

COURSE SPECIFICATION

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| Awarding body: | Norwich University of the Arts The University is a recognised body with taught degree awarding powers. The University is subject to regulation by the Office for Students (OfS). |
| Course title: | BSc (Hons) Psychology |
| Level of Study: | The level of study is aligned to Level 6 Descriptors of the Office for Students (OfS) Sector Recognised Standards (SRS) (May 2022). |
| Award: | Bachelor of Sciences degree with honours (BSc (Hons)) |
| Mode of Study: | Full-time |
| Duration of Course: | 3 years |
| Language of Study: | English |
| Course Accreditation: | Currently seeking accreditation with the British Psychological Society (BSP) In order to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society, students must pass the Psychology Research Project (Unit BPSYCH3c) and gain at least a Lower Second-Class Honours degree. |
| Relevant QAA Subject Benchmarks: | Psychology (2023) For further information see: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-psychology-23.pdf?sfvrsn=5b58ae81_3 Subject Benchmark Statements set out expectations about standards of degrees in a range of subject areas. They describe what gives a discipline its coherence and identity and define what can be expected of a graduate in terms of the abilities and skills needed to develop understanding or competence in the subject. |
| Tuition Fees: | For details of tuition fees see: Fees and Funding |
| Other Course Costs: | The cost of materials for producing course work is not included in the tuition fee. Due to the choice and diversity it is not possible to generalise about the costs that you might incur. On average students of arts, design and media courses spend around £285 in their first year rising to £425 in their second year and £680 in their graduating year. The course may also offer an opportunity to attend one or more study visits. These visits are not compulsory and costs vary depending on the location and duration of the study visit. For details see: https://norwichuni.ac.uk/courses/course-costs/ |

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entry Requirements / Interview / Portfolio:

Information on how to apply and how we make our decisions on your application is available on our website at: <https://norwichuni.ac.uk/study-at-norwich/undergraduate-apply/>

AIMS AND OUTCOMES OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

The Aims of Undergraduate Study are to:

- Provide students with an inclusive and stimulating curriculum for the specialist study of art, design, architecture and media.
- Maintain and nurture a commitment to intellectual and personal development as a basis for a lifetime of learning and professional practice.
- Provide students with opportunities for innovative, imaginative and intellectually rigorous opportunities for creative practice along with skills appropriate to the named award.
- To enable students to establish and develop key skills in areas of creative practice, research and professional practice as they apply to the subject.
- Provide students with the required practical and project management skills to realise ideas.
- Provide courses that prepare students for employment and professional practice and/or further study.
- Provide courses that enable graduates to make a useful contribution to the social, economic and cultural life of the region and beyond.
- Enrich curriculum content and ensure course currency through the professional practice, research and scholarship of staff.
- Emphasise the cultural, technical and vocational relevance of course provision.
- Develop effective collaborations with the creative and cultural industries, professional bodies, other HEIs and wider art, design, architecture and media communities.

GENERIC SKILLS

Holders of Undergraduate Awards will:

- Have developed the skills to embark on a professional career or further course of study in a related field.
- Demonstrate a professional approach and work towards achieving their full potential as a creative or technical practitioner.
- Possess the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment and progression to other qualifications assuming personal responsibility and decision-making.
- Be digitally literate in relation to the skills essential for professional practice and its representations.
- Be able to locate their work within relevant professional, cultural and historical frameworks.
- Be able to practice professionally in an area appropriate to their subject skills and expertise.
- Have developed the capacity to critically examine the context within which their practice is based.
- Be able to analyse information and experience to formulate and present reasoned arguments.
- Have an understanding of the extent of their knowledge, and how this influences analysis and interpretation based on that knowledge in their area of practice.
- Be able to interpret and communicate their practice using spoken, written and visual language.
- Be able to work flexibly to manage change and uncertainty.
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively while having regard to the views and needs of other stakeholders.
- Have developed the ability to make effective use of processes and materials appropriate to the subject.
- Be able to work with due regard to Health and Safety, Ethics, Sustainability and Risk Assessment considerations as they apply in a range of professional contexts.

COURSE DIAGRAM

| BPSYC1a - Introduction to Studying Psychology | BPSYC1b – Introduction to Core Areas | BPSYC1c –Psychology in Everyday Life |
|--|---|---|
| 40 Credits | 40 Credits | 40 Credits |
| 10 Weeks | 10 Weeks | 10 Weeks |

| BPSYC2a – Research Methods for Psychology | BPSYC2b – Cognitive and Biological Psychology | BPSYC2c – Social Psychology and Lifespan Development |
|--|--|---|
| 40 Credits | 40 Credits | 40 Credits |
| 10 Weeks | 10 Weeks | 10 Weeks |

| BPSYC3a – Psychological Perspectives and Contexts | BPSYC3b – Psychological Specialisms and Applications | BPSYC3c – Psychology Research Project |
|--|---|--|
| 40 Credits | 40 Credits | 40 Credits |
| 10 Weeks | 10 Weeks | 10 Weeks |

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Psychology course at Norwich University of the Arts has been specifically designed to align with the British Psychological Society (BPS) accreditation guidance. You will have the opportunity to study within a vibrant learning environment to explore human behaviour and reasoning behind mental processes – how we think, learn, remember, act and engage with others.

