

FP010-30 Psychology

21/22

Department

Warwick Foundation Studies

Level

Foundation

Module leader

Sam Grierson

Credit value

30

Module duration

25 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

FP010-30 Psychology

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This module aims to introduce students to the key themes and theories of psychology, as well as the methods and classic studies that underpin the discipline. It further aims to introduce students to models of mental illness, the biological basis of behaviour, and theories of memory. Throughout the module, students will engage in critical thinking and their understanding will be rooted in applied examples and relevant, real-world scenarios. The skills and knowledge gained through this module will help prepare students for entry to Psychology undergraduate degrees.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Part 1: Perspectives; including classical studies and contemporary issues.

- Contributions made by a variety of different theorists to the understanding of human behaviour.
- Cognitive, humanistic, behavioural, psychodynamic, biological, and social learning theory approaches to our understanding of human behaviour including motivation and classical studies in psychology.

Part 2: Research methods including classical studies, contemporary issues, experimental techniques, and research design.

Ways of collecting data in psychology are explored. Included in the discussion are contemporary issues in considering psychological methods, including:

- Gender and cultural bias in research.
- Social implications of research in the real world.
- W.E.I.R.D. samples and the problems associated with generalisation: see *The Neglected 95%* (Arnett 2008) and *The Weirdest People in The World* (Henrich, 2010).
- Cultural differences in psychology (e.g., in attachment).
- Replication crisis.
- Discussion of the extent to which psychology can be described as a science etc.
- Ethical issues in Psychological Research.

Part 3: Mental Health and Illness

- Defining abnormality.
- Diagnosis – how have times changed, the DSM, the ICD, the difference between psychology and psychiatry.
- Treatment: including pharmacological and therapeutic approaches.
- Disorders, Diagnosis and Treatment: could include Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders, Depressive Disorders, Anxiety Disorders and Eating Disorders.

Part 4: The Brain

- Cells of the nervous system, the structure and function of the neuron.
- The various parts of the brain and their primary functions and the lateralization of functions between the two hemispheres.
- Neuroplasticity, brain injury and brain disease: could include Parkinson's, Huntington's and Aphasia Sensory systems.
- The biopsychology of stress and the association between stress and health.
- Memory, including the multi-store model of memory (MSM) and the working memory model (WMM), eyewitness testimony, reconstructive memory, and their biases.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Critically evaluate behavioural, cognitive and humanistic explanations of behaviour and motivation
- Evaluate the merits of different research methods, and recognise the writing structure of peer reviewed journal publications in Psychology

- Consider and appreciate the biological bases of human behaviour
- Understand theoretical models of mental illness, identify selected psychological disorders, and understand tools for diagnosis and treatment

Indicative reading list

<https://rl.talis.com/3/warwick/lists/015C73D7-1EA5-9301-2E13-C47EB41916E5.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Interdisciplinary

Part of a wider Psychology module which also covers Inquiry and Research Skills, English for Academic Purposes, Statistics for Science, Biology Principles and Practice, and Chemistry for Science.

Subject specific skills

An introductory overview of psychology.

Transferable skills

Critical thinking, group work, essay writing, presentation, communicating through contemporary media types.

Study

Study time

| Type | Required |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lectures | (0%) |
| Seminars | 75 sessions of 1 hour (25%) |
| Online learning (independent) | 25 sessions of 1 hour (8%) |
| Private study | 140 hours (47%) |
| Assessment | 60 hours (20%) |
| Total | 300 hours |

Private study description

Private Study.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

| | Weighting | Study time |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Essay 1 (1000 words) Essay on perspectives viewed from classical and contemporary debate. | 20% | 10 hours |
| Essay 2 (1500 words) Essay on Classification and Diagnosis of Mental Illness. Exploring classic studies and contemporary issues in psychology. | 25% | 15 hours |
| Info graph Info graph comparing the evidence in support of different approaches to treatment of a mental illness (e.g. different therapeutic approaches to treating Anorexia Nervosa). Presentation delivered to a small group of IFP psychology students. | 15% | 15 hours |
| Case Study (2000 words) I am assessing parts of the curriculum that have not been assessed throughout the year. This is an opportunity for students to apply theoretical concepts to real world scenarios linked to the following areas of study. Applied psychology Motivation Ethics & Research Methods Biological basis for behaviour Models of memory | 40% | 20 hours |

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback to individual students, specific verbal feedback in seminars.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme
 - Year 1 of FP21 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Life Sciences

- Year 1 of FP22 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Psychology

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 1 of FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme