The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

This version produced 20 Dec 2007.
The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description: Advanced Psychological Theory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
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Academic group: FOSCI
Academic org: FOS005
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 090701

STAFFING
Examiner: Grace Pretty
Moderator: Andrea Lamont-Mills

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in Program: BSCH

RATIONALE
An advanced understanding of psychological theory forms the foundation for research that informs the way we understand and respond to current social issues. Psychologists can inform state and federal policy makers, and assist individuals, groups, organisations and communities through the application of psychological theory and scientific principles within a context of culturally sensitive communication and consultation.

SYNOPSIS
The main aim of this course is to further develop students' critical understanding of several core theoretical models of human behaviour. Students will learn several theories, including individually-focused theories, social psychological theories, and ecological models of health and well-being. The course will involve students working independently to critically evaluate several psychological theories with respect to a current issue being discussed in the media. Students will also work collaboratively on group projects that aim to define current issues from the perspective of suitable psychological theories. Students will develop a theoretical and empirically defensible argument to revise government policy, or advise a strategy for creating a lasting improvement in individual, group, organisational or community well-being. Students will develop a plan founded on identified theoretical principles for the implementation of their strategy, and will consider all relevant factors that could impact on the effectiveness of their strategy, especially ethnicity, gender, physical/intellectual capabilities, and religious practices. Students must attend two compulsory workshops. Students will also require email and internet access to USQConnect for this course.
OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course, students will have developed skills in:

1. understanding, identifying and critically evaluating psychological theories from the following areas: psychology of individual differences, developmental psychology, interpersonal and social processes, cross-cultural psychology, group dynamics, and ecological models of health and well-being. In particular, the aim of applying psychological theory is to explain the dynamic interaction between biology, behaviour, and the environment, and how this interaction unfolds over the life course of individuals, families, and communities (Mid-semester test, project report, Discussion Group Participation);

2. identifying specific issues that are affecting individual, group, organisational or community well-being and describing the psychosocial nature of these issues, including their antecedents, possible consequences, and potential impact at various systemic or community levels (Mid-semester test, project report, Discussion Group Participation);

3. developing a strategy that addresses the issues by reducing/modifying the antecedents, assisting to alleviate some of the possible consequences, or limiting the potential impact (Mid-semester test, project report, Discussion Group Participation);

4. understanding how to implement strategies in ways that are culturally sensitive (Mid-semester test, project report, Discussion Group Participation);

5. presenting the strategy to the other students in the course and demonstrating ethically appropriate and cultural sensitivity (Discussion Group Participation).

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. This course will focus on advancing students critical understanding of several current psychological theories that explain human behaviour from individual, social and environmental perspectives. This understanding will be developed through the application and comparison of these theoretical perspectives to critical social, health and environmental issues that are receiving attention in the media. Examples of current issues could include: euthanasia; violence in sport; childhood obesity; Australian policies regarding refugees in detention; extreme makeovers; and body image. The particular theories studied will depend on the particular areas of expertise of staff who are assigned to teach into this course. 1.1. Particular topics/issues will be determined by the students in consultation with the lecturer.</td>
<td>100.00</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).

To be advised by the Examiner.
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.

Readings will depend on the issues discussed in the course.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>63.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>21.00</td>
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</tbody>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MID-SEMESTER TEST</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>19 Sep 2007 (see note 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION GROUP PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>02 Nov 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT REPORT</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>05 Nov 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES

1. The mid-semester test will be held on campus during the scheduled workshop time for the course.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   Attendance at the on-campus workshops is compulsory. 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 assignments and test satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for the assignments and test. If students obtain less than 50%, they may be required to resubmit the assessment item or do other make-up work.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 5% 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 receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.

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

6 Examination information:
There is no examination in this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
As there are no examinations in this course, there will be no deferred or supplementary examinations.

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 must make a minimum of four postings of at least 200 words to the discussion group and must initiate at least two.

10 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner.

11 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours of receipt of a request from the Examiner.

12 Students require email and internet access for this course.