Studying Psychology at a dedicated arts university offers you the unique chance to engage with a dynamic creative community, where you'll have the opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives from students in other disciplines. The arts-driven environment can help you cultivate creative problem-solving skills that are applicable in both clinical settings and research, which can help you develop a more integrated understanding of psychology in real-world contexts.

You will embark on an engaging exploration of psychology, uncovering its core principles and understanding its impact on the world. Throughout this journey, you'll encounter a mix of familiar and new ideas, analysing real-world events both locally and globally, while also participating in contemporary and future discussions. You will experience hands-on learning in our dedicated Psychology laboratory and teaching space - running practical experiments, data collection and analysis.

During your first year, you are introduced to the fundamentals of Psychology, including its history, methods and core concepts. You will be invited to consider the historical, political, social, economic, and cultural contexts that influence Psychology and engage in research projects that explore the foundations of Psychology: cognition, biological psychology, identity and self, and social interaction. You will develop a range of skills important to a career in Psychology including team working and leadership skills, communication skills, alongside an academic profile, and critical and creative thinking skills.

In your second year you will study the core areas of Psychology in depth, adopting specific roles in collaborative projects to facilitate learning and helping you to gain awareness of possible career routes in Psychology. You will begin to develop your career ambitions and develop the range of skills to support these. Alongside this, you will interrogate contemporary issues and critical debate surrounding Psychology, and reflect on these in the light of academic and theoretical perspectives, and develop your academic research and writing skills.

Your final year is a culmination of all the learning and dedicated to a major independent research project that could influence your chosen career trajectory. You will establish a strong exit velocity and enter into the world of work or continued academic study with confidence. Through continuous practice and reflection, you will have developed experience in managing teams, communicating effectively, evidence-based reasoning, and data analysis, all while understanding the legal and ethical considerations of Psychology.

Our industry-focused Psychology degree is designed to meet BPS accreditation criteria, ensuring that your learning experience is relevant, practical, and prepares you for your future career or further study within your chosen specialism. Psychology is a versatile field, you can shape your career path by combining your psychology knowledge with other interests or industries. This means you will gain a strong foundation for careers in fields like law, business, education, health services, and marketing, where understanding human behaviour and mental processes is highly valued

The course is taught through a combination of interactive lectures, seminars, workshops, and group tutorials – with theoretical concepts reinforced by practical application in research projects. The course places a strong emphasis on reflective practice, encouraging you to critically evaluate your learning. You'll explore new methodologies and approaches, adapting as needed, while developing the technical skills, resilience, and flexibility necessary to succeed.

We recognised that AI will be a tool for your learning and a challenge for the discipline. The University has developed an AI toolkit with clear guidelines that are designed to foster innovative use of AI while ensuring that our commitment to academic integrity and ethical standards remains intact.

Our approach to assessment is holistic, meaning you are assessed on all the Learning Outcomes at the end of each unit. Your learning is project based to allow all elements of the curriculum to be integrated as they will be in your professional life. Assessment is through submission of course work, rather than by examination. You will receive training in evidence-based reasoning, data collection, analysis, and report writing, equipping you for a career in a psychology specialisation through further study, or enabling you to apply these skills in any profession where psychology is relevant.

Our course takes a spiral approach to your learning - this means you will revisit key concepts or skills multiple times throughout your learning journey to gradually deepen your knowledge and improve skills throughout your time here at Norwich. This structure allows you to incorporate feedback from each assessment into subsequent submissions, fostering a continuous learning process that builds toward your final-year Psychology research project.

Year 1 Unit: BPSYC1a

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Unit Title: | Introduction to Studying Psychology |
| Reference: | BPSYC1a |
| Year: | 1 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

This unit will introduce you to the University's resources and campus and help you to understand the guiding principles of studying on a degree course. Within the unit you will learn basic skills relevant to your subject and have opportunities to discuss different concepts and views. You will be introduced to the three curriculum areas which form the main strands of study across each unit of your course. These are Research Methods, Skills and Development, and Core Areas of Psychology.

Core Areas of Psychology

We will introduce you to all the core areas of psychology and help you to develop an understanding of how explaining human behaviour depends on contributions from each of these areas. You will gain awareness of key theories and develop critical thinking skills. Building skills in reflective learning, you will consider how best to communicate your ideas through the presentation of your work.

Research and Context

We will look at methods for gathering information and investigate the ways in which that information can be analysed and interpreted. You will become familiar with the basic concepts and terminology of research methods and be introduced to the different perspectives on measurement and collecting data. You are encouraged to develop your research methods skills through interactive seminar activities. Active participation in the learning sessions will develop your ability to critically evaluate the empirical work of others with confidence. We will introduce you to appropriate data analysis software for psychological research.

Skills and Development

You will be introduced to the core skills that you will need to become a successful learner and psychologist. You will apply your newly acquired psychological knowledge to skills such as resilience, motivation and learning. We will help you to develop skills towards becoming an independent learner, i.e. someone with the ability to use initiative to advance their skills, knowledge and understanding and take responsibility for their own education.

