PSYC20038 *Positive Psychology: Research Methods*
Term 2 - 2022

Profile information current as at 07/05/2024 06:27 pm

All details in this unit profile for PSYC20038 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 unit will introduce you to key research interests in the positive psychology domain, and the various methodological approaches to research as they relate to positive psychology. You will develop a critical understanding of the research process and its application within positive psychology research and assessment. The unit will help you to become familiar with research processes that are robust and ethical, the importance of evidence-based decision making, and the importance of measuring the impact of interventions using positive psychology research methods. You will be encouraged to consider how research evidence contributes to best practice. You will learn skills in interpreting and critically evaluating the quality of published research evidence, and consider the ways research knowledge can be used to guide intervention design and procedures. There will be an overarching focus on becoming a critical consumer and user of this scientific research literature to inform the development of future research questions, intervention strategies, and professional practice.

Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*
Unit Level: *Level 8*
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 2 - 2022

- Online

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 Postgraduate 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. **Research Assignment**
Weighting: 25%
2. **Online Quiz(zes)**
Weighting: 20%
3. **Critical Review**
Weighting: 55%

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.

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 Unit and Teacher Evaluation responses and student emails.

Feedback

Many students valued the research knowledge they gained from the well-structured unit content.

Recommendation

The unit coordinator will maintain the structure and organisation of unit content.

Feedback from Student Unit and Teacher Evaluation responses, student emails, moodle forum posts.

Feedback

Students appreciated how the online quiz assessments encouraged deeper engagement with the unit content, and praised the applied nature of the short-answer questions used.

Recommendation

The unit will continue to use online quizzes as an assessment tool.

Feedback from Student Unit and Teacher Evaluation responses.

Feedback

Many students valued the nested structure of the assessment pieces, with each assessment building on the previous one and leading to a final assessment on a topic of their own interest that required use of the learning gained from earlier assessments.

Recommendation

The unit will continue to use this nested structure to the assessment pieces, where each assessment builds on skills developed as part of previous assessments. The final assessment will continue to allow students to choose their own topic of interest to investigate.

Feedback from Student Unit and Teacher Evaluation responses.

Feedback

Several students indicated that they found the zoom workshops and drop-in sessions helpful, with a few students suggesting that they would benefit from more demonstrations and guidance.

Recommendation

The unit coordinator and teaching team will explore options for increasing skill demonstrations and guidance opportunities.

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Locate, interpret, and synthesise appropriate peer-reviewed empirical research relevant to positive psychology
2. Investigate and appraise research paradigms and ethical research requirements relevant to positive psychology
3. Analyse research concepts through the critical appraisal of peer-reviewed empirical research relevant to positive psychology
4. Develop a research question based on identified research gaps to enhance the body of knowledge in positive psychology

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
1 - Research Assignment - 25%	●	●	●	
2 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%		●		●
3 - Critical Review - 55%	●		●	●

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Knowledge	○	○	○	○
2 - Communication			○	○
3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills	○		○	○
4 - Research	○		○	○
5 - Self-management	○			
6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility		○		
7 - Leadership				
8 - 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
1 - Research Assignment - 25%	○		○	○	○	○		
2 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	○		○	○		○		
3 - Critical Review - 55%	○	○	○	○	○			

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks
PSYC20038

Supplementary

Research methods and statistics in psychology
7th Edition (2019)
Authors: Coolican, Hugh.
Routledge
Milton Park , London , UK
ISBN: 978-1-315-20100-9
Binding: eBook

Additional Textbook Information
There are no prescribed textbooks for this unit. However, the supplementary textbook by Coolican (2019), is frequently referred to throughout this research methods unit, and will also be useful for students who in future intend to undertake the Master of Applied Positive Psychology thesis. Versions of this textbook are available through CQUni Library.

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 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)](#)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Lauren Miller-Lewis Unit Coordinator
l.miller-lewis@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 11 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
What is research, and what is a researcher?	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	

Week 2 - 18 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Ethical considerations in research	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	**Zoom Tutorial 1: Week 2 Wednesday 20 July 2022, 6:30-8pm AEST.**

Week 3 - 25 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Finding and navigating research articles	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	

Week 4 - 01 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
From research interests to research questions	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	**Online Quiz A for -** **Assessment 2: Research quizzes** Due: Week 4 Monday (1 Aug 2022) 5:00pm AEST

Week 5 - 08 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
From research questions to research design	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	**Zoom Tutorial 2: Week 5 Wednesday 10 August 2022, 6:30-8pm AEST.**

Vacation Week - 15 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No modules/topic this week		

Week 6 - 22 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Quantitative and qualitative research	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	**Assessment 1: Research Summary** Due: Week 6 Monday (22 Aug 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 7 - 29 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Quantitative and qualitative research (continued)	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	

Week 8 - 05 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Critically appraising research	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	**Zoom Tutorial 3: Week 8 Wednesday 7 September 2022, 6:30-8pm AEST.**

Week 9 - 12 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Critically appraising research (continued)	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	

Week 10 - 19 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
From critical appraisal to future research recommendations	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	**Online Quiz B for -** **Assessment 2: Research quizzes** Due: Week 10 Monday (19 Sept 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 11 - 26 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Communicating research	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	

Week 12 - 03 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Bringing it all together	Please see selected readings and activities on Moodle.	**Assessment 3: Critical Review and Future Research Recommendations** Due: Week 12 Tuesday (4 Oct 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 10 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
There are no examinations for this unit.		

Exam Week - 17 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
There are no examinations for this unit.		

Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment 1: Research Summary

Assessment Type
Research Assignment

Task Description
In this assessment task, you will begin the process of engaging with peer-reviewed empirical literature in an area that interests you within the domain of Positive Psychology/wellbeing/resilience.
You will:

1. Identify a research area of strong interest for you in the field of Positive Psychology/wellbeing/resilience.
2. Conduct a peer-reviewed literature search through the CQUniversity library for published empirical research studies relevant to your area of research interest.
3. Write a brief (100-word) description of the literature searching methods used to find the peer-reviewed empirical journal articles.
4. Based on the literature found, provide a brief (200-word) description of your chosen topic of research interest, which reflects the importance of the topic to the field of positive psychology.
5. From the literature found, choose two peer-reviewed empirical research articles highly relevant to your area of research interest which have closely-aligned research aims, and write a brief (100-word) justification for why you specifically chose each of the final two articles.
6. For each research article, complete the research summary table (provided on Moodle) outlining the study aims/research questions, study research methods and ethical considerations, study findings, and study strengths/limitations and future directions (maximum of 2 pages per study)
7. Write a 300-word synthesis summarising and integrating what knowledge was gained overall from the findings of the studies in relation to your stated area of research interest, and the significance of these findings for contributing to our understanding about the area. This synthesis should lead into a critical appraisal statement outlining what could be the next logical step for future research to take to further build knowledge in the area.

The maximum word count for this assessment task is 700 words (+/- 10%). This word limit includes in-text citations but excludes the reference list. The word count excludes the words in the study summary tables, but the study tables must not exceed 2 pages per study. Meeting the word count is included as a part of the marking criteria in your marking rubric on Moodle. See the Psychology Word Count Information document on Moodle for a rationale for using this type of word limit restriction.
Further information will be provided in the Unit and Assessment Guide on the unit Moodle site.

Assessment Due Date
Week 6 Monday (22 Aug 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 8 Monday (5 Sept 2022)
Feedback and mark for this assessment will be provided within 2 weeks of submission.

