). Conceptual questions will assess your ability to analyse and synthesise the materials presented, and application questions will assess your ability to apply theoretical and factual knowledge to real-world events and experiences. This is a closed book test – no materials or aids may be taken into the test. This test will be held at the Assessment Centre located on level 5 of the Robertson Library.

Please be advised the Assessment Centre booking system gives students some flexibility to book a test at a time that is suitable, however there is no guarantee that your preferred time will be available. It is your responsibility to make a booking and to ensure that you have completed the test within the specified
The goal of this assignment is to develop your skills in reading and interpreting a psychological article, in finding relevant, recent literature on a topic, and in applying psychological concepts and research to situations in everyday life. It will also help you to develop your skills in writing a coherent and concise piece of work. You will be given an article and a series of short answer questions to address. This assessment is worth 35% of your final grade for the unit. You are required to submit your assignment online through Turnitin before 4.30pm on Friday September 9. No hard copy should be submitted. Further details regarding the written assignment will be posted on Blackboard and the assignment will be discussed during tutorials.

2. The goal of this assignment is to develop your skills in reading and interpreting a psychological article, in finding relevant, recent literature on a topic, and in applying psychological concepts and research to situations in everyday life. It will also help you to develop your skills in writing a coherent and concise piece of work. You will be given an article and a series of short answer questions to address. This assessment is worth 35% of your final grade for the unit. You are required to submit your assignment online through Turnitin before 4.30pm on Friday September 9. No hard copy should be submitted. Further details regarding the written assignment will be posted on Blackboard and the assignment will be discussed during tutorials.

3. There will be a 2-hour exam held during the examination fortnight. The exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions and is worth 40% of your final grade. The exam questions will be based on textbook, lecture, and tutorial materials and will assess material from the final three modules: Intelligence, Psychological Disorders, and Psychological Treatment. Material from the first three modules will NOT be assessed in the exam. Questions will assess three levels of knowledge. Factual questions will assess knowledge of material explicitly presented (e.g., definitions). Conceptual questions will assess your ability to analyse and synthesise the materials presented, and application questions will assess your ability to apply theoretical and factual knowledge to real-world events and experiences. The exam is closed book – no materials or aids are allowed. Further information about the examination will be provided later in the semester and students will have the opportunity to engage in practice short answer questions during tutorials towards the end of semester.

4. Research suggests that undergraduate psychology students derive a range of benefits from participating in authentic research (e.g., Dalziel, 1996; Roberts & Allen, 2012, 2013). Their willing participation is also very beneficial to post-graduate students and academic staff who, without the cooperation of undergraduate students, can find it difficult to recruit samples large enough to allow for proper tests of their research hypotheses. To provide undergraduate psychology students with opportunities to experience real research, and post-graduate/staff researchers with access to potential participants, a participant pool has been established in the School of Psychology and Speech Pathology, which is managed using a software program called SONA (http://curtin.sona-systems.com). As a student in Foundations of Psychology, you have been automatically enrolled in the participant pool (and will receive an email containing your log-in details at the start of the semester), and will be required to participate in at least ‘6 points’ worth of research (or complete an alternative written activity) before 4:30pm on Friday 25 November 2016. At least THREE of these points must be from participation in face-to-face studies (e.g., lab based experiments, focus groups etc.), whilst the remainder can be either face-to-face or online. This is an essential requirement for passing this unit.

To encourage professional behaviour and minimise the number of ‘no-shows’ (which waste researchers’ time and prevent other students from accessing SONA timeslots), the participant pool makes use of a penalty system. If you register for a timeslot and then do not attend (or in the case of online research, do not participate within 24 hours of signing up), you will be automatically recorded as an “unexcused absence” in SONA, and penalised 1 point. If you sign up for a timeslot, and then cannot attend, you MUST cancel it prior to the study’s cancellation deadline in SONA. Penalties for no-shows will only be waived in situations where unexpected and unavoidable circumstances have prevented you from cancelling your timeslot in SONA or notifying the researcher in advance of your absence. In these circumstances, you may be asked to provide supporting evidence in the form of a medical certificate or other official documentation.

