



PSYC11012 Foundations of Psychological Research

Term 1 - 2021

Profile information current as at 07/05/2024 08:23 am

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 - 2021

- Adelaide
- Bundaberg
- Cairns
- Online
- 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. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 15%

2. **Critical Review**

Weighting: 20%

3. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 15%

4. **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 Student feedback via 'Have Your Say'

Feedback

"A good aspect of this unit is the breakdown of weekly lectures and how they were uploaded in 3-4 parts that thoroughly covered the weekly the topics. This prevented having to sit through a 2+ hour lecture each week."

Recommendation

Continue splitting the lecture videos for each weekly topics into digestible parts.

Feedback from Student feedback via 'Have Your Say'

Feedback

"The questions in the APA quiz were quite tricky to read. It felt like they were trying to make it harder than necessary to understand what they wanted."

Recommendation

Review the quiz questions relating to APA referencing and formatting to ensure questions are relevant and instructions are clear.

Feedback from Student feedback via 'Have Your Say'

Feedback

"...a guide on how to juggle multiple research journals at the same time for the report would be nice."

Recommendation

Provide resources and advice for searching, managing and utilising journal articles for preparing essays, literature reviews, and research reports.

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. Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation
3. Write a standard research report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions
4. 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



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 15%	•		•	

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
2 - Written Assessment - 15%		•		•
3 - Critical Review - 20%		•		•
4 - Report - 50%	•		•	

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
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) - 15%				•						
2 - Written Assessment - 15%	•							•		
3 - Critical Review - 20%			•							
4 - Report - 50%	•		•	•				•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

PSYC11012

Prescribed

Psychology Research Methods

Edition: 1st (2018)

Authors: Lorelle J. Burton, C. James Goodwin, Kerri A. Goodwin, Paul E. Jose, John Reece, Judith Gullifer, Amanda Lambros, Mohammed Mussa, Andrea Lamont-Mills

Wiley

ISBN: 978-0-730-36325-5

Binding: Paperback

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Supplementary

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association

Edition: 7th (2019)

American Psychological Association

ISBN: 978-1-4338-3216-1

Binding: Paperback

Additional Textbook Information

The prescribed textbook forms an integral part of this unit. The book, which comes as an eCopy or hard copy, can be purchased for around \$50-\$60 from the CQU bookshop, online bookstores, or direct from the [publisher](#).

Although not required, we strongly encourage you to obtain a copy of the APA publication manual, as it will be a valuable aid for the study of all undergraduate psychology units (including this one).

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Zoom account (Free)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Bradley Smith Unit Coordinator

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Schedule

Week 1 - 08 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The science of 'knowing'	Chapter 1: The scientific method Refer to Moodle site for additional recommended reading material	

Week 2 - 15 Mar 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Ethical research	Chapter 2: Ethics	
Week 3 - 22 Mar 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Experimental research	Chapter 3: Measurement and validity Chapter 10: Hypothesis testing and inferential statistics (pp. 279-285) Refer to Moodle site for additional recommended reading material	
Week 4 - 29 Mar 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Observations and surveys	Chapter 4: Types of observational analysis Refer to Moodle site for additional recommended reading material	
Week 5 - 05 Apr 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Correlations and quasi-experimental designs	Chapter 8: Variations on experimental design Chapter 9: Correlational research	Ethics Personal Reflection Due: Week 5 Tuesday (6 Apr 2021) 9:00 am AEST
Vacation Week - 12 Apr 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No lecture (vacation week)	No set readings for this week	No chat sessions scheduled this week
Week 6 - 19 Apr 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Navigating the scientific literature: How to find and read journal articles	Chapter 12: 'Finding research literature' (pp. 335-370) Refer to Moodle site for required reading material	
Week 7 - 26 Apr 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Critically evaluating research evidence	Dunn (2013). Searching and reading the psychological literature (Chapter 3) from 'The practical researcher: A student guide to conducting psychological research' Refer to Moodle site for required reading material	
Week 8 - 03 May 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
APA referencing and formatting	Refer to Moodle site for required reading material	
Week 9 - 10 May 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Preparing research reports	Chapter 12: 'APA guidelines for reporting research' (pp. 326-334) Chapter 12: 'Preparing a written report' (pp. 344-355)	
Week 10 - 17 May 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Qualitative research methods	Chapter 11: Qualitative methods Braun and Clarke (2013). Ten fundamentals of qualitative research (pages 19-41) from 'Successful qualitative research'	Journal Article Critical Review Due: Week 10 Monday (17 May 2021) 9:00 am AEST
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Week 11 - 24 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Descriptive statistics	Chapter 5: Collecting and organising data (descriptive statistics)	APA Style Quiz Due: Week 11 Friday (28 May 2021) 9:00 am AEST

