PSYC11012 *Foundations of Psychological Research*

Term 3 - 2017

Profile information current as at 23/04/2024 09:44 pm

General Information

Overview

This is an introductory unit designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills required throughout their studies in psychology and the social sciences. Students will cover study, learning, organisational and writing skills in relation to psychology, an introduction to critical evaluation of research and evaluating creditability of sources, as well as ethics in research. Students will learn the skills required to succeed throughout their study of psychology including constructing empirical arguments, conducting literature reviews, preparing research reports and essays, as well as referencing and formatting in APA style.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*
Unit Level: *Level 1*
Credit Points: *6*
Student Contribution Band: *10*
Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.
Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)](#).

Offerings For Term 3 - 2017

* Distance

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment
Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

Regional Campuses

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

Metropolitan Campuses

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview
1. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 20%
2. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 20%
3. **Online Quiz(zes)**
Weighting: 10%
4. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 50%

Assessment Grading
This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the University's Grades and Results Policy for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.
You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Self-evaluation

Feedback

Greater student involvement in the research report

Recommendation

The research report should be more embedded across all topics of this unit as a way to demonstrate the research process. Providing students the opportunity to select the research topic, help develop the questionnaire, and analyse results will foster greater engagement and understanding of the research process.

Feedback from Student-evaluations

Feedback

Greater development of research skills in preparation for the written research report

Recommendation

Students should have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and research skills prior to submitting their assignments

Feedback from Student-evaulations

Feedback

Students appreciated assessment feedback that was practical and could be used beyond PSYC11012

Recommendation

Students are likely to appreciate greater opportunities to receive feedback as the quizzes and exams provide only a numerical grade. Alternative assessment items that provide students with more opportunities to receive formative feedback that contributes to life long learning is likely to be well received.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Plan and construct written arguments within a logical, flowing, coherent structure.
2. Synthesize ideas and extract themes from current psychological literature.
3. Communicate ideas effectively in writing and in adherence with APA style.
4. Apply basic concepts of research design and statistics to problems in relevant fields of psychology.
5. Articulate the key values, ethics and principles of psychology and the study of human behaviour.
6. Apply the philosophy of science to problems relevant to the field of psychology and the social sciences.
7. Interpret data with consideration to diverse populations and individual differences.
8. Apply the principles of effective learning to their own study as the basis for successful lifelong learning.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level   ○ Introductory Level   ○ Intermediate Level   ● Graduate Level   ○ Professional Level   ○ Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 - Written Assessment - 20%		●	●		●			
2 - Written Assessment - 20%	●	●	●			●	●	●
3 - Online Quiz(zes) - 10%			●					●
4 - Written Assessment - 50%	●	●	●	●		●	●	●

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 - Communication	●		●		●	●		
2 - Problem Solving				●				●
3 - Critical Thinking		●		●	●	●		●
4 - Information Literacy	●	●					●	
5 - Team Work								
6 - Information Technology Competence								●
7 - Cross Cultural Competence					●	●	●	●
8 - Ethical practice				●		●	●	
9 - Social Innovation								
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures								

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Written Assessment - 20%	●			●				●		
2 - Written Assessment - 20%	●		●	●						
3 - Online Quiz(zes) - 10%	●			●		●				
4 - Written Assessment - 50%	●	●	●			●		●		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks
PSYC11012

Prescribed

An interactive approach to writing essays and research reports in psychology
Edition: 3rd (2010)
Authors: Burton, L.
Wiley
Milton , QLD , Australia
ISBN: 978-1-74216-649-0
Binding: Paperback
PSYC11012

Prescribed

The Practical Researcher: A student guide to conducting psychological research
Edition: 3rd (2013)
Authors: Dunn, D. S.
Wiley
Hoboken , NJ , USA
ISBN: 978-1-118-36004-0
Binding: Paperback

Additional Textbook Information
Please note, both books (hard copies) are available packaged together at a reduced cost through the CQU Bookstore, ISBN 9780730308324.
The books are able to be purchased as E-Texts (electronic copies) direct from the publisher.

View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Tina McAdie Unit Coordinator
t.mcadie@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 06 Nov 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Science and psychology	Dunn- Chapter 1 Burton- Chapter 1	Decide upon the research topic from a short list of ideas.

