



## UNSW Course Outline

# PSYC1023 Abnormal Psychology - 2023

Course Code : PSYC1023  
Year : 2023  
Term : Term 2  
Teaching Period : T2  
Delivery Mode : Online  
Delivery Format : Standard  
Delivery Location : Kensington

## General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC1023  
Year : 2023  
Term : Term 2  
Teaching Period : T2  
Is a multi-term course? : No  
Faculty : Faculty of Science  
Academic Unit : School of Psychology  
Delivery Mode : Online  
Delivery Format : Standard  
Delivery Location : Kensington  
Campus : Sydney  
Study Level : Undergraduate  
Units of Credit : 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

This course provides a contemporary overview of human mental disorders. It will address

questions such as How is “abnormal” defined? What causes mental illnesses and how are they treated? Each week students will explore a different mental disorder (e.g. depression, anxiety, bipolar, OCD, substance use disorder) and discuss the symptoms, causes and treatments. Students will also learn about the scientific models that link factors as well as breakthroughs in scientific understanding and treatment of mental disorders.

This course is appropriate for students with and without a background in science and is taught entirely online through Moodle.

N.B. This course is not a treatment program for mental health disorders and should not be viewed as a substitute for professional intervention.

## Course Aims

This course aims to provide students with a contemporary view of psychological and biological models explaining human psychopathology. It provides an overview and discussion of the notion of “abnormality”, diagnostic practice, stigma, aetiology, prognosis and treatment in relation to depression, anxiety, bipolar, obsessive-compulsive disorder and substance-use disorder.

The course aims to build a strong foundation in psychological and scientific literacy; skills like understanding the scientific method, psychology as a science, history of psychopathology as a discipline, as well as academic writing skills, critical thinking and analysis. These transferable skills will be beneficial to students who plan to continue in psychology, academically or professionally, as well as those students whose academic and professional focus lies elsewhere.

## Course Learning Outcome

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Comprehend and apply knowledge of major concepts of abnormal psychology with regard to: risk factors, classification, aetiology and treatments of common mental disorders.
CL02 : Comprehend and apply knowledge of the scientific method in order to understand how these principles are applied in abnormal psychology research and clinical settings.
CL03 : Apply critical thinking skills in order to intellectually engage with literature, differentiate quality empirical evidence from speculation, develop an argument and critique those of others.
CL04 : Demonstrate an understanding of the historical context, ethical principles and values in the area of abnormal psychology.
CL05 : Analyse and critique theory and research in the discipline of psychology and communicate these in a written format.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Comprehend and apply knowledge of major concepts of abnormal psychology with regard to: risk factors, classification, aetiology and treatments of common mental disorders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final examination</li> <li>• Essay</li> <li>• Mid-term</li> </ul>

	exam
CLO2 : Comprehend and apply knowledge of the scientific method in order to understand how these principles are applied in abnormal psychology research and clinical settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final examination</li> <li>• Essay</li> <li>• Mid-term exam</li> </ul>
CLO3 : Apply critical thinking skills in order to intellectually engage with literature, differentiate quality empirical evidence from speculation, develop an argument and critique those of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final examination</li> <li>• Essay</li> <li>• Mid-term exam</li> </ul>
CLO4 : Demonstrate an understanding of the historical context, ethical principles and values in the area of abnormal psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final examination</li> <li>• Essay</li> <li>• Mid-term exam</li> </ul>
CLO5 : Analyse and critique theory and research in the discipline of psychology and communicate these in a written format.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

## Additional Course Information

### Expectations of students

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment and Plagiarism Policies, have read through and understand the contents of the School of Psychology Student Guide and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment or exam due to illness or misadventure.

Updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their student emails regularly to keep up to date.

The Moodle forums should be the first line of contact with the Course Coordinator (personal matters or matters related to equity provisions can, of course, be sent by email in the first instance). Due to the online nature of the course, under no circumstances are specific exam questions/answers to be discussed on the forums. If you do not receive a reply to your forum post or email within a few days (and your question has not been answered elsewhere e.g. forums, course outline etc), please send a polite follow up to the course coordinator. The Moodle

messaging system should not be used to contact the coordinator as these messages have too often been sent to spam.

Although this is an online course, it is expected that students dedicate the same amount of time each week to studying for this course as they would for an on-campus course. "Independent, self-directed practice" is a UNSW Graduate Attribute and an important aspect of online study. Timely completion of online activities is an essential part of independent, self-directed learning. It is expected that students will watch the lectures in the week in which they are set and to complete the assigned readings for that week.

Given that the course content and assessable components are delivered online, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable of handling the features of the Moodle eLearning website and any of its content. To help students establish whether or not their computer/internet access is suitable for the online exam/s, a test quiz is available. This quiz will not contribute to final marks and will be able to be completed multiple times in order to test computer/internet connection prior to assessment submission/exams.

The final exam for this course will take place online during the official final examinations period. Further details will be released closer to the exam date.