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Skills and Development |
|--|--|--|
| Developing a basic understanding of each of the core areas of psychology | Gathering, measuring and interpreting research data and findings | Preparing to learn: navigating university life and building connections and positive support systems |
| Introducing key theories in psychology | Using research methods techniques to inform conclusions | Building skills in reflective learning |
| Introducing academic skills and techniques | Developing critical thinking skills and evidence-based reasoning | Working in small groups to collect data and conduct experiments |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Gaining basic skills in psychology
- Tackling different types of problems
- Understanding techniques for reflecting on your learning to help you progress with your studies
- Understanding the skills you need to develop professional working practices for your future career

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Knowledge and Skills | Show that you have DEVELOPED SKILLS and KNOWLEDGE that are key to your studies |
| Experimentation and Iteration | Use PROBLEM-SOLVING techniques to address basic challenges in your discipline |
| Reflection and Evaluation | Show that you have used REFLECTION on your learning to advance your knowledge and understanding |
| Professional Practice | Show that you have developed an understanding of basic CAREER and EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **Research Methods Portfolio**
- **Skills and Development Portfolio**
- **Core Area Essays**
- **Reflective Learning Summary**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Year 1 Unit: BPSYC1b

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Unit Title: | Introduction to Core Areas |
| Reference: | BPSYC1b |
| Year: | 1 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

This unit will provide a critical overview of all the core areas of Psychology. Human behaviour arises from a complex mixture of underlying causes; to understand how behaviour arises, we must first understand the components of behaviour that interact to produce the whole identity. By the end of the unit you will gain an understanding of how Psychology meets the challenges of diversity and discrimination arising from its historical practice.

Core Areas of Psychology

You will study in more depth, the areas of cognitive, biological, social, and individual differences. Study will culminate in a consideration of how understanding of the core areas allows us to consider challenges of neurodiversity; and discrimination arising from the way psychology is practiced.

Research and Context

We will look at qualitative methods for gathering information and investigate the ways in which that information can be analysed and interpreted. The purpose of the thread is to familiarise you with the basic concepts and terminology of qualitative research methods and introduce you to the different perspectives on collecting and analysing data. You are encouraged to develop your research methods skills through interactive seminar activities. Active participation in the learning sessions will develop your ability to critically evaluate the empirical work of others with confidence.

Skills and Development

We will help you to develop skills towards becoming an independent learner, i.e. someone with the ability to use initiative to advance their skills, knowledge and understanding and take responsibility for their own education. You will develop your critical thinking and reflective practice skills in the context of psychological knowledge and application.

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Skills and Development |
|--|--|---|
| Developing knowledge and insights into the core areas of cognitive, biological, social, and individual differences | Understanding qualitative research methodologies | Gaining awareness of professional skills for employability |
| Understanding contemporary challenges of the discipline | Gaining different perspectives on collecting and analysing data | Developing the resilience and confidence needed for effective study |
| Gaining basic skills and techniques in Psychology | Applying the principles of academic writing to essays and research reports | Building organisation, project planning and communication skills |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Understanding the core areas of psychology
- Learning techniques and processes to explore and experiment in your psychology
- Understanding how and when to use different research techniques to solve different types of problems
- Developing skills in presenting information and communicating your findings effectively

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

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| Research | Identify and apply RESEARCH skills appropriate to your subject |
| Experimentation and Iteration | Show an EXPLORATION of the fundamental techniques and processes related to your subject |
| Reflection and Evaluation | EVALUATE relevant methods and approaches to solving problems in your discipline |
| Communication | COMMUNICATE your findings accurately in an organised, structured and consistent way |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **Portfolio of coursework**
- **Qualitative Research Report**
- **Individual Research Presentation**
- **Reflective Learning Summary**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Year 1 Unit: BPSYC1c

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Unit Title: | Psychology in Everyday Life |
| Reference: | BPSYC1c |
| Year: | 1 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

In this unit we investigate how studying psychology in everyday life can yield rich insights into many core topics that can complement laboratory studies, which can sometimes be restricted and artificial. You will build skills in reflective learning and consider how best to communicate your ideas through the presentation of your work. You will explore and develop specific knowledge and insights and develop your understanding of the key concepts and challenges that exist for your subject. The research skills you learn will now be applied in a variety of contexts and you'll continue to practice selecting and using appropriate research methods to gather and interpret data. We will also support you to gain further experience of effective communication and how to use words, diagrams and data to present a coherent argument.

Core areas of Psychology

You will find out more about how studying each of the core areas in everyday life can inform psychological theory which can then be further tested in the laboratory. You will explore some of the key contemporary concepts within psychology and gain an understanding of the subject's development and histories.

Research and Context

We will be looking at more complex quantitative and qualitative methods for gathering information and investigate the ways in which that information can be analysed and interpreted. The aim is to familiarise you with the basic concepts and terminology of quantitative and qualitative research methods and introduce you to the different perspectives on collecting and analysing data. There will be a focus on awareness of ethical and responsible ways of thinking and working which will become embedded in your practice as you progress through the course.

Skills and development

We will help you build the skills needed to become an independent learner—someone who takes initiative to enhance their skills, knowledge, and understanding, while taking responsibility for their own education. You'll have the opportunity to strengthen your independence as we guide you in exploring your areas of interest and potential career paths. We'll also support you in developing practical abilities in areas such as planning, time management, organisation, and teamwork.