Week 2 - 13 Nov 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research approaches and generating research questions	Dunn- Chapter 2	Participate in the online survey + get 5 people to complete the survey.

Week 3 - 20 Nov 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Conducting experimental research	Dunn- Chapter 6	

Week 4 - 27 Nov 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Conducting ethical research	Dunn- Chapter 5	

Vacation Week - 04 Dec 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No lecture (vacation week)		

Week 5 - 11 Dec 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Applied research and field research	Dunn- Chapter 7	**Written Assessment (Ethics Personal Reflection)** Due: Week 5 Friday (15 Dec 2017) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 6 - 18 Dec 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Searching psychological literature	Dunn- Chapter 3 Burton- Chapter 1	

Week 7 - 01 Jan 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Critically evaluating research evidence	Dunn- Chapter 3 Burton- Chapter 3	

Week 8 - 08 Jan 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Writing in psychology 1 (overview)	Dunn- Chapter 4 Burton (Chapters 1 and 5)	**Written Assessment (Critical Evaluation Task)** Due: Week 8 Friday (12 Jan 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 9 - 15 Jan 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Writing in psychology 2 (reports)	Burton- Chapter 5	

Week 10 - 22 Jan 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Writing in APA style	Dunn- Chapter 9 Burton- Chapters 2 and 7	**Online Quiz (APA referencing style)** Due: Week 10 Thursday (25 Jan 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 11 - 29 Jan 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Data analysis	Dunn- Chapter 8	

Week 12 - 05 Feb 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The research process in action	Dunn- Chapter 9	**Written Assessment (Research Report)** Due: Week 12 Friday (9 Feb 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Assessment Tasks

1 Written Assessment (Ethics Personal Reflection)

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
A list of psychological experiments will be provided. This assessment requires you to (a) select and research one of the ten listed psychological experiments in detail, and (b) provide a 500 word (+/- 10%) personal reflection.
This assignment is your chance to add your thoughts and analysis to what you have read and experienced. This piece of writing is meant to illustrate your understanding of the experiment (for example, why and how it was done, the ethical implications), and how it affects your ideas and possible practice in future.
You are required to submit ONE personal reflection (worth 20%). Responses should be posted on the appropriate Moodle forum. Information relating to the list of psychological experiments to be reviewed will be made available after the lecture in Week 1, and remain open until Friday Week 5.

Assessment Due Date
Week 5 Friday (15 Dec 2017) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 7 Friday (5 Jan 2018)
Assignments will be returned within two weeks of submission

Weighting
20%

Assessment Criteria
This assessment will be graded out of 20 marks. Marks will be allocated to each of the following questions:
1) An understanding of the issues and ethics of the particular experiment are demonstrated (5 marks).
2) Reference to personal experiences, situations, events or new information is made (5 marks).
3) Response is of sufficient length (5 marks).
4) Written with good spelling and grammar (5 marks).

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)

Submission
Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Synthesize ideas and extract themes from current psychological literature.
- Communicate ideas effectively in writing and in adherence with APA style.
- Articulate the key values, ethics and principles of psychology and the study of human behaviour.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Information Literacy
- Ethical practice

2 Written Assessment (Critical Evaluation Task)

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
This task is designed to help you apply critical thinking principles when reviewing research articles. You must apply critical evaluation skills and write a critique of a research paper that will be provided to you. When writing the review,

you must use/answer the following questions (adapted from Dunn).

1. What is the "problem" or issue being addressed?
2. Is the problem/issue worth investigating? (why/why not?).
3. What is the main argument/hypotheses presented in this text?
4. Think about the authors of this text – are they authoritative/expert, do they have a biased agenda or perspective, is the text up to date? (did they declare a conflict of interest, and how might this impact the study or its findings?)
5. Have the key terms been properly defined? (can a lay audience understand it?)
6. Are the key arguments based on sound theory? (and what are the theories?)
7. Have testable hypotheses been proposed? (and what are they?)
8. Have alternative sides of the arguments been addressed? (and how did they deal with them)
9. Can you identify any fallacies in the arguments? (are the arguments believable?)
10. Is the methodology ethically sound? (what might some of the ethical issues be?)
11. Was the research methodology appropriate? (e.g. does the study design match enable the research question to be adequately tested?)
12. Have you identified who the participants were and how they were recruited? (and how might this influence the findings)
13. Do the participants form a representative sample (can the results be generalised to the target population with confidence?)
14. Have the appropriate analyses been used?
15. Are the results presented clearly? (e.g. are all data provided and easy to follow?)
16. What are the major findings?
17. Do the results support the hypotheses?
18. Have you ruled out any alternative explanations for the results? (what might some be?)
19. Are the conclusions based on logical reasoning? (are you convinced by the author's conclusions?)
20. Has the study made an important contribution to the research topic? (and what is it?)

