PSYC11012 *Foundations of Psychological Research*

Term 1 - 2018

Profile information current as at 12/10/2024 06:52 pm

All details in this unit profile for PSYC11012 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student).The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This is an introductory unit designed to provide you with the knowledge, skills and values required throughout your studies in psychology and the social sciences. At the end of this unit you will be able to understand, apply and evaluate basic research methods in psychology, including the characteristics of the science of psychology, and describing and evaluating different research methods used by psychologists. You will be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills, which includes sceptical inquiry and the use of the scientific approach to solving problems. You will also demonstrate introductory skills consistent with the application of psychology that involves finding and critically evaluating scientific literature, constructing empirical arguments, generating research questions, conducting ethical research, referencing and formatting in APA style, and preparing research reports.

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 1 - 2018

- Adelaide
- Bundaberg
- Distance
- Mackay
- Rockhampton
- Townsville

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. **Online discussion forum**
Weighting: 5%
2. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 15%
3. **Critical Review**
Weighting: 20%
4. **Online Quiz(zes)**
Weighting: 10%
5. **Report**
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 Evaluation

Feedback

Students were given the option of completing the Research Report on a topic voted for by their own cohort, or they could choose the topic used in Term 1. Students indicated that they enjoyed being part of the process of selecting research topics and how this was embedded in the unit. However some students commented that the option of one of two potential topics meant that there was a lot of material (data sets and resources, articles etc.) on Moodle which felt overwhelming. On reflection, the Unit Coordinator agreed that this did result in potential confusion and anxiety for students.

Recommendation

Continue to offer the students the opportunity to vote on the research topic. However only one topic (the winning one for that cohort) will be made available for students to work on for their research report in future terms.

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe, apply and evaluate the different research methods used by psychologists
2. Explain how the science and practice of psychology is influenced by social, historical, professional, and cultural contexts.
3. Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation.
4. Write a standard research report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions.
5. Reflect on one’s experiences in order to identify and articulate one’s personal and sociocultural values as well as demonstrate insightful awareness of one’s feelings, motives, and attitudes.

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
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 10%				•	
2 - Written Assessment - 15%		•			•
3 - Critical Review - 20%	•		•		
4 - Report - 50%	•		•	•	
5 - Online discussion forum - 5%					•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
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 - Online Quiz(zes) - 10%				•						
2 - Written Assessment - 15%	•							•		
3 - Critical Review - 20%	•	•	•							
4 - Report - 50%	•		•			•				
5 - Online discussion forum - 5%	•			•						

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

PSYC11012

Prescribed

An interactive approach to writing essays and research reports in psychology
Edition: 4th (2018)
Authors: Burton, L.
Wiley
Milton , QLD , Australia
ISBN: 9780730344643
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
PSYC11012

Supplementary

Publication manual of the American Psychological Association
Edition: 6th (2009)
Authors: American Psychological Association
American Psychological Association
Washington , DC , USA
ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5
Binding: Other

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

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

Bradley Smith Unit Coordinator
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Lisa Lole Unit Coordinator
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Schedule

Week 1 - 05 Mar 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Science and psychology	Dunn - Chapter 1 (The why and how of psychological research) Burton - Chapter 1 (Where to begin?)	-

Week 2 - 12 Mar 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research approaches and generating research questions	Dunn - Chapter 2 (Research approaches and generating ideas)	-

Week 3 - 19 Mar 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Conducting ethical research	Dunn - Chapter 5 (Ethical considerations in the practice of research)	-

Week 4 - 26 Mar 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Conducting experimental research	Dunn - Chapter 6 (Experimental research)	**Research Participation and Reflection Task** Due: Week 4 Monday (26 Mar 2018) 9:00 am AEST

Week 5 - 02 Apr 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Applied research and field research	Dunn - Chapter 7 (Applied research and field research: Non-experimental approaches)	-

Vacation Week - 09 Apr 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No lecture (vacation week)	No set readings for this week	**Ethics Personal Reflection** Due: Vacation Week Monday (9 Apr 2018) 9:00 am AEST