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Careers and Personal Development |
|---|--|---|
| Gaining awareness of contemporary challenges in the discipline | Identifying and utilising appropriate research methods | Building skills in planning, time-management and independent learning |
| Gaining knowledge of the past and current debates within the discipline | Understanding ethics and responsible practice | Presenting an argument and communicating effectively |
| Applying practical skills in the discipline | Analysing and interpreting data | Working as part of a team |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Gaining knowledge of the key concepts of your discipline
- Developing research skills to help you investigate a variety of topics and interpret your findings
- Find areas of interest and start to learn about them independently
- Developing and presenting coherent arguments

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

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| Knowledge and Skills | Show SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE of your discipline and issues of ETHICAL and RESPONSIBLE practice that relate to it |
| Research | Use appropriate RESEARCH skills to INTERPRET your findings |
| Reflection and Evaluation | Show how you have used INDEPENDENT LEARNING to identify and address areas for personal development |
| Communication | Use appropriate COMMUNICATION techniques to present a COHERENT ARGUMENT for your findings |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **Two Research Reports covering different aspects of the unit**
- **Portfolio of project outcomes**
- **Reflective Learning Summary**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Year 2 Unit: BPSYC2a

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Unit Title: | Research Methods for Psychology |
| Reference: | BPSYC2a |
| Year: | 2 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

This unit will build on the research skills you were introduced to in year 1, with an in-depth exploration of quantitative and qualitative methods and data analysis. You will engage with and report on a range of research designs, including experimental, differential, and qualitative approaches. The focus of the unit will be on conducting and reporting research within the field of psychology.

Core Areas of Psychology

This unit concentrates on research methods and will refer to the core areas of psychology introduced in year 1.

Research and Context

In looking at quantitative methods, you will begin by expanding your understanding of simple tests of difference to factorial and multifactorial designs. You will then study how multiple regression and factor analysis can be used to analyse complex everyday data including questionnaire and test data.

We will look at the fundamental concepts and terminology of qualitative research methods, as well as provide an overview of different approaches to measurement and data collection. Through active participation in the learning sessions and research projects, you will build the confidence to critically assess the empirical work of others.

Skills and Development

You will gain proficiency in conducting basic statistical tests and you will be introduced to data analysis software. By the end of the unit, you will have developed the skills to report and interpret the results of both quantitative and qualitative psychological studies.

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Skills and Development |
|---|---|---|
| Applying fundamental principles and concepts | Investigating the fundamental concepts and terminology of qualitative and quantitative research methods | Enhancing skills in wellbeing, positive habits for work and building confidence |
| Gaining understanding of key principles and theories in application of research methods | Interpreting the results of quantitative and qualitative psychological studies | Using a reflective and evidence-based approach to advance your decision making |
| Developing idea generation and advance core skills and methods | Identifying and adopting appropriate research sources, methods, theories, and concepts | Building effective techniques for presentation and communication |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Identifying and applying appropriate research sources, methods, theories, and concepts
- Developing your research methods skills to cover all the basic principles of Psychology
- Engaging with contemporary debate and critically evaluating current research
- Identifying professional career opportunities and training requirements

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

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| Research | Identify and apply RESEARCH methods and statistics appropriate to the area of investigation |
| Experimentation and Iteration | Facilitate PROBLEM SOLVING through the design of appropriate experiments and selection of appropriate tests and methods |
| Reflection and Evaluation | Show CRITICAL EVALUATION of data, information from primary sources, methods and research findings |
| Professional Practice | Use CAREERS and EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS to identify the potential careers and roles that match your interests and abilities |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **A Quantitative Research Report**
- **A Qualitative Research Report**
- **Skills and Development Portfolio**
- **Reflective Learning Summary**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Year 2 Unit: BPSYC2b

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Unit Title: | Cognitive and Biological Psychology |
| Reference: | BPSYC2b |
| Year: | 2 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

This unit aims to deepen your understanding of biological and cognitive concepts, enhancing both your knowledge of the core principles in each area and the interactions between them. You will be introduced to a variety of applied cognitive neuroscience examples, ranging from creative arts to clinical and forensic contexts.

Core Areas of Psychology

The two core areas covered in this unit are cognitive and biological psychology. You will be introduced to a variety of applied cognitive neuroscience examples, ranging from creative arts to clinical and forensic contexts. We will explore how both cognitive processes and biological foundations influence contribute to human behaviour and how these biological and cognitive concepts are interrelated, working together to produce a wide range of physical and psychological outcomes.

Research and Context

The emphasis of the unit is on utilising primary sources and research methods to design experiments, collect, and analyse data. You will build on your existing research skills to present your findings professionally, following APA (American Psychological Association) style and format. By the end of the unit, you will be fully prepared to conduct studies in both cognitive and biological psychology.

Skills and Development

By strengthening your grasp of cognition and biopsychology, you will develop the confidence and skills necessary to apply these key concepts in your future practice as a psychologist. You will develop skills in critical reflection, problem-solving, and decision-making.

