



UNSW Course Outline

PSYC1022 The Psychology of Addiction - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC1022

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

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

Have you ever wondered why some people become addicted to drugs or alcohol while others do not? Is addiction nature or nurture? Has the War on Drugs been effective at reducing illicit drug use? Is substance use a modern cultural phenomenon? Will using drugs *really* fry your brain? These questions and more will be explored in The Psychology of Addiction.

PSYC1022 is a first-year introductory course with no prior knowledge of Psychology required. The course content is accessible to both science students and those in non-science programs. PSYC1022 provides foundational understanding of biopsychosocial issues relevant to licit and illicit drug use, the development and maintenance of addiction, and the treatments and systems in place to counteract the impact of substance use. The content begins with exploring sociocultural perspectives and historic origins of drugs. We then address psychological and biomedical harms, neuropharmacology, and the effects that drugs of abuse have on learning, motivation, cognition and behaviour. We conclude the course by covering behavioural and pharmacological interventions, preventative education programs and prohibition, and the role of scientific evidence in government policy.

Learning activities and assessments are fully online with no face-to-face attendance required. Activities are designed to facilitate active and collaborative learning in small online study groups to enhance your learning experience and foster a supportive online community. Emphasis is placed on students developing Self-Regulated Learning (SRL) strategies, which are particularly beneficial to those who are transitioning into university. PSYC1022 is delivered to a diverse university-wide cohort, giving students the opportunity to meet students outside their own discipline who share similar intellectual interests, whilst benefiting from diverse perspectives and approaches to studying and learning.

Course Aims

This course aims to be an introduction to biopsychosocial factors involved in the development, maintenance and treatment of addiction. Students will learn foundational concepts and theoretical perspectives, research methodologies and empirical findings, and historical trends in drug use. Students will also learn self-regulated learning and scientific writing skills providing them with a strong foundation of academic skills they can employ in their future studies.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major transdisciplinary concepts, theories, research findings, and trends in the field of drug addiction.
CL02 : Describe and evaluate psychological research methods used in the field of drug addiction and interpret numerical data in relation to theoretical issues.
CL03 : Apply critical thinking skills in order to use empirical evidence from psychological science to understand physiological, behavioural, cognitive, and social factors involved in drug addiction.
CL04 : Demonstrate effective written communication skills for the purpose of informing and arguing.
CL05 : Apply self-regulated learning strategies to study course content for the purpose of developing effective learning and academic skills.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major transdisciplinary concepts, theories, research findings, and trends in the field of drug addiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-regulated learning activities • Essay • Final examination
CL02 : Describe and evaluate psychological research methods used in the field of drug addiction and interpret numerical data in relation to theoretical issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-regulated learning activities • Essay • Final examination
CL03 : Apply critical thinking skills in order to use empirical evidence from psychological science to understand physiological, behavioural, cognitive, and social factors involved in drug addiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay • Final examination
CL04 : Demonstrate effective written communication skills for the purpose of informing and arguing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay
CL05 : Apply self-regulated learning strategies to study course content for the purpose of developing effective learning and academic skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-regulated learning activities • Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Self-regulated learning activities Assessment Format: Individual	10%	
Essay Assessment Format: Individual	50%	
Final examination Assessment Format: Individual	40%	

Assessment Details

Self-regulated learning activities

Assessment Overview

Throughout the course there are five self-regulated learning activities (e.g. icebreaker post, written examples of types of instrumental learning, neuropharmacology mind map, set of multiple-choice questions, learning reflection post) which are designed to encourage collaborative/peer learning in your online study group, regular revision of course material, and active learning of the course content. Each activity is worth 2%, so you can earn a total of 10% of your final grade by submitting each activity by the due date (Sunday of Weeks 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10). Marks and feedback on each self-regulated learning activity is provided 10 working days after submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major transdisciplinary concepts, theories, research findings, and trends in the field of drug addiction.
- CL02 : Describe and evaluate psychological research methods used in the field of drug addiction and interpret numerical data in relation to theoretical issues.
- CL05 : Apply self-regulated learning strategies to study course content for the purpose of developing effective learning and academic skills.

Essay

Assessment Overview

A written assignment in essay format (1200 words) will be required for submission Monday of Week 9. You are required to produce a researched written piece to be submitted online via Turnitin. The question and instructions for this assignment will be released on Monday of Week 3. The essay itself is worth 45% of the total course mark.

To encourage time management and incorporating feedback into your writing, two essay

preparation tasks form part of the overall essay assessment. On time submission of these essay preparation tasks will provide you with 2.5% for each on time submission. The first essay preparation activity is a task list for the essay (due Sunday Week 3). The second preparation activity is submission of a written first draft (or bullet point format is also acceptable) to the Smart Thinking platform for feedback from Smart Thinking tutors (due Sunday Week 8).

Marks and feedback on the final submission will be returned to you via Turnitin 10 working days from the due date and no submissions will be accepted after this date – any essay submitted after this will not be marked and will receive a grade of 0.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major transdisciplinary concepts, theories, research findings, and trends in the field of drug addiction.
- CLO2 : Describe and evaluate psychological research methods used in the field of drug addiction and interpret numerical data in relation to theoretical issues.
- CLO3 : Apply critical thinking skills in order to use empirical evidence from psychological science to understand physiological, behavioural, cognitive, and social factors involved in drug addiction.
- CLO4 : Demonstrate effective written communication skills for the purpose of informing and arguing.
- CLO5 : Apply self-regulated learning strategies to study course content for the purpose of developing effective learning and academic skills.

Detailed Assessment Description

If required, a 2 day automatic Short Extension without documentation is available for this assessment.

All short extension applications must be submitted **before** the task's due date.

For details on how to apply, and the conditions on applying, please visit the UNSW [Special Consideration](#) website.

Final examination

Assessment Overview

There will be a 45-minute examination held online during the official University examination period (time and date TBA). The examination is comprised of 60 multiple choice questions covering lecture and reading material from Weeks 1-10.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major transdisciplinary concepts, theories, research findings, and trends in the field of drug addiction.

- CLO2 : Describe and evaluate psychological research methods used in the field of drug addiction and interpret numerical data in relation to theoretical issues.
- CLO3 : Apply critical thinking skills in order to use empirical evidence from psychological science to understand physiological, behavioural, cognitive, and social factors involved in drug addiction.

General Assessment Information

Students should be familiar with the School of Psychology Student Guide, which contains key staff contact details and important information about policies and procedures related to courses and assessment

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 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 (7th 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

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

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

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Jamie Dracup					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, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can be located at:

- The [Current Students site](#),
- The [ELISE training site](#), and
- The [Use of AI for assessments](#) site.

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](#)
- [Student Support](#)
- [Academic Skills and Support](#)
- [Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety](#)
- [Equitable Learning Services](#)
- [UNSW IT Service Centre](#)
- Science EDI Student [Initiatives](#), [Offerings](#) and [Guidelines](#)