Description: Issues and Skills in Professional Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>8010</td>
<td>40425</td>
<td>1, 2005</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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**Academic group:** FOSCI
**Academic org:** FOS005
**Student contribution band:** 1
**ASCED code:** 090701

**STAFFING**
Examiner: Kerry Gruber Vella
Moderator: Paul Bramston

**RATIONALE**
There are competencies that students are required to have mastered adequately before commencing supervised practice. This course will allow students to integrate previously learnt skills and knowledge into a developing professional level of competence. Students will also begin to explore the assumptions, values and social/interpersonal skills that affect professional practice. This course provides the foundation for more advanced topics covered in the courses PSY8040 and PSY8050.

**SYNOPSIS**
This course focuses on discipline knowledge and basic professional and interpersonal competencies required of students before commencing supervised practice in both health-specific and more general settings. Students will examine the assumptions, values and social/interpersonal skills that they bring into their professional practice. Building on these, students will develop their professional knowledge and interpersonal/professional competencies, including interviewing, report writing and presentation skills, with particular focus on cross-cultural sensitivity and professional ethics. This course will be offered via three compulsory workshops on-campus, each of two days' duration, and by readings, assignments and web-based discussion groups.

**OBJECTIVES**
On successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate competencies as identified in the APS (Australian Psychological Society) Competencies for Psychologists (1996) and the APS College of Health Psychologists (1998). They will be able to:

1. demonstrate an ability to effectively conceptualise complex clinical issues and to formulate clinical problems;
2. demonstrate an understanding of and sensitivity toward cross-cultural issues in working with diverse populations;
3. critically evaluate clinical outcome research;
4. demonstrate an ability to use appropriate problem-solving skills in effective interviewing;
5. demonstrate a capacity to establish professional relationships and an awareness of issues in multidisciplinary teamwork;
6. demonstrate a sound knowledge of service provision boundaries and ethical and legal regulations within the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines;
7. demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with clients and professionals in both verbal and written reports.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Models of human behaviour and their assumptions: - cognitive behavioural -</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>bio-psycho-social - psychoanalytic - psychotherapy outcome research - scientist-practitioner perspective on the practice of psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Developing competencies in a range of interview approaches: - intake interview - mental status examination - DSM IV interview</td>
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<td>3. Exploring personal values and assumptions affecting professional practice; impact of: culture (special emphasis on working with Indigenous Australians) - gender - disability - sexual orientation - minority group identification - class - age</td>
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<td>4. Professional skills: - establishing a service contract - report writing - preparing and delivering presentations and seminars - DSM IV knowledge and practice</td>
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<td>5. Ethics: - APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines - rights and responsibilities - confidentiality - managing boundaries and multiple relationships - record keeping</td>
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<td>6. Collaborative work: - referral and cross referral procedures - working cooperatively in a multi-disciplinary team - working within organisations</td>
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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).

The Australian Psychological Society Ltd Ethical Guidelines, The Australian Psychological Society Ltd, Carlton South, Victoria.
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.


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>68.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>59.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE AT 3 WORKSHOPS</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>28 Feb 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(see note 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIDEOTAPES 1 AND 2</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>14 Mar 2005</td>
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<td>(see note 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORT 1</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>24 Mar 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIDEOTAPES 3 AND 4</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>11 Apr 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORT 2</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>13 May 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIDEOTAPES 5 AND 6</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<td>23 May 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSAY/ORAL PRESENTATION</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>23 May 2005</td>
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<td>(see note 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 HOUR CLOSED ETHICS TEST</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>24 May 2005</td>
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<td>(see note 4)</td>
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NOTES

1. Attendance at three on-campus workshops is required according to the 'Postgraduate Workshop Schedule'.
2. A minimum of six videotaped interview sessions must be submitted over the course of the semester, with sessions 1 and 2 due as noted, sessions 3 and 4 due by Workshop 2 and sessions 5 and 6 due by Workshop 3.
3. The written essay is weighted 15% and the oral presentation of the essay is weighted 10% for a total of 25% toward the final course grade, as noted. The written essay is due by Workshop 3 and the oral presentation will be given to the class one of either of the two days of Workshop 3.
4. The ethics test will be given on Day 2 of Workshop 3.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in the three,
two-day compulsory workshops held on-campus, where the skills components of this
course will be taught. During these workshops, students will engage in the practice of
techniques for a variety of situations. It is also the students' responsibility to participate
weekly in the online discussion groups. Further, it is the students' responsibility to study
all assigned material. If circumstances prevent a student from attending any portion of
a workshop, the student must contact the examiner IN ADVANCE, if at all possible.
The student must also contact the examiner in order to arrange an alternative activity.
This could be a written assignment based on the material covered in the missed
workshop. Attendance at and participation in the three workshops and/or completion
of one or more alternative activities at a standard judged to be appropriate by the
examiner is required before the one mark for the workshops can be awarded.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least
50% of the marks available for each item.

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 gained by the student 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 receiving a passing grade, students must demonstrate that they have
achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course.
To do so, students must complete each of the assessment items and must gain at least
50% of the available marks for those items.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the
weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
   The two hour, closed ethics test will be given in-class on Day 2 of Workshop 3. The
test will consist of a number of case studies/examples with short answer questions as
well as multiple choice questions, based on the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical
Guidelines. Students may bring only writing materials into the closed test.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Any deferred tests for this course will be held at a date and time determined by the
examiner after consultation with the students involved. There will be no supplementary
tests in 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 Students are expected to contribute to weekly online discussions throughout the semester beginning in week one of the course. Topics for discussion will coincide with the reading and practice exercises assigned. An 'original' submission will consist of a 100-300 word description of skills/practice relevant to the current course topics and/or a personal evaluation/reflection on the students' experience of their current coursework or a critical analysis of an assigned or otherwise relevant reading. Students are also expected to respond to the issues raised by others and to engage in a meaningful online dialogue, sharing ideas and concerns so that students may learn from one another and benefit from each others' experience.

10 Students must submit a minimum of six 10-minute videotaped initial interviews with new "clients" (volunteers). All videotaped sessions will be reviewed by the examiner and feedback and suggestions on how to further develop the students' interview skills will be offered. Ideally, students will attend an encouraged (but optional) weekly viewing session on-campus where both the examiner and the other students can contribute to the feedback process and students may learn from one another's experience. Due dates for videotaped sessions are, therefore, deadlines, and it is encouraged that, instead, students try to complete the sessions in a consistent stepwise manner over time. Videotaped sessions will also be viewed and discussed during workshops. Successful completion of this assessment item requires the examiner's judgment that a minimum level of competency has been achieved. Note that this may require the completion of more than six videotaped interviews, if the examiner deems that this is necessary in order to achieve/demonstrate competency.

11 Students must submit two written psychological reports based on fictional client descriptions and data provided by the examiner. The format will be provided during Workshop 1.

12 Students must submit a 1000-1500 word essay paper. The essay will consist of a critical analysis of and self-reflection upon professional and personal issues that arose for students when interviewing a volunteer "client" who is of a different culture from them and how these issues might impact on their professional practice. Students are also required to present a 7-10 minute oral presentation of the personal insights discussed in the essay paper.

13 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 DATED RECEIPT FROM THE POST OFFICE WHEN POSTING ASSIGNMENTS.

14 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to the USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request to do so.

15 In accordance with the University Policy, the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. STUDENTS MUST CONTACT THE EXAMINER DIRECTLY, IN ADVANCE, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN EXTENSION.

16 The Faculty of Sciences will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1 Students will require regular access to e-mail and internet access to USQConnect for this course.