Week 6 - 16 Apr 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Critically evaluating research evidence	Burton - Chapter 3 (Critical thinking)	-

Week 7 - 23 Apr 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Searching psychological literature	Dunn - Chapter 3 (Searching and reading the psychological literature)	-

Week 8 - 30 Apr 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Writing in APA style	Burton - Chapter 2 (Writing in APA style) Burton - Chapter 7 (In-text citations) Burton - Chapter 8 (Reference list)	-

Week 9 - 07 May 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Writing in psychology	Burton - Chapter 5 (Quantitative research reports) Burton - Chapter 6 (Qualitative research reports) Dunn - Chapter 4 (Writing: A first and last consideration)	**Journal Article Critical Review** Due: Week 9 Tuesday (8 May 2018) 9:00 am AEST

Week 10 - 14 May 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Data analysis	Dunn - Chapter 8 (Planning analysis and displaying data)	-

Week 11 - 21 May 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
More on data analysis	Dunn - Chapter 9 (Presenting and publishing research)	**APA referencing quiz** Due: Week 11 Monday (21 May 2018) 9:00 am AEST

Week 12 - 28 May 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The research process in action	No set readings for this week	- **Research Report** Due: Week 12 Friday (1 June 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 04 Jun 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Exam Week - 11 Jun 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Term Specific Information

Assessment Tasks

1 Research Participation and Reflection Task

Assessment Type
Online discussion forum

Task Description
The aim of this assessment item is to give you a first-hand experience participating in real-life psychological research, and to encourage you to consider the positives and negatives of particular research designs. This assessment task involves two elements: a) participation in a research project being run within the School of Psychology at CQU, and b) writing and submitting a written reflection on this experience. Further details on each element of the task are provided below.

Instructions for research participation

- In Week 1 you will be able to access a list of research topics, through the School of Psychology Moodle site. You will be able to choose ONE study, in which you wish to participate.

- After selecting your preferred project, but before you provide your data, you will be required to read the project's Information Sheet and give your consent to participate.
- After this, during the data collection process, it is recommended that you pay attention to the project's aim/s and the way in which it has been designed (you may wish to take notes whilst participating).
- Upon completion of the research, you will receive a thank you message that will also contain a unique participation code. Please ensure you record this code, as you will be required to report it upon submission of your written reflection, as proof of task completion.

Instructions for reflection task
For the second part of this assessment, you will be required to write a reflection on your experience as a research participant (approximately 400 words), according to the Assessment Criteria provided.

Assessment Due Date
Week 4 Monday (26 Mar 2018) 9:00 am AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 6 Monday (16 Apr 2018)

Students will receive feedback within two weeks of submission

Weighting
5%

Assessment Criteria
You are required to do the following:

1. Provide your unique participation code
2. Briefly summarise the purpose of the study, as well as what were you required to do as a participant [approx. 200 words]
3. What were the dependent and independent variable/s?
4. Identify at least ONE way that the researcher could have improved the project's research design. Please provide a justification for this idea (i.e., provide a brief comment why the issue you addressed might have implications for the validity of the results of the study) – see below for potential areas to address [approx. 200 words]

The list of questions below may help you assess the project's validity; however, you are welcome to discuss issues not on the list provided. Questions for consideration include:

- *Was the language used by the task/survey appropriate? Could you understand the question/s and what was being asked of you? Do you think that someone else could have easily understood the requirement/s (e.g., could a person's education, culture, etc., affect the understanding of the materials used?)?*
- *How engaged were you at different stages of the experiment (e.g., was the time taken to complete your participation too long?)?*
- *Do you feel that the task/s you were required to complete got an accurate snapshot of you, in relation to what the researchers of the study were trying to measure – or were the questions asked/task requirements outside the scope of the aims of the study?*

Referencing Style

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

Submission
Online

assessmentOutcome

- Reflect on one's experiences in order to identify and articulate one's personal and sociocultural values as well as demonstrate insightful awareness of one's feelings, motives, and attitudes.

assessmentGradAttribute

- Communication
- Information Literacy

2 Ethics Personal Reflection

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
A list of psychological experiments, and information relating to these, will be made available on the Moodle site after the lecture in Week 1 of term. This assessment requires you to (a) select and research ONE of the ten listed psychological experiments in detail, and (b) write and submit ONE 500 word (+/- 10%) personal reflection on the experiment, according to the Marking Criteria.
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, the ethical implications of why and how it was done), and how it affects your ideas, and how it may possiblly affect your practice in future.