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Skills and Development |
|---|---|--|
| Knowledge of key cognitive and biological psychological concepts | Developing critical understanding of contemporary social, cultural and ethical issues | Understanding citizenship and community |
| Understand key social, ethical, and global challenges in relation to the discipline | Developing persuasive arguments and engage in critical debate to support your research findings | Working with others and managing conflict |
| Awareness of historical, geographical and cultural perspectives and influences | Conducting research using appropriate research sources and methods | Presenting data and reports professionally |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Advancing your knowledge of ethical debates in your subject and your understanding of responsible practice
- Designing and conducting research projects
- Gaining understanding of global issues and how your discipline impacts and is impacted by them
- Effectively communicating your findings

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Knowledge and Skills | Use SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE and skills relevant to your discipline, showing how you have applied ETHICAL and RESPONSIBLE approaches to the production of your work |
| Research | Identify and use appropriate methods to conduct effective RESEARCH and ANALYSIS related to your subject |
| Reflection and Evaluation | Show CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING of global perspectives in your discipline |
| Communication | Use a variety of formats to COMMUNICATE information and arguments |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **A Cognitive Research Report**
- **A Biological Research Report**
- **A Skills and Development Portfolio**
- **A Reflective Learning Summary**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Year 2 Unit: BPSYC2c

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|-----------------------|--|
| Unit Title: | Social Psychology and Lifespan Development |
| Reference: | BPSYC2c |
| Year: | 2 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

This unit will provide you with an understanding of the key concepts, theories, methods, and debates in social psychology and lifespan development. You will gain a greater insight into social psychology by exploring the historical and philosophical origins of social psychological, as well as contemporary theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches within the field. The unit gives you the opportunity to collaborate with others and work as part of a team.

Core Areas of Psychology

The two core areas covered in this unit are social psychology and lifespan development. The unit takes a comprehensive lifespan approach to understanding human development. It explores key stages of life, including infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. A primary focus will be on the central issues in the study of development, with an examination of debates between different theories and approaches, as well as the research methods used in this field of psychology. The unit will also cover fundamental topics related to physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Throughout, emphasis will be placed on encouraging critical thinking about developmental theories, particularly in relation to empirical research and the application of these theories and findings to real-world contexts.

Research and Context

A key theme running through this unit is the decolonisation of the curriculum. You will explore how certain categories, concepts, practices, research methods, and theories in psychology have historically contributed to exclusion and harm. By gaining an understanding of diversity and cultural differences, you will be better prepared for life, employment, and global citizenship.

Skills and Development

By the end of the unit, you will have developed the critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate and apply social psychological theories and research to everyday contexts. You will also have gained skills in working as part of a team through exploring collaborative practice.

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Skills and Development |
|--|---|--|
| Knowledge of key concepts in social psychology and lifespan development | Gaining awareness of the methods and techniques used in Complex psychological topics | Gaining awareness of professional roles and responsibilities considering any risk management or health and safety issues |
| Engaging in projects with other students, using a variety of data gathering techniques | Engaging in critical debate related to the contemporary challenges within and beyond the discipline | Communicating effectively with words, images, diagrams and data |
| Understanding the value of cross-disciplinary research and how to design and deliver a collaborative project | Structuring and writing a research proposal | Collaborating, working in teams and making connections |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Contextualising your understanding of the discipline in relation to other fields of study
- Advancing your skills in independent learning and using reflection to identify areas for development
- Developing persuasive arguments to communicate your ideas and findings
- Understanding how to work successfully as part of a team and collaborate with others

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Knowledge and Skills | Show how working with others has assisted in your REFLECTION on the extent of your SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE and skills |
| Reflection and Evaluation | Show that you have used the processes of INDEPENDENT LEARNING and REFLECTION effectively |
| Communication | COMMUNICATE your ideas effectively to different specialist and non-specialist audiences and/or markets |
| Professional Practice | Use COLLABORATION to extend your work into other contexts and assume the RESPONSIBILITIES of working in teams with external and/or internal partner |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **A Collaborative Social Psychology Report**
- **A Developmental Psychology Essay**
- **A Skills and Development Portfolio**
- **A Reflective Learning Summary**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Year 3 Unit: BPSYC3a

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Unit Title: | Psychological Perspectives and Contexts |
| Reference: | BPSYC3a |
| Year: | 3 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

Psychology is a complex discipline, and many everyday situations cannot be neatly explained by a single psychological perspective. Personality, individual differences, and neurodivergence are broad areas of research within our field, with various schools of psychology providing different investigations and explanations.

This unit examines the philosophical, scientific, social, and historical influences that have shaped the development of psychology. It will prepare you for specific areas of psychological work, such as psychometrics, personality assessment, and understanding mental health issues.

Core Areas of Psychology

The main areas covered in this unit are individual differences and historical and conceptual issues. You will explore the evolution of the field by situating key research and theories within their respective historical contexts. The unit also considers the limitations of psychological theory and methodology, along with the development of new theories and methods in a historical context.

Key conceptual issues, such as the nature-nurture debate, the mind-brain problem, free will versus determinism, and the representation of race and gender in psychology, will be explored, highlighting how these ideas have evolved over time.

An overview of psychology's origins and progression, including its philosophical foundations, its emergence as a science, and the influence of social, technological, and cultural changes will be covered.

