

# Course Outline (Higher Education)

<b>School:</b>	School of Health and Life Sciences
<b>Course Title:</b>	CURRENT ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY
<b>Course ID:</b>	PSYCB3107
<b>Credit Points:</b>	15.00
<b>Prerequisite(s):</b>	At least two of: PSYCB 1003, PSYCB 2101, PSYCB 2102, PSYCB 2103, PSYCB 2104 or PSYCB 2105.
<b>Co-requisite(s):</b>	Nil
<b>Exclusion(s):</b>	Nil
<b>ASCED:</b>	090701

## Description of the Course :

This course will consider current or topical issues in psychology and/or contemporary society, and examine them from a psychological perspective, including, for example, current theory, the research knowledge base, and the relevance of historical precedents to current practice. Example topics may include cultural competence, Indigenous Australia, or current theory and practice in organisational, gay and lesbian psychology, biological and/or political psychology. Topics may change from year to year.

**Grade Scheme:** Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

## Work Experience:

No work experience: Student is not undertaking work experience in industry.

**Placement Component:** No

**Supplementary Assessment:** Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks..

## Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Level</b>						
Introductory						
Intermediate						
Advanced			✓			

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## Learning Outcomes:

### Knowledge:

- K1.** Identify, describe and assess key concepts, theories and topics within areas of relevance to psychology and psychological practice
- K2.** Identify, describe and evaluate key studies conducted in each area, including limitations of that research and directions for future research
- K3.** Recognise and analyse the complexity of human behaviour and cognitive processes

### Skills:

- S1.** Further develop research, writing and presentation skills as relevant to the psychology discipline
- S2.** Critically review, evaluate, consolidate and synthesise knowledge in the field of psychology
- S3.** Challenge, question and debate the veracity of issues/information in group discussions

### Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Critically evaluate various approaches to the study of significant issues relevant to psychology
- A2.** Identify and explain psychology principles evident in everyday situations
- A3.** Prepare a written assessment incorporating and reflecting the current state of psychological knowledge on a current issue of relevance to psychology

## Course Content:

Topics may include:

- This course introduces contemporary topics of relevance to psychology, and explores the theoretical bases practical implications of these topics from a psychological perspective. Unlike other courses, the topics and therefore content can change from year to year.
- In past years these have included:
  - \* Gay and lesbian psychology
  - \* Body image and eating disorders
  - \* Aging
  - \* Humour, being and laughter
  - \* Emotion and it's impact on everyday life
  - \* The neuroscience of sleep
  - \* Biological psychology
  - \* Indigenous Australia
  - \* Cross-cultural psychology

## Values:

- V1.** Appreciate the broad range of biological and environmental influences on human behaviour
- V2.** Appreciation of the complexity of the range of biological and environmental influences on human behaviour, cognition, and emotional processes.
- V3.** Appreciation of the necessity for the development and application of critical thinking, self-motivation and continuous learning.

## Graduate Attributes:

FedUni graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

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Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	As an advanced psychology course, students will gain further knowledge and skills that can be applied to research, clinical practice, and personal development	High
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Students will further develop discipline knowledge and skills in communication, research, and critical analysis	High
Capable, flexible and work ready	Students will be exposed to a range of social issues and methods of affecting change individually and on a larger scale	Medium
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Students will be exposed to a range of social issues and methods of affecting change individually and on a larger scale	Medium

## Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1-3, S2, A2	Online quizzes consisting of multiple choice questions based on prescribed readings, laboratory activities and lecture material.	Online Quizzes	10-30%
K1-3, S1-3, A1, 3	Prepare a written assessment incorporating a critical examination of theory and current scientific literature to a contemporary topic of relevance to modern psychology	Written Assessment	30-50%
K1-3, S2, A1-2	Demonstrate and apply knowledge from the prescribed readings and classes in an invigilated setting.	Course Examination	40-60%

## Adopted Reference Style:

APA