Assessment Due Date
Vacation Week Monday (9 Apr 2018) 9:00 am AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 7 Monday (23 Apr 2018)

Assignments will be returned within two weeks of submission

Weighting
15%

Assessment Criteria
This assessment will be graded out of 15 marks. Marks will be allocated, according to each of the following criteria:

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, and is written with good spelling and grammar (5 marks).

Referencing Style

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

Submission
Online

assessmentOutcome

- Explain how the science and practice of psychology is influenced by social, historical, professional, and cultural contexts.
- Reflect on one's experiences in order to identify and articulate one's personal and sociocultural values as well as demonstrate insightful awareness of one's feelings, motives, and attitudes.

assessmentGradAttribute

- Communication
- Ethical practice

3 Journal Article Critical Review

Assessment Type
Critical Review

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 in Week 1 of term. When writing the review, you must use/answer the following questions (adapted from Dunn, 2013):

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 (did they declare a conflict of interest, and how might this impact the study or its findings?)? Is the text up-to-date?
5. Have the key terms been properly defined (could 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? What are they?
8. Have alternative sides of the arguments been addressed (and how did the authors 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 enable the research question to be adequately tested?)?
12. Have you identified who the participants were and how they were recruited? How might this influence the findings?
13. Do the participants form a representative sample, and can the results be generalised to the wider target population with confidence?
14. Have the appropriate analyses been used (e.g., have they answered the main research question/s?)?
15. Are the results presented clearly (e.g., are data 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? If so, what is it?

Assessment Due Date
Week 9 Tuesday (8 May 2018) 9:00 am AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 12 Monday (28 May 2018)

Assignments will be returned 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 listed above. 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

assessmentOutcome

- Describe, apply and evaluate the different research methods used by psychologists
- Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation.

assessmentGradAttribute

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking

4 APA referencing quiz

Assessment Type
Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description
Academic conventions and copyright law require that you acknowledge when you use the ideas of others. In most cases, this means stating which book or journal article is the source of an idea or quotation. There are many ways to present this information (referred to as referencing styles). In psychology, we use the American Psychological Association (or APA) referencing style. It is currently in its 6th version. All of your assessments in psychology will require the use of APA formatting and referencing. This task is designed to test your knowledge of the APA referencing style.
The quiz will consist of ten (10) multiple choice questions. Questions will be related to various aspects of the use of the APA referencing style (e.g., in-text citations, reference list). The quiz will be available from Monday Week 6 until Monday

week 11, and you may complete the quiz at any time within this period. You will only be given one opportunity to complete the quiz. The quiz will not be timed.

Number of Quizzes

Frequency of Quizzes

Assessment Due Date
Week 11 Monday (21 May 2018) 9:00 am AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 12 Monday (28 May 2018)

Feedback provided upon completion of the quiz

Weighting
10%

Assessment Criteria
One (1) mark will be given for each correct response. The quiz is not timed, but you will only be given one opportunity to complete the quiz.

Referencing Style

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

Submission
Online

assessmentOutcome

- Write a standard research report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions.

assessmentGradAttribute

- Information Literacy

5 Research Report

Assessment Type
Report

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 on a given topic, 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 5.
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 five (5) references will be provided to you, but at least five (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 (1 June 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Exam Week Friday (15 June 2018)

Students will receive feedback within two weeks of submission

Weighting
50%

Assessment Criteria
The report will be graded out of 50 marks. 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 appropriate graphs/tables, summary of findings): 6 marks
- Discussion (summary of findings, implications, criticisms, future directions): 10 marks
- References (using APA style, 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

assessmentOutcome

- Describe, apply and evaluate the different research methods used by psychologists
- Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation.
- Write a standard research report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions.

assessmentGradAttribute

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Technology Competence

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