

PS936-15 Advanced Issues in Mental Health Research

24/25

Department

Psychology

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Nicole Tang

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will focus on the link between physical and mental health and will prepare you for the early stages of the workplace project in Term 3. In the first half of the module, we will review a brief history of the mind-body (mental-physical) connection, followed by an in-depth look at research examining the role of lifestyle factors in mental health and wellbeing. The second half of the module will facilitate student learning on the methodological considerations of health research, alongside practical classes in analysing and visualising data. Students will develop advanced skills in the critical analysis of research. The module will draw on existing research and perspectives from the medical sciences and epidemiology, as well as health, clinical and quantitative psychology.

Module aims

To provide students with advanced knowledge of scientific research into the physical and mental health link and of research methods applicable to this area of research, developing skills in designing a research project.

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.

Although the content may vary, the module will cover subjects such as: The mind-body connection; Longitudinal research; Data visualisation; Evaluating the quality of health research; Sleep; Chronic pain.

Learning outcomes

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

- Critically discuss the link between physical and mental health.
- Compare different research methodologies for studying physical and mental health over time.
- Perform simple and advanced longitudinal analyses and specific tasks involved in the conduct and reviewing of RCTs.
- Select the most appropriate way to visualise data.
- Evaluate the quality of health research.
- Design a project plan to examine how physical health interventions relate to mental health over time.

Indicative reading list

Twisk, J. W. (2013). Applied longitudinal data analysis for epidemiology: a practical guide. Cambridge University Press.

Grant, R. (2018). Data visualization: charts, maps, and interactive graphics. CRC Press.

Ryff, C. & Krueger, R. F. (2019). Oxford handbook of integrative health science. Oxford University Press.

Research element

Students will be expected to write a research project outline for a longitudinal study.

Subject specific skills

Effective evaluation of a range of techniques for analysing longitudinal data.

Critical appraisal of the credibility and dependability of longitudinal research and identification of errors in poor longitudinal design.

Familiarity with the principles of good data visualisation.

Conduct, interpret and present a variety of approaches to longitudinal analysis relevant to mental health research.

Transferable skills

Evidence-based and critical reasoning.

Project design and planning.

Effective written communication skills to develop coherent and logical arguments supported by relevant evidence.

Analysis and interpretation of data.
Critical evaluation of primary and secondary data sources.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	5 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Practical classes	5 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Private study	130 hours (87%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Private study before and after lectures and preparation for the assessment.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
Project plan	100%	
You will be expected to write a project outline for a longitudinal study examining how physical health and mental health are related. The plan is to be submitted at the beginning of term 2. The format of project plan will be a journal-style structure		

Feedback on assessment

Students will be provided with online feedback on their project plan. Individual one-on-one feedback will be provided upon request.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of TPSS-C848 Postgraduate Taught Mental Health and Wellbeing

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research
- Year 1 of TPSS-C8P9 Postgraduate Taught Psychological Research