The unit will investigate how seminal psychological research has been shaped by and, in turn, shaped historical contexts – looking at issues like research methods, the relationship between theory and development and societal shifts, and the impact on contemporary psychology.

Research and Context

You will explore how various categories, concepts, practices, research methods, and theories in Psychology have, at times, contributed to exclusion and harm. Gaining an understanding of diversity and cultural differences will equip you for life, employment, and your role as a global citizen.

Skills and Development

This unit will deepen your understanding of the variety, complexity, and range of career and advancement opportunities both within and beyond your chosen field. You will be encouraged to participate in work-related learning activities to broaden your knowledge and experience of professional opportunities at the graduate level. You are expected to identify the skills, knowledge, techniques, processes, and qualities necessary to further your learning. With guidance from your tutors, you will explore the different ways your learning can be applied and contextualized after graduation. By the end of the unit you will have developed a Career Development Portfolio and should feel confident and well prepared to launch your career as a graduate.

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Skills and Development |
|---|--|--|
| Gaining knowledge of the professional roles within and around the discipline | Building a repository of evidence | Understanding the workplace, planning your career and preparing a digital profile for industry |
| Understanding existing and emerging concepts and challenges within and beyond your discipline of psychology | Applying contemporary research and industry insights | Finding your way of working: setting goals, balancing priorities, and strategies for self-care |
| Using case studies and contemporary approaches in the disciplinary professions | Identifying and developing case studies | Exploring opportunities for postgraduate study, freelancing and enterprise |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Gaining knowledge and skills of analysis to inform opportunities for your career and further study
- Evaluating different forms of professional practice
- Developing skills for effective communication to different audiences
- Identifying and developing the transferable skills needed for employment or further study

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Knowledge and Skills | Show SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE of the professional opportunities and requirements of your discipline |
| Reflection and Evaluation | REFLECT on your learning and use EVALUATION to improve to your understanding of professional practice |
| Communication | COMMUNICATE effectively and appropriately using methods appropriate for a professional audience in your discipline |
| Professional Practice | Identify and develop your CAREERS and EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS and the knowledge required to enter your chosen career or further study opportunity |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **A Historical and Conceptual Essay**
- **An Individual Differences Report**
- **Career Development Portfolio**
- **A Reflective Learning Summary**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Year 3 Unit: BPSYC3b

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Unit Title: | Psychological Specialisms and Applications |
| Reference: | BPSYC3b |
| Year: | 3 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

This unit explores a range of psychology specialisms, focusing on how psychological techniques are applied in-depth to specific areas of study. The unit will help you identify an area of investigation to pursue throughout this unit and the following one. You will examine both historical and contemporary research methodologies through a combination of lectures, seminars, and tutorials.

Core Areas of Psychology

This unit will provide the opportunity to understand a range of specialisms and applications. We will investigate how psychological techniques are applied in depth to specific areas of study. We will assist you to identify an area of investigation to pursue through this unit and the next. You will explore historic and contemporary research methodologies through lectures, seminars, and tutorials.

Research and Context

This unit is designed to help you demonstrate the skills you have developed by applying academic rigor in your reasoning and sourcing of primary information and data. The knowledge gained here will inform your major research project in the next unit. You will be supported in identifying relevant areas for investigation and formulating appropriate research questions. By adopting or developing effective research methods, you will ensure a thorough and systematic approach to your investigation, laying a strong foundation for future research endeavours.

Skills and Development

By the end of the unit, you should feel well prepared to research independently and have developed a clear direction of investigation for the final unit

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Skills and Development |
|---|---|---|
| Understanding the ethical challenges of the discipline | Critically analysing and applying appropriate methods and models | Gaining strategies for building confidence, clear communication, and self-promotion |
| Developing a critical approach which draws on contemporary theories and concepts | Identifying and interpreting credible contemporary primary research sources | Identifying the key intellectual transferable and practice skills gained |
| Designing and developing research projects considering any ethical, risk management or health and safety issues | Preparing for an independent research project | Writing effective research proposals |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Gaining an understanding of various models and methodologies for using research to inform decision-making.
- Applying critical reflection and analysis to source texts, market research, and empirical data.
- Identifying and interpreting both quantitative and qualitative data.
- Understanding ethical debates and the approval processes through ethics committees.
- Estimating workload, managing projects, and collaborating with external parties.
- Developing skills in proposal writing and project scoping.
- Communicating analysis effectively through report writing.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Research | RESEARCH effectively by gathering information from a broad range of appropriate primary sources, making a detailed and thorough ANALYSIS of these |
| Experimentation and Iteration | INITIATE projects relevant to your subject using appropriate resources to manage your time effectively within the context of INDEPENDENT LEARNING |
| Reflection and Evaluation | Use the skills of CRITICAL REFLECTION in different contexts and apply EVALUATION as a key transferable skill |
| Professional Practice | Show that you have developed and applied the relevant specific and transferable CAREERS and EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS to enable you to embark on your future career |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **A Research Project proposal**
- **A Research Project proposal poster**
- **A Skills and Development Portfolio**
- **A Reflective Learning Summary**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Year 3 Unit: BPSYC3c

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Unit Title: | Psychology Research Project |
| Reference: | BPSYC3c |
| Year: | 3 |
| Credit Points: | 40 |
| Duration: | 10 Weeks |
| Study Time: | 400 Hours |

Description

This is the third and final unit which completes your final year of undergraduate study. The unit is a culmination of your study at degree level and builds on everything you've learnt so far. Engaging with this unit will enable you to advance your practice to a professional level and sharpen your career preparations to ensure you are well on your way to getting your first job, starting your business or enrolling in post-graduate study.