Assessment Due Date
Week 8 Friday (12 Jan 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 10 Friday (26 Jan 2018)
Students will receive feedback within two weeks of submission

Weighting
20%

Assessment Criteria
This assessment will be graded out of 20. One (1) mark is allocated to each of the twenty (20) questions. There is no word limit for this assessment, however, responses to each item must be given in at least one or two sentences. One word responses will not be accepted.

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)

Submission
Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Plan and construct written arguments within a logical, flowing, coherent structure.
- Synthesize ideas and extract themes from current psychological literature.
- Communicate ideas effectively in writing and in adherence with APA style.
- Apply the philosophy of science to problems relevant to the field of psychology and the social sciences.
- Interpret data with consideration to diverse populations and individual differences.
- Apply the principles of effective learning to their own study as the basis for successful lifelong learning.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy

3 Online Quiz (APA referencing style)

Assessment Type
Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description
The quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. Questions will be related to the use of the APA referencing style. The quiz will remain open from Monday Week 6 until Friday Week 10. You will only be given one opportunity to complete the quiz.

Number of Quizzes
1

Frequency of Quizzes

Assessment Due Date
Week 10 Thursday (25 Jan 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 12 Thursday (8 Feb 2018)
Feedback provided upon completion of the quiz

Weighting
10%

Assessment Criteria
One (1) mark will be given for each correct response. You will only be given one opportunity to complete the quiz.

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)

Submission
Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Communicate ideas effectively in writing and in adherence with APA style.
- Apply the principles of effective learning to their own study as the basis for successful lifelong learning.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence

4 Written Assessment (Research Report)

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
The aim of this assessment is to enable you to practice writing and preparing a research report. You should be able to demonstrate that you can critically evaluate the literature, communicate a research aim, construct a hypothesis and discuss research findings. You will be required to complete a survey provided by the course coordinator over the first two weeks of the term. Results of the experiment will be made available in Week 4. You will be required to write a 1500-2000 word research report on this data including an abstract, introduction and literature review (brief), a methods and procedure section, a results section, a discussion section, and a reference list. No statistical analysis will be required (this will be provided to you). However, some general descriptive data may need to be calculated (e.g. demographic data, and basic means and standard deviations for some variables). For the literature review (5 references will be provided, but 5 more must be found and referred to in your report). The report must be written in APA format.

Assessment Due Date
Week 12 Friday (9 Feb 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Exam Week Friday (16 Feb 2018)
Reports will be returned within two weeks of submission

Weighting
50%

Assessment Criteria
The report will be graded out of 50 marks, and is worth. 50% of the overall unit. Marks are divided according to the following criteria:

- Title: 2 marks
- Abstract (summary of research and findings): 5 marks
- Introduction (discussion of research problem, aims, hypotheses): 10 marks
- Methods (subjects, methodology, procedure): 6 marks
- Results (clarity of reporting, inclusion of graphs/tables, summary of findings): 6 marks
- Discussion (summary of findings, implications, criticisms, future directions): 10 marks
- References (using APA style, and including 5 additional references): 6 marks
- General (formatting, style, spelling etc): 5 marks

More detail (and marking rubric) will be provided on the Moodle site.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)](#)

Submission
Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Plan and construct written arguments within a logical, flowing, coherent structure.
- Synthesize ideas and extract themes from current psychological literature.
- Communicate ideas effectively in writing and in adherence with APA style.
- Apply basic concepts of research design and statistics to problems in relevant fields of psychology.
- Apply the philosophy of science to problems relevant to the field of psychology and the social sciences.
- Interpret data with consideration to diverse populations and individual differences.
- Apply the principles of effective learning to their own study as the basis for successful lifelong learning.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the **Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure**. This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?
A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?
A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?
For academic advice and guidance, the Academic Learning Centre (ALC) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

Be Honest
If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

Seek Help
If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

Produce Original Work
Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem