

Module specification

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Module Code	PSY423
Module Title	Concepts and Debates in Psychology
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100497
Cost Code	GAPS

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BSc (Hons) Psychology	Core
BSc (Hons) Psychology with foundation year	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	164 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

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Initial approval date	15 th May 2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	July 2025 – updated Indicated Syllabus
Version number	2

Module aims

This module will introduce students to the conceptual and historical issues presented across the key topics in Psychology. Students will receive an overview of competing and evolving theoretical perspectives to provide a foundational understanding of approaches to the discipline from its conceptualisation to the modern-day application.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Demonstrate an appreciation for the conceptual and historical development of Psychology.
2	Evaluate the key perspectives and approaches in psychology
3	Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of key theoretical perspectives within psychology.
4	Apply key theoretical perspectives to a relevant area of Psychology

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

1. 1500-word essay focused on historical debates and/or issues within psychology (e.g., to compare two historical movements in psychology or to evaluate a key debate in psychology).
2. 15-minute presentation to present a theoretical perspective and its application to a relevant area of psychology.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2	Written Assignment	50%
2	3, 4	Presentation	50%

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

A range of different learning and teaching strategies will be utilised in this module, including lectures, seminars, group, and individual activities. Exercises will include quizzes, discussions, and debates. Student will also be given directed and self-directed learning opportunities and tutorials. Module content will include pre-recorded asynchronous online content that will inform synchronous sessions. This will allow students time to reflect on and further develop their knowledge ahead of consolidating learning through group workshops and/or seminars.

All learning and teaching methods are supported by the University's virtual learning environment, Moodle, where students will be able to access clear and timely information to support the delivery of content such as videos, links to relevant online information, discussion forums, and pre-recorded lectures.

The University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) is embedded within the module to achieve optimal accessibility, inclusivity, and flexibility in terms of teaching and learning. This is in line with the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). A learning blend is used that combines synchronous and asynchronous digitally enabled learning with best use of online opportunities and on-campus spaces and facilities.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Psychology as a science
- Psychology and ethics
- Core debates (such as, free will and determinism, and heredity and environment)
- Cultural issues
- Conceptual and historical issues in psychology
- Introduction to developmental psychology
- Introduction to cognitive psychology
- Introduction to biological psychology
- Introduction to social psychology
- Introduction to individual differences
- Considerations of ethics and diversity in practice
- Concept of Western Industrialised Educated Rich and Democratic (WIERD) psychology

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

APA. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style*. (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

Gross, R. (Ed.) (2020). *Psychology: The science of mind and behaviour* (8th ed.). Hodder Education.

Other indicative reading

Gross, R. (2023). *Themes, issues and debates in psychology* (5th ed.). Taylor & Francis.

Journals

British Journal of Psychology

International Journal of Psychology