Researchers have been asked to award participation points within two working days. If you participate in a study as a member of the participant pool and have not received your points after two working days, please contact the relevant researcher. Any matters that cannot be resolved in this way should be directed to the pool manager, Prof. Nikos Chatzisarantis (nikos.chatzisarantis@curtin.edu.au), and not the Unit Coordinator. Do not leave this until the end of semester! To be awarded points for participating in online studies, you MUST provide your name and ID number/email address when asked. If you do not respond to these questions, or you close your browser window before you get to them, you will not receive your participation points.

Note that in Semester 1 calls for participants tend to occur fairly evenly throughout the semester. In Semester 2, calls for participants tend to occur during the first four to six weeks (which is when most 4th year students...
are engaged in data collection). Either way, you are encouraged to begin accruing your points early in the semester!

Finally, please remember that all participation is voluntary, and if you elect not to participate in 6 points worth of research this semester, you can pass this unit by completing an alternative written activity. Full details will be provided later in the semester.

**Pass requirements**

In order to pass the unit you must:

1. Complete and submit all pieces of assessment. **Failure to complete/submit any of the assessments will result in a Fail-Incomplete grade for the unit.**
2. Obtain an overall mark of 50% or higher (note that you do not have to obtain 50% or higher for all pieces of assessment).
3. Complete the Research Participation requirement as outlined in Assessment 4.

**Fair assessment through moderation**

Moderation describes a quality assurance process to ensure that assessments are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and that student work is evaluated consistently by assessors. Minimum standards for the moderation of assessment are described in the Assessment and Student Progression Manual, available from [policies.curtin.edu.au/policies/teachingandlearning.cfm](http://policies.curtin.edu.au/policies/teachingandlearning.cfm)

**Late assessment policy**

This ensures that the requirements for submission of assignments and other work to be assessed are fair, transparent, equitable, and that penalties are consistently applied.

1. All assessments students are required to submit will have a due date and time specified on this Unit Outline.
2. Students will be penalised by a deduction of ten percent per calendar day for a late assessment submission (eg a mark equivalent to 10% of the total allocated for the assessment will be deducted from the marked value for every day that the assessment is late). This means that an assessment worth 20 marks will have two marks deducted per calendar day late. Hence if it was handed in three calendar days late and given a mark of 16/20, the student would receive 10/20. An assessment **more than seven calendar days overdue will not be marked and will receive a mark of 0.**

**Assessment extension**

A student unable to complete an assessment task by/on the original published date/time (eg examinations, tests) or due date/time (eg assignments) must apply for an assessment extension using the Assessment Extension form (available from the Forms page at [students.curtin.edu.au/administration/](http://students.curtin.edu.au/administration/)) as prescribed by the Academic Registrar. It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate and provide evidence for exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control that prevent them from completing/submitting the assessment task.

The student will be expected to lodge the form and supporting documentation with the unit coordinator before the assessment date/time or due date/time. An application may be accepted up to five working days after the date or due date of the assessment task where the student is able to provide an acceptable explanation as to why he or she was not able to submit the application prior to the assessment date. An application for an assessment extension will not be accepted after the date of the Board of Examiners’ meeting.

**Deferred assessments**

If your results show that you have been granted a deferred assessment you should immediately check OASIS for details.

Deferred examinations/tests will be held from 15/12/2016 to 16/12/2016. Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners’ meeting via the Official Communications Channel (OCC) in OASIS.
Supplementary assessments

Supplementary assessments, if granted by the Board of Examiners, will have a due date or be held between 15/12/2016 and 16/12/2016. Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners’ meeting via the Official Communications Channel (OCC) in OASIS.

It is the responsibility of students to be available to complete the requirements of a supplementary assessment. If your results show that you have been granted a supplementary assessment you should immediately check OASIS for details.

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities/health circumstances likely to impact on studies

A Curtin Access Plan (CAP) is a document that outlines the type and level of support required by a student with a disability or health condition to have equitable access to their studies at Curtin. This support can include alternative exam or test arrangements, study materials in accessible formats, access to Curtin’s facilities and services or other support as discussed with an advisor from Disability Services (disability.curtin.edu.au). Documentation is required from your treating Health Professional to confirm your health circumstances.

If you think you may be eligible for a CAP, please contact Disability Services. If you already have a CAP please provide it to the Unit Coordinator at the beginning of each semester.

Referencing style

The referencing style for this unit is APA 6th Ed.