Weighting
25%

Assessment Criteria
This assessment task will be assessed via a marking rubric, which will be available on the unit Moodle site.
You will be assessed on:

- The quality of the rationale for the choice of research topic
- Detailing of the methodology used to source appropriate peer-reviewed research articles
- The relevance of the chosen peer-reviewed research articles to the identified area of interest
- The quality and accuracy of the reporting of aims/research questions, research methods and ethical

considerations, and key findings of each of the chosen research articles
- Ability to synthesise and integrate the reported research findings, and critically appraise knowledge gaps/areas for further research based on the chosen research articles
- The quality and clarity of written communication, including appropriate APA referencing for in-text citations and the reference list, and adherence to word-limit.

Detailed information regarding assessment requirements and criteria for assessment can be found in the Unit and Assessment Guide on Moodle.

Referencing Style

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

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
A submission portal will be provided in the Assessment section of the unit Moodle site.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Locate, interpret, and synthesise appropriate peer-reviewed empirical research relevant to positive psychology
- Investigate and appraise research paradigms and ethical research requirements relevant to positive psychology
- Analyse research concepts through the critical appraisal of peer-reviewed empirical research relevant to positive psychology

Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility

2 Assessment 2: Research quizzes

Assessment Type
Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description
This assessment will require you to complete two online quizzes designed to assess your understanding of the unit Moodle workbook content related to fundamental ethical principles and research methods relevant to positive psychology (e.g., identifying research paradigms; research question development etc.). The online quizzes will be completed via the Moodle website. The quizzes overall will be comprised of 40 questions, some of which will be multiple-choice, and others will be multi-component questions or questions requiring a short written answer. The quizzes will be available from Week 2 until Week 10.

- Online Quiz A will contain 16 questions that cover the first 3 weeks of unit content, and must be completed via Moodle by Week 4 Monday (1 August 2022, 5pm AEST).
- Online Quiz B will contain 24 questions that cover unit content from week 4 to week 9, and must be completed via Moodle by Week 10 Monday (19 September 2022, 5pm AEST).

You may complete these quizzes at any time up until their due date. You will only be given one opportunity to complete each quiz. The quizzes will not be timed, but must be completed in one sitting. Further information will be provided in the Unit and Assessment Guide on the unit Moodle site.

Number of Quizzes
2

Frequency of Quizzes
Other

Assessment Due Date
Week 10 Monday (19 Sept 2022) 5:00 pm AEST
Online Quiz A must be completed via Moodle by Week 4 Monday (1 August 2022, 5pm AEST). Online Quiz B must be completed via Moodle by Week 10 Monday (19 September 2022, 5pm AEST).

Return Date to Students
Week 11 Monday (26 Sept 2022)
Marks will be made available within two weeks of each quiz submission due date.

Weighting
20%

Assessment Criteria
The online quizzes will include multiple-choice, multi-component, and short-answer questions. All information relevant to the quizzes will be covered in the unit content. Questions will be drawn from content in the unit Moodle workbooks, set readings, and online tutorials. Each quiz is not timed, but you will only be given one opportunity to complete each quiz. Across the 2 online quizzes there will be a total of 40 questions, which will be worth 20% of the overall grade for the unit. Detailed information regarding quiz requirements and scope can be found in the Unit and Assessment Guide on Moodle.

Referencing Style

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

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Assessment 2 Online Quiz A and Online Quiz B will be completed online via two quiz portals provided in the Assessment section of the unit Moodle site.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Investigate and appraise research paradigms and ethical research requirements relevant to positive psychology
- Develop a research question based on identified research gaps to enhance the body of knowledge in positive psychology

Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility

3 Assessment 3: Critical Review and Future Research Recommendations

Assessment Type
Critical Review

Task Description
In this final assessment, you will source and critically evaluate two published research articles, and develop a future research question based on your critical evaluation of these articles. The two articles included will be your choice, but must be:

1. Peer-reviewed primary source journal articles (i.e., articles reporting new research findings from an original study) that are published in reputable journals.
2. Relevant to one specific area of interest in the Positive Psychology/wellbeing/resilience domain, but this must be a different area of focus