 

# BSC (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY LEVEL 6 MODULE OPTIONS: 2020-2021

The following pages include background information and assessment details of the optional modules for Level 6 of the psychology degree. You must choose eight optional modules for Level 6: Four modules from Term 1 and four modules from Term 2/3.

***Please note: There may be some unavoidable alterations to the offered modules. If any changes do occur then you will be notified as soon as is possible.***

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# TERM 1 OPTIONAL MODULES:

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY 1 (PSY6002)

Module Leader: Dr Dan Stubbings

This module aims to critically explore a range of adult psychological disorders, the reasons for their development and the evidence base for their treatments. A combination of lead lectures, workshops and self-directed learning are used to explore a range of anxiety disorders and depressive disorders. This includes different presentations of depression, such as uni-polar and bi-polar depression, as well as a range of anxiety disorders, including obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

ASSESSMENT:

Essay (2500 words)

## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY 2 (PSY6018)

Module Leader: Dr Debbie Clayton

In essence the module applies psychological theories you will have studied in Level 4 and 5 to current topical issues. The aim is for you to consider how psychological theory and research can be useful in the real world. The module develops a critical consideration of important social / political issues and to consider how psychological research, theory and understanding can be used to understand situations, create better environments and lifestyles for individuals and in some instances impact on policy. The course is presented through a series of lead lectures which introduce the topic areas. These are followed by a series of seminars where you will discuss in small groups, with the expert tutor, how you can tackle the assessments. You will study all four topics and then specialise in two areas producing an essay and an academic poster on two different topics. The topics relate to the tutors’ specialist research expertise and thus can vary from year to year. Previous topics have included:

* Obesity
* The Psychology of Ageing
* Positive Psychology
* Environmental Psychology
* Peace Psychology

NB: You do NOT need to have completed Contemporary Issues 1 at level 5 to complete Contemporary Issues 2.

ASSESSMENT:

Essay (1500 words; 50%)

Poster (50%)

## CYBERPSYCHOLOGY (PSY6114)

Module Leader: Dr Sarah Taylor

Cyberpsychology is a new and exciting area of psychology which applies theoretical concepts to exploring computer-mediated behaviour. This field of psychology is broad and so the applications are wide-ranging - from understanding how to form and maintain online relationships, to examining more subversive behaviour such as identifying the psychological mechanisms underlying online terrorist recruitment. This module will therefore offer students a unique opportunity to study the impact that online interactions can have on our, and others’, lives.

In this module we will critically examine a broad range of internet behaviours, including topical issues such as cyberbullying, cyber-fraud (including online dating scams) and addiction to the internet. The more positive aspects of internet use will also be considered and these include issues such as online dating, the role of online support groups, as well as the impact that web design and online reviews can have on trust and buying behaviour.

The module will be delivered through a series of lead lectures and follow-up seminars which will facilitate a more in-depth exploration of the issues raised during the lectures.

ASSESSMENT:

In class presentation (10 minutes, 50%)

Online test (MCQs and short answer essay questions, 50%))

## EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY (PSY6022)

Module Leader: Dr David Wasley

This module considers the relationship between exercise and mental health. Consideration of exercise as prevention, treatment and maintenance of good mental health, in terms of mood and self-concept in general populations are explored. To do this components of exercise and the research evidence base are considered. The psychological benefits of exercise for certain population groups (i.e. elderly, prenatal and postnatal) are covered in order to appreciate the specific issues found in these groups. Corporate physical activity and exercise programmes and their impact on the mental health of staff are also investigated. Please note that this module is co-taught with Sports Bio-Medicine and Nutrition students.

Students are expected to exit the module with a critical appreciation of exercise interventions on psychology in general and specific populations.

ASSESSMENT:

Design of Webpage and Leaflet plus Critical Review of literature

## OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSY6017)

Module Leader: Dr Helen Hodgetts

Occupational psychology applies psychological theory and approaches to the workplace. The module covers information regarding what employers look for when taking on new members of staff, how to identify what careers are suited to our personalities, how we work in a team, what motivates us, cognitive aspects of workload and fatigue and how we respond to sound and other distractions in the workplace.

This module has been designed to introduce students to many components required of occupational psychologists according to the BPS, so provides a good grounding for anyone thinking of possibly going on to become an occupational psychologist, as well as providing an insight into the world of work and how we might improve our own experience of it.

In addition to the lectures, workshops will be designed around practical tasks and activities that demonstrate the value and application of the main topics.

The main topics include:

* Personnel selection and development
* Employee relations and motivation
* Teams and leaders
* Managing change
* Job design and well-being at work
* Stress and coping

ASSESSMENT:

Case study (1,500 words; 50%)

One hour exam (MCQ and essay based; 50%)

## EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY (PSY6014)

Module Leader: Dr Mike Dunn

Evolutionary psychology considers human behaviour from a Darwinian perspective and presents evidence for the existence of a fundamental ‘human nature’ Topics covered include:

* The concept of the ‘evolved’, ‘adaptive’ mind and the ‘environment of evolutionary adaptiveness’ (EEA)
* What evolutionary psychology *is* and *is not* (exploring, challenging and dispelling myths)
* Human universals (the case for the existence of a fundamental human nature)
* Sexual selection theory and mating systems
* Human sexual selection i.e. ‘human mating strategies’ (short-term and long-term strategies, modern dating/sexual behaviour)
* A Darwinian perspective on sex differences
* A ‘Darwinian puzzle’ – Kin selection, Parenting and Altruism (non-human examples) Does true altruism exist?
* Kin selection, Parenting, Altruism and Cooperation in humans
* Human aggression and language from an evolutionary perspective
* Adaptive behaviour across the lifespan and adaptive explanations for modern phenomena

ASSESSMENT

Three hour examination

# TERM 2/3 OPTIONAL MODULES:

## MEDIA PSYCHOLOGY (PSY6004)

Module Leader: Dr Leanne Freeman

This module looks at the role of psychology in modern media communications. We will consider how psychology is related to the effectiveness of news broadcasting, propaganda, advertising, and risk with a particular focus on issues regarding persuasion and ethics. This module encourages students to look more critically at the communications they receive from the media with a view to understanding the intentions and implications of the words and images. There is a strong political focus to this module and materials will draw upon contemporary news stories so students are expected to have an interest in contemporary affairs.

ASSESSMENT:

Thematic Analysis Report (3000 words)

*NB: Erasmus Students are required to complete an alternative 3000 word essay regarding persuasion or ethics*

## APPLYING PSYCHOLOGY TO EDUCATION (PSY6112)

Module Leader: TBC

This module introduces students to a range of current and pertinent issues in applying psychological theory to an educational context. It is designed to encourage and support a problem-orientated approach to learning.

The module is delivered, over one term, as a taught lecture (1 hour) followed by a problem-based learning seminar (1 hour).

The module covers the following areas:

The role of the Educational Psychologist (EP) Intelligence in education

Raising educational achievement

Inclusion for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) Effective communication in schools

Methods of teaching reading and dyslexia Challenging behaviour in schools Educating children with autism

Educating children with attachment difficulties

ASSESSMENT

The coursework will consist of a short answer assessment and Reflection on Problem- based Learning workshops.

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY 2 (PSY6106)

Module Leader: Dr Dan Stubbings

Although it is not essential to have taken the Clinical Psychology 1 module in Term 1, it would be preferable to have done so, as both modules are designed to complement each other. As with Clinical Psychology 1, a combination of lead lectures, workshops and self- directed learning are used to explore a range of clinical disorders that affect adults. Clinical Psychology 2 examines drug and alcohol dependence, eating disorders, psychoses and personality disorders. Theories and research about how and why people may develop these disorders, diagnostic criteria and treatments will all be critically discussed.

ASSESSMENT:

Three hour examination

## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (PSY6010)

Module Leader: Dr Andy Watt

The module will cover a wide range of current issues and debates in forensic and criminological psychology. As well as providing an overview of general theories of crime, this module will also introduce many models of criminal behaviour, for example, in the following areas:

* Substance abuse and criminality
* Sexual offending
* Offenders’ motivation for change
* The social construction of crime
* Crime and mental illness

We will also explore how theories and models have informed practical work with offenders, notably in the field of rehabilitation, such as:

* Psychological approaches to the treatment of criminal behaviour
* Restorative Justice
* Understanding motivation to engage in treatment
* We will also cover important practical elements such as risk assessment and re-offending.

ASSESSMENT:

Three hour examination

## HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY (PSY6009)

Module Leader: Dr Amie Prior

Health Psychology is a new and developing field of psychology. The module will cover some of the major topics in health psychology. For example, topics include definitions of health and health psychology (concepts and definitions of health and illness, definitions and development of health psychology, the role of psychosocial factors in health and illness), the mind-body relationship (stress and its moderators, pain and pain management), the therapeutic relationship (communication and compliance), our lifestyle and its effect on health including psychologists attempts to predict and change our behaviour (e.g. smoking, diet and alcohol consumption).

ASSESSMENT

Three hour examination.

## HUMAN GENETICS AND HEALTHCARE (PSY6021)

Module Leader: Dr Heidi Seage

This module provides the student with a knowledge of the mode of inheritance of human genetic disease, the consequences of genetic variation and mutation and an understanding of the principles of modern genetic analysis to include genetic testing and the human genome mapping project.

The module further builds on this knowledge to allow the student to be able to evaluate the impact of genetic testing in the predicting and diagnosing of genetic risk in the general population. The module also considers the psychological, ethical and social implications of genetics in human healthcare.

ASSESSMENT

Class Test (2 hours)

## INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELLING SKILLS (PSY6109)

Module Leader: TBC

The module will not equip students to work as counsellors but will provide a grounding that can be developed through additional training in counselling or counselling psychology. Basic counselling skills can be useful in all walks of life and this module will be of interest to students wanting to pursue other psychology careers (especially clinical, educational and organisational psychology) or other relevant careers (e.g. social work, teaching, nursing). It is beneficial to have a practising counsellor teaching this module who can use practice examples and be up to date in current developments in the field.

ASSESSMENT:

Presentation including 1000 word write up (50%) Reflective journal (50%)