Core Areas of Psychology

The Research Project Report Proposal, developed and submitted for unit BPSYC3b will form a basis for navigating this unit. This project should: identify a previously unexplored issue in psychology that warrants investigation; build on your prior experience with practical activities by developing a research question and designing a study to address it; critically evaluate relevant theories and research in the field; formulate a clear research question; obtain ethical approval; employ an appropriate methodology to collect and analyse data; and interpret, evaluate, and discuss the implications of your findings in relation to existing research.

Research and Context

By the submission date you are expected to have completed a research project that clearly addresses a relevant research question using appropriate methods for gathering information and analysing data. The project should be appropriate to your specialist subject and professionally presented.

Skills and Development

Throughout your course there has been an emphasis on reflective practice and this should now be embedded in your working methods. You will demonstrate reflections on your learning in this unit through submission of a Reflective Essay.

By the end of the unit you should feel well equipped to apply your learning in a professional context and have a clear trajectory towards launching your professional career as a graduate of Norwich.

Topics covered in this unit

| Core Areas of Psychology | Research and Context | Skills and Development |
|---|--|--|
| Evidencing expertise in your subject area | Structuring and communicating research through an extensive project | Preparing for life after university |
| Evidencing a critical understanding of the ethical challenges of the discipline | Using critical thinking to evaluate evidence and develop a research-based argument | Building networks and identifying ways to keep abreast of opportunities and developments in the discipline |
| Working independently to produce an original piece of research | Developing and executing a sustained research project | Communicating and presenting your findings professionally to appropriate audiences and/or markets |

In this unit we aim to support you in:

- Managing and executing a substantial research project
- Advancing your specialist skills and knowledge
- Using professional and appropriate communication methods for different audiences
- Presenting your work professionally and understanding the needs of different audiences

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Knowledge and Skills | Use SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE and expertise of research at the forefront of your discipline |
| Research | Design and execute a research project using the skills of RESEARCH and ANALYSIS to SOLVE PROBLEMS associated with your area of study |
| Reflection and Evaluation | MANAGE a research project using appropriate resources and planning your time effectively to demonstrate your understanding of INDEPENDENT LEARNING as a key transferable and lifelong skill |
| Communication | Present work professionally and use appropriate strategies for COMMUNICATION for the range of audiences most relevant to your future career |

Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit all the following for assessment:

- **A Research Project Report**
- **A Research Project Poster**
- **Project Evaluation Document**

Further details on the specific requirements of each submission element can be found in the Unit Handbook for your course.

Learning and Teaching

Learning and teaching at Norwich is underpinned by the University's [Creative Learning Strategy](#). We use a project-centred approach in which practice and theory are integrated within increasingly open-ended briefs; allowing you to develop your individual interests and approach to independent learning within and beyond the discipline you are studying. We emphasise learning and discovery through practice, critical reflection and experimentation with ideas, processes and materials.

At Norwich, we value collaboration and working across disciplines and there are many opportunities to engage with colleagues, and with ideas and concepts from other areas. Collaborative engagement is embedded within the design of our courses and opportunities are also made available through activities such as external speakers, cross-university projects and times when you are able to join projects and workshops from beyond your course area.

Course Delivery

Except where explicitly indicated in a Course Specification, no optional units will be available within each year of delivery.

Undergraduate courses are campus-based. Delivery includes some live-streamed and pre-recorded digital sessions which you can use on-demand. Our approach enables you to benefit from the studios, labs and workshops on campus while learning how the creative industries work and helping to prepare you for your future careers.

Short courses at undergraduate level are delivered online, and are mainly asynchronous, offering flexibility and enabling you to manage competing demands on your time.

At postgraduate level, courses are campus-based, except where specified as delivered predominantly or fully online. Delivery of campus-based courses includes some live-streamed and pre-recorded digital sessions which you can use on-demand. Delivery of predominantly or fully online courses can provide flexibility for you and help you to manage competing demands on your time. All courses include regular access to tutors through live sessions and/or forums and messaging facilities.

Teaching is delivered by staff who are often experienced practitioners as well as educators. Many engage with teaching alongside their practice, offering relevant expertise and currency across associated professions and industries. Teaching on courses is led by a Course Leader (or equivalent) supported by a core group of lecturers and expert technical staff, as well as a range guest and visiting experts.

Assessment

At the start of each unit the tutors will explain what you will learn and how we will test your learning through assessment. This information will also be provided on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). As the unit progresses, you will be given formal and informal opportunities to receive feedback on your progress. These opportunities may include:

- Group reviews or critiques (crits)
- Self-evaluation and peer evaluation
- Group and individual tutorials

At the end of the unit you will submit work for assessment and receive written feedback and a grade to help you understand what you've done well and what areas to work on for the next assignment. Assessment may include portfolios, essays, reports, and evaluations. Sometimes you may be assessed on group or individual presentations, and/or performances, depending on your course.