More information can be found on this style from the Library web site: http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/referencing.

Copyright

© Curtin University. The course material for this unit is provided to you for your own research and study only. It is subject to copyright. It is a copyright infringement to make this material available on third party websites.

Academic Integrity (including plagiarism and cheating)

Any conduct by a student that is dishonest or unfair in connection with any academic work is considered to be academic misconduct. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences that will be investigated and may result in penalties such as reduced or zero grades, annulled units or even termination from the course.

Plagiarism occurs when work or property of another person is presented as one’s own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing. Submitting work which has been produced by someone else (e.g. allowing or contracting another person to do the work for which you claim authorship) is also plagiarism. Submitted work is subjected to a plagiarism detection process, which may include the use of text matching systems or interviews with students to determine authorship.

Cheating includes (but is not limited to) asking or paying someone to complete an assessment task for you or any use of unauthorised materials or assistance during an examination or test.

From Semester 1, 2016, all incoming coursework students are required to complete Curtin’s Academic Integrity Program (AIP). If a student does not pass the program by the end of their first study period of enrolment at Curtin, their marks will be withheld until they pass. More information about the AIP can be found at: https://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/students/AIP.cfm

Refer to the Academic Integrity tab in Blackboard or academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au for more information, including student guidelines for avoiding plagiarism.
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Expectations

Curtin students are expected to have reliable internet access in order to connect to OASIS email and learning systems such as Blackboard and Library Services.

You may also require a computer or mobile device for preparing and submitting your work.

For general ICT assistance, in the first instance please contact OASIS Student Support:
oasisapps.curtin.edu.au/help/general/support.cfm

For specific assistance with any of the items listed below, please contact The Learning Centre:
life.curtin.edu.au/learning-support/learning_centre.htm

- Using Blackboard, the I Drive and Back-Up files
- Introduction to PowerPoint, Word and Excel

Additional information

Enrolment

It is your responsibility to ensure that your enrolment is correct - you can check your enrolment through the eStudent option on OASIS, where you can also print an Enrolment Advice.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of all relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to their rights and responsibilities as a student. These include:

- the Student Charter
- the University's Guiding Ethical Principles
- the University’s policy and statements on plagiarism and academic integrity
- copyright principles and responsibilities
- the University’s policies on appropriate use of software and computer facilities

Information on all these things is available through the University's "Student Rights and Responsibilities" website at:
students.curtin.edu.au/rights.

Student Equity

There are a number of factors that might disadvantage some students from participating in their studies or assessments to the best of their ability, under standard conditions. These factors may include a disability or medical condition (e.g. mental illness, chronic illness, physical or sensory disability, learning disability), significant family responsibilities, pregnancy, religious practices, living in a remote location or another reason. If you believe you may be unfairly disadvantaged on these or other grounds please contact Student Equity at eesj@curtin.edu.au or go to http://eesj.curtin.edu.au/student_equity/index.cfm for more information.

You can also contact Counselling and Disability services: http://www.disability.curtin.edu.au or the Multi-faith services: http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/about_multifaith_services.htm for further information.

It is important to note that the staff of the university may not be able to meet your needs if they are not informed of your individual circumstances so please get in touch with the appropriate service if you require assistance. For general wellbeing concerns or advice please contact Curtin's Student Wellbeing Advisory Service at:
Recent unit changes

Students are encouraged to provide unit feedback through eVALUate, Curtin's online student feedback system. For more information about eVALUate, please refer to evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/.

Recent changes to this unit include:

N/A
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Begin Date</th>
<th>Lecture/Seminar</th>
<th>Pre-readings</th>
<th>Tutorial/Other</th>
<th>Assessment Due</th>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>Consciousness</td>
<td>Chpt 5</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Chpt 4 (focus on pp. 152 onwards), p.301 (confirmation bias), p. 303 (heuristics)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Chpt 4 (focus on pp. 152 onwards), p.301 (confirmation bias), p. 303 (heuristics)</td>
<td>Perception/Assignment Discussion</td>
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<td>Cognition &amp; Language</td>
<td>Chpt 8</td>
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<td>Chpt 8</td>
<td>Cognition &amp; Language / e-test revision</td>
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<td>Chpt 9</td>
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<td>Chpt 16</td>
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<td>16.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>21 November</td>
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