



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

### Description: Foundation Psychology A

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
PSY	1010	40403	1, 2005	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOSCI
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOS005
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	1
<b>ASCED code:</b>	090701

### STAFFING

Examiner: Lorelle Burton  
Moderator: Steven Christensen

### RATIONALE

Psychology is concerned with understanding why people act and think as they do and how people differ. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the major concepts, techniques, and theoretical perspectives in psychology. Students will gain an appreciation of the main fields within the discipline and learn about the standard format for referencing in psychology.

### SYNOPSIS

This course is designed to provide students with an overall perspective of the scope, nature, and methods of psychology. The major concepts of developmental psychology, personality, motivation, psychological disorders, therapy, health, and social psychology are introduced. Students will learn the correct procedures for citing references and putting together a reference list in the format recommended by the American Psychological Association (APA).

### OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the scope of psychology and the relationship between its fields;
2. demonstrate an understanding of the major contemporary perspectives in psychology;
3. demonstrate a knowledge of the basic concepts and techniques of psychology;
4. apply the style and format requirements outlined in the latest edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association; and
5. demonstrate an understanding of the role of research in psychology.

## TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	What is Psychology? - defining psychology - fields of psychology - history of psychology - research methods - ethics in psychological research	7.00
2.	Developmental Psychology - prenatal development - childhood: physical, cognitive, and social development - adolescence: physical, cognitive, and social development - adulthood: physical, cognitive, and social development - controversies in developmental psychology	15.00
3.	Motivation and Emotion - defining motivation - theories of motivation - hunger and eating disorders - social motives - expression of emotions - theories of emotion	15.00
4.	Personality - psychodynamic perspective - trait perspective - learning-theory perspectives - humanistic-existential perspective - sociocultural perspective - measurement of personality	15.00
5.	Psychological Disorders - defining psychological disorders - classifying psychological disorders - anxiety, dissociative, and somatoform disorders - mood disorders - schizophrenia - personality disorders	15.00
6.	Methods of Therapy - defining therapy - psychodynamic therapies - humanistic-existential therapies - behaviour therapy - cognitive therapies - group therapies - biological therapies - therapy effectiveness	15.00
7.	Stress and Health - defining stress - sources of stress - moderators of stress - effects of stress - coping with stress	9.00
8.	Social Psychology - attitudes - social perception - social influence - group behaviour	9.00

## TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Burton, LJ 2002, *An Interactive Approach to Writing Essays and Research Reports in Psychology*, John Wiley & Sons, Milton, Qld.

Westen, D 2002, *Psychology: Brain, Behavior and Culture*, 3rd edn, John Wiley & Sons, Brisbane, Australia.

Younger, A 2002, *Study Guide to Accompany Psychology: Brain, Behavior and Culture*, 3rd edn, John Wiley & Sons, Brisbane, Australia.

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

American Psychological Association 2001, *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th edn, APA, Washington, DC.

Bernstein, DA et al 2000, *Psychology*, 5th edn, Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Bourne LE (Jr) & Russo, NR 1998, *Psychology: Behavior in Context*, WW Norton, New York.

Coon, D 1998, *Introduction to Psychology: Exploration and Application*, 8th edn, Brooks/Cole, Pacific Grove, CA.

Huffman, K 2002, *Psychology in Action*, 6th edn, John Wiley & Sons, New York.

Myers, DG 2001, *Psychology*, 6th edn, Worth Publishers, New York.

Weiten, W 2004, *Psychology: Themes and Variations*, 6th edn, Brooks/Cole, Pacific Grove, CA.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	40.00
Examinations	3.00
Private Study	128.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
APA STYLE EXERCISES	30.00	10.00	11 Apr 2005
ESSAY	30.00	30.00	16 May 2005
RESEARCH REPORT	5.00	5.00	06 Jun 2005
2.5 HR M/C RESTRICTED EXAM	110.00	55.00	END S1 (see note 1)

### NOTES

1. Examination dates will be available during the semester. Please refer to the examination timetable when published.

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:  
It is the student's responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:  
To complete the examination satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for the examination.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:

If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:  
To be assured of a pass in this course, students must obtain an overall mark of at least 50%, complete all assessment items, and satisfactorily complete the exam.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:  
Final grades for students will be determined by the addition of the marks obtained in each assessment item, weighted as in the Assessment details and by considering the students' level of achievement of the objectives of the course.
- 6 Examination information:  
In a Restricted Examination, candidates are allowed access to specific materials during the examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the restricted examination for this course are: writing materials (non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination); calculators which cannot hold textual information (students must indicate on their examination paper the make and model of any calculator(s) they use during the examination; English translation dictionaries (but not technical dictionaries); Formula sheets; Translation dictionary. With the Examiner's approval, candidates may, take an appropriate non- electronic translation dictionary into the examination. This will be subject to perusal and, if it is found to contain annotations or markings that could give the candidate an unfair advantage, it may be removed from the candidate's possession until the appropriate disciplinary action is completed.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:  
Students who, for medical family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. Students will be granted a deferred examination only if they perform satisfactorily in all other assessment items. Any deferred examinations for this course will be held during the examination period at the end of the semester of the next offering of this course.
- 8 University Regulations:  
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

## **ASSESSMENT NOTES**

- 9 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch an assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment purposes. Such copies should be dispatched to the USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request to do so.
- 10 As there are resources cited in the Study Materials that are available of the World Wide Web, and a discussion group that will be used throughout the course, students undertaking this course will require access to email and Internet access to USQConnect to enable them to participate fully in the course.