UNSW Course Outline

PSYC7403 Experimental Psychology and Law - 2023

Course Code : PSYC7403
Year : 2023
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington

General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC7403
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 : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course involves an in-depth study of selected topics from the field of Psychology and law

that have been subjected to rigorous experimental study. Classes will be led by psychologists with expertise on substantive topics in experimental psychology and law. The course particularly focuses on the design of research in Psychology-law, on the relationship between research and policy and on attempts to use research to inform changes to public policy and law.

Example topics include Eyewitness identification evidence, Traumatic Brain Injury and offending, Decision making in forensic science and Risk assessment. The sessions are delivered in a tutorial format where students present and discuss selected readings.

This course is designed for students in the Master of Psychology (Forensic) program.

Course Aims

The course aims to provide students with increased knowledge of topics within forensic psychology and to develop a greater understanding of the problems facing researchers working within this field. This will help develop students' ability to undertake applied research in forensic psychology, and to critically evaluate published research and use this to inform their clinical practice and policy development.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course is for students enrolled on the Master of Psychology (Forensic) Program.

It builds on research evlauation skills developed in PSYC7402.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify and critically evaluate published research within the field of forensic psychology.
CLO2 : Describe methodological approaches which can be employed to tackle ethical and practical constraints in applied research in psychology law research.
CLO3 : Synthesise research and theory in psychology law to address applied questions in the field and to design research programs.
CLO4 : Effectively communicate research findings to non-specialist audiences, providing a balanced and impartial view of the strengths and limitations of research in the field.
CLO5 : Use research findings to formulate appropriate and practical policy advice.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify and critically evaluate published research within the field of forensic psychology.	• Report 1 • Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings • Report 2

CLO2 : Describe methodological approaches which can be employed to tackle ethical and practical constraints in applied research in psychology law research.	• Report 1 • Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings • Report 2
CLO3 : Synthesise research and theory in psychology law to address applied questions in the field and to design research programs.	• Report 1 • Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings • Report 2
CLO4 : Effectively communicate research findings to non-specialist audiences, providing a balanced and impartial view of the strengths and limitations of research in the field.	• Report 1 • Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings • Report 2
CLO5 : Use research findings to formulate appropriate and practical policy advice.	• Report 1 • Report 2

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Report 1 Assessment FormatIndividual	40%	Start DateNot Applicable Due Date22/10/2023 11:59 PM
Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings Assessment FormatIndividual	20%	Start DateAs assigned Due DateAs assigned
Report 2 Assessment FormatIndividual	40%	Due Date26/11/2023 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Report 1

Assessment Overview

You will prepare a report (worth 40% of your total mark for the course), based on one of the

topics in the first half of the course. You will select the report topic from a list of alternatives provided. The topics specify a particular applied question and target audience for the report.

You will undertake a search for research evidence relevant to the topic question, critically evaluate and synthesise this research, and apply it to the practical question posed.

You will present your findings and conclusions in a manner which is suitable for the specified target audience. If you require advice on how to approach a topic you may consult with the psychologist who set the question.

Reports must be a maximum of 3,500 words in length (including all text except for the references and any appendices). You will be penalised if your report exceeds the maximum word count.

Report 1 will typically be due around weeks 6 and written feedback will be provided by the marker.

Detailed Assessment Description

Report topics will be released on Moodle.

Assessment Length

Maximum of 3500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Critical reviews and presentations of two assigned readings

Assessment Overview

Prior to attending each class you will read the assigned materials and prepare a very brief summary of each of the readings (less than 1 page each).

These summaries should include two or more points for discussion. These summaries must be submitted before the start of the relevant class.
In addition, on two occasions across the 10 weeks of the course you will be assigned to prepare a more detailed critical review of one of the week's readings and lead the class in a discussion of that reading.

You will produce a one or two-page review of the reading you have been assigned. The review should contain a brief summary of the study outcomes, together with a more detailed consideration of the theoretical, practical and methodological implications of the research. These reviews must be shared with fellow students prior to the start of the relevant class. You will also lead a discussion about the significance of the work, its weaknesses and strengths and its practical implications for policy in the field.
The psychologist leading the session will provide brief feedback and a mark out of 10 for your review and presentation.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Report 2

Assessment Overview

You will prepare a report (worth 40% of your total mark for the course), based on one of the topics in the second half of the course. You will select the report topic from a list of alternatives provided. The topics specify a particular applied question and target audience for the report.

You will undertake a search for research evidence relevant to the topic question, critically evaluate and synthesise this research, and apply it to the practical question posed.

You will present your findings and conclusions in a manner which is suitable for the specified target audience. If you require advice on how to approach a topic you may consult with the psychologist who set the question.

Reports must be a maximum of 3,500 words in length (including all text except for the references and any appendices). You will be penalised if your report exceeds the maximum word count.

Report 2 will typically be due around weeks 10 and written feedback will be provided by the marker.

Assessment Length

Maximum of 3500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 11 September - 15 September	Tutorial	An introdcution to the course. Students assigned to presentation weeks. Readings for week 2
Week 2 : 18 September - 22 September	Tutorial	Identification evidence: From research to policy and back again. Richard Kemp, UNSW

Week 3 : 25 September - 29 September	Tutorial	Traumatic Brain Injury and Offending Amanda White, UNSW
Week 4 : 2 October - 6 October	Other	Public Holiday. No Class.
Week 5 : 9 October - 13 October	Tutorial	Risk Assessment Sam Ardasinski Serious Offenders Assessment Unit, Risk Management Programs, CSNSW
Week 6 : 16 October - 20 October	Tutorial	Facial Identify Verification David White UNSW
Week 7 : 23 October - 27 October	Tutorial	Countering Violent Extremism Programs: Assessment, intervention and management of violent extremist offenders Naomi Prince, CVE Programs, CSNSW
Week 8 : 30 October - 3 November	Tutorial	Understanding Forensic Evidence Ben Newell, UNSW
Week 9 : 6 November - 10 November	Other	
Week 10 : 13 November - 17 November	Tutorial	Forensic Psychology Expertise

		Kristy Martire, UNSW

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

General Schedule Information

Classes will be in-person unless otherwise arranged.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Richard Kemp	richard.kemp@unsw.edu.au	Mathews 1005	+61415430668	By appointment via email	Yes	Yes

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 Plagarism

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