Students registered with Equitable Learning Services must contact the course co-ordinator in Week 1 if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. If registration occurs during the term, then letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

## Student Guide

The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Final examination	40%	Start DateNot Applicable

Assessment FormatIndividual		
Essay Assessment FormatIndividual	40%	Due Date23/07/2023 11:59 PM
Mid-term exam Assessment FormatIndividual	20%	Due Date30/06/2023 11:59 PM

## Assessment Details

### Final examination

There will be a 1-hour (+ 15min reading time) examination held online during the University examination period (via Inspira). The examination will include 80 multiple choice questions covering all lecture material and textbook readings. The final exam will be worth 40% of the total course mark.

#### Assessment Length

1hr + 15 min reading time / 80 MCQs

#### Submission notes

This exam will be administered via Inspira

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

### Essay

A written assignment in essay format will be required for submission via Turnitin 11:59pm Sunday Week 8. The question will relate to topics broadly addressed in the course. Details will be released in Week 4. The essay will be worth 40% of the total course mark. The research and writing chapters of the custom eTextbook will provide help on how to write a psychological essay. You will be provided with opportunities for self-assessment throughout the writing process. Penalties for late submission will be in accordance with policies stipulated in the School of Psychology Student Guide.

Essays submitted after the marking deadline will not receive a mark.

#### Assessment Length

500 words

#### Submission notes

.doc or .docx format only please!

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

### Mid-term exam

The mid-term test is worth 20% of the total course mark. The test will have 20 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and will be made available online via Moodle from 9am –11:59pm Friday Week 5 (Sydney time). You will be able to sit the examination once. The test will last 15 mins allowing for 45s per question. The test should not be attempted “open book” with reference material nearby, as there is not enough time to consult any reference material to answer these questions. The time limit will provide ample opportunity for students to read and answer all the questions. The material assessed in this exam will cover all material presented in Weeks 1-3 and Week 5 including textbook readings.

#### Assessment Length

15 mins / 20 MCQs

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

## General Assessment Information

**Special Consideration:** Students who experience circumstances outside of their control that prevent them from completing an assessment task by the assigned due date due can apply for Special Consideration. Special Consideration applications should include a medical certificate or other documentation and be submitted via myUNSW within 3 days of the sitting/due date.

**Important note:** UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address and advised of the official outcome. If the special consideration application is approved, you may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

**Alternative assessments:** will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure and Psychology Student Guide.

**Supplementary examinations:** will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy and Psychology Student Guide.

All course assessments have been designed and implemented in accordance with [UNSW Assessment Policy](#).

The APA (7<sup>th</sup> edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly

adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately: [APA 7th edition](#).

### Grading Basis

Standard

### Requirements to pass course

Final course grade of 50+

## Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 29 May - 2 June	Topic	Introduction to Psychopathology
Week 2 : 5 June - 9 June	Topic	History of Psychopathology: The good, the bad and the ugly
Week 3 : 12 June - 16 June	Topic	DNA to Society: Biological, psychological and social aspects
Week 4 : 19 June - 23 June	Topic	Essay Skills Week!
Week 5 : 26 June - 30 June	Topic	Anxiety disorders
Week 6 : 3 July - 7 July	Other	Flex Week
Week 7 : 10 July - 14 July	Topic	Depressive Disorders
Week 8 : 17 July - 21 July	Topic	Bipolar Disorders
Week 9 : 24 July - 28 July	Topic	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
Week 10 : 31 July - 4 August	Topic	Substance use and abuse

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## General Schedule Information

The expected engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term. This course involves approximately 10 hours of lectures and approximately 20 hours of readings. The remaining 120 hours should be spent on group discussions, revision, written assessments and exam preparation.

## Course Resources

### Prescribed Resources

Custom eTextbook (preferred option):

Gouldthorp, Bernstein, Roy, Cranney, Pooley. (2020). PSYC1023: Abnormal Psychology. 1st edition. Cengage Learning AUS.

N.B. The custom textbook contains only the examinable chapters plus a detailed guide for writing psychology assessments. If you have not written assessments for UNSW School of Psychology before, the custom textbook is strongly encouraged. Links to purchase through the UNSW Bookshop or Cengage will be posted on Moodle.

OR

Durand V. M., Barlow, D.H., & Hofmann, S.G. (2018). Essentials of Abnormal Psychology. 8th edition. Cengage Learning.

OR

Barlow, D. H., Durand, V. M., & Hofmann, S. G. (2018). Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach. 8th edition. Cengage Learning.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Education Learning Support Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Natalie Rogers	<a href="mailto:n.rogers@unsw.edu.au">n.rogers@unsw.edu.au</a>			MON-FRI online by appointment	Yes	Yes

## Other Useful Information

### Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.



You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

**Referencing** is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

**Academic integrity** is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The Current Students site <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>, and
- The ELISE training site <http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/presentation>

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

### Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

***Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.***

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

## Special Consideration

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

**Important note:** UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

## Faculty-specific Information

### Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au>
- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

## School Contact Information

### School of Psychology

Phone: +61 2 9385 3041

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Honours E-mail: [honours.psychology@unsw.edu.au](mailto:honours.psychology@unsw.edu.au)