You will be assessed against the approved unit learning outcomes and assessment requirements, as outlined in the Unit Handbooks for your course. Unit handbooks guide you through the specific areas of

work in which you will be engaged in order to produce the work required for assessment and successfully achieve the unit learning outcomes.

Engagement

To fully benefit from the course, you are expected to attend all the taught sessions that are included on the timetable. Timetables are made available at the start of term. For undergraduate students, the balance between taught study and independent learning changes as you progress through the course. In the Integrated Foundation Year (Year 0) you may expect to spend around one third of your time in taught study. As you progress time undertaken in independent study will increase and by the final year of undergraduate study you can expect to spend around a quarter of your time in taught study. Postgraduate taught students studying mainly on campus can expect to attend taught sessions for approximately a fifth of their study time.

Independent learning

Each unit has an indicative number of 'study hours' which refers to both your timetabled teaching (such as lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops etc), and your independent learning. By independent learning we mean activities that help you to learn outside of taught sessions, such as reading, research, practice and preparation of work for assessment. It also includes other activities such as collaborative work and skills development sessions that may run through the assessment period.

Support

You will have access to a wide range of staff, all of them committed to supporting learning. As well as your course tutors, these include staff in technical workshops, the Library, Business and Employability Service, and Student Support.

Work-related learning

All our courses include opportunities to develop your understanding, knowledge and experience of business, industry and professional practice. This includes guest lectures and/or workshops led by visiting professionals; live and simulated projects for external clients; mentoring by professional practitioners; and regular workshops provided by the Business and Employability team to help you get to grips with entrepreneurship, freelancing and enterprise. You will also be introduced to [Profile](#), our unique tool for recording skills and experience and tracking your progress so that when you are applying for jobs you will have a record of your development and understand your key strengths and areas for development.

Diploma Years, for students who select the Diploma in Creative Professional Development as part of their course, will include periods of work-based learning.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRESSION ON THE COURSE

The general requirements for progression are as follows:

Progression from Year 1 to Year 2 (Honours degree):

you must pass all Year 1 units and be awarded 120 credits (Level 4 of the Sector Recognised Standards)

Progression from Year 2 to Year 3: (Honours degree):

you must pass all Year 2 units and be awarded 120 credits (Level 5 of the Sector Recognised Standards)

If you do not pass a unit at first attempt you will normally be offered at least one further attempt to pass the unit through resubmission. If you do not pass the unit after a resubmission attempt you will not be allowed to progress to the next stage of study and may have your course terminated. Please see the University's [Student Regulations and Procedures](#) for further information.

If you fail all 120 credits in a year of study you will not normally be offered resubmission opportunity and may have your course terminated, or be required to repeat the year, depending on your circumstances.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A QUALIFICATION

To qualify for the award of Bachelor of Arts with Honours [BA (Hons)] you must have achieved a pass in all units and be awarded 360 credits.

If you do not complete your course for any reason, you may qualify for an exit award (subject to the University's [Student Regulations and Procedures, Section H](#)) as follows:

- Completion of Year 1 – Certificate of Higher Education
- Completion of Year 2 – Diploma of Higher Education
- Partial completion of Year 3 – BA Degree (Unclassified)

In order to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society, students must pass the Psychology Research Project (Unit BPSYC3c) and gain at least a Lower Second-Class Honours degree.

CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY RESULT IN COURSE TERMINATION

There are a number of circumstances which may lead us to review your place at the University, including the following:

- because you haven't registered for your course when we asked you to;
- because your engagement with the University is not satisfactory;
- for academic reasons – in other words, because you haven't successfully completed and passed one or more units on your course;
- for disciplinary reasons, including where we have received information which may have led us to make a different decision about your place at the University, or because you have been convicted of a criminal offence involving a court hearing;
- because we believe your health or behaviour is presenting an exceptional level of concern to us, or is disrupting the day-to-day work of the University community;
- because you have taken a formal break from your studies, which we call intermission, but you don't meet the conditions we have set for your return or you don't reply to us when we ask you if you want to return; or
- because you haven't paid your tuition fees or rent for a place in our accommodation.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The University was established as an independent higher education institution under Section 121 of the Education Reform Act 1988 and is a recognised body with taught degree awarding powers. The University is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS). Information about the University's status can be found on the [OfS Register](#) and on the [list of recognised bodies](#) published on the UK Government (GOV.UK) website. The OfS regulatory framework came fully into force from 1 August 2019. As part of its registration with the OfS the University is required to satisfy a number of conditions that relate to quality and standards. Prior to 2016, the University was quality assured by the QAA.

Quality in the University is assured by a number of systems and procedures. Many of these, notably those which contribute to annual monitoring, work to an annual cycle. Others, such as the Periodic Review of courses, operate over longer timescales. The objectives of the QME systems and procedures are:

1. To enhance the quality of courses and university professional services;
2. To attract a high-quality student application and intake;
3. To ensure that the University is a reflective community committed to continuous enhancement; and
4. To retain the confidence of key stakeholders, including external accreditors and funding bodies.

Date of Course Specification: September 2025