Week 12 - 31 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction to inferential statistics	Chapter 6: Experimental design 1 Chapter 7: Experimental design 2	Research Report Due: Week 12 Friday (4 June 2021) 11:55 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 07 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Exam Week - 14 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Assessment Tasks

1 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 400 (min) to 550 (max) word 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 possibly affect your practice in future. You are not required to include references.

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Tuesday (6 Apr 2021) 9:00 am AEST

To be submitted in Moodle by Tuesday April 6, 9:00am AEST (week 5).

Return Date to Students

You will receive feedback two weeks after 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 a particular experiment is demonstrated (5 marks).
2. Reference to personal experiences, situations, events, or new information is made (5 marks).
3. The response is of sufficient length (i.e. adheres to word limit) and is written with good spelling and grammar (5 marks).

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Copy and paste text when prompted during submission. Do not submit as a Word document.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation
- 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.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Ethical practice

2 Journal Article Critical Review

Assessment Type

Critical Review

Task Description

This task is designed to help you gain familiarity with journal articles, and applying critical thinking principles when reviewing research articles.

Using the list of ten (10) questions provided, you must apply your critical evaluation skills to write a critique of a research paper. The article will be provided to you in Week 1 of the term. Provide a response to each of the questions (in a Question and Answer style format). There is no word count.

Assessment Due Date

Week 10 Monday (17 May 2021) 9:00 am AEST

To be submitted in Moodle by Monday May 17, 9:00am AEST (week 10).

Return Date to Students

You will receive feedback two weeks after submission.

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

This assessment will be graded out of 20. Two (2) marks will be allocated to each of the ten (10) questions. There is no word limit for this assessment, however, responses must be adequately addressed (e.g., responses to each item must be given in at least one or two sentences).

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Copy and paste text when prompted during submission. Do not submit as a Word document.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation
- 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.

Graduate Attributes

- Critical Thinking

3 APA Style 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 7th 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 thirty (30) multiple-choice questions. Each question is worth 0.5 marks. Questions will be related to various aspects of the use of the APA referencing style (e.g., in-text citations, reference list, general formatting of documents). The quiz will be available from Monday Week 1 until Friday 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

1

Frequency of Quizzes

Other

Assessment Due Date

Week 11 Friday (28 May 2021) 9:00 am AEST

Quiz will remain available from Monday of week 1, and close on Friday of week 11 (9:00am AEST).

Return Date to Students

Marks will be provided to you at the completion of the quiz.

Weighting

15%

Assessment Criteria

Half a mark (0.5) mark will be given for each correct response. There are a total of 30 questions. The quiz is not timed, but you will only be given one opportunity to complete the quiz.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Complete the quiz via Moodle site.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe, apply and evaluate the different research methods used by psychologists
- Write a standard research report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions

Graduate Attributes

- Information Literacy

4 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. A research topic and survey will be developed as a class. You will be required to complete the survey during the first few weeks of the term. Results of the experiment will be made available during the term so that you can integrate them into your report.

You will be required to write a 1500 (min) to 2000 (max) word research report on this data including an abstract, introduction, and brief literature review, 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 7th format.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (4 June 2021) 11:55 pm AEST

To be submitted in Moodle by Friday June 4, 11:55pm AEST (week 12).

Return Date to Students

You will receive feedback two weeks after submission.

Weighting

50%

Minimum mark or grade

To pass this unit you **MUST** submit this assessment (minimum grade 25/50).

Assessment Criteria

The report will be graded out of 50 marks. Marks are divided according to the following criteria:

- Title: 2 marks
- Abstract: 5 marks
- Introduction: 10 marks
- Methods: 8 marks
- Results: 4 marks
- Discussion: 10 marks
- References: 6 marks
- General (formatting, style, spelling, word count): 5 marks

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

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submit as a Word document formatted in APA 7th style, including a title/cover page.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe, apply and evaluate the different research methods used by psychologists
- Write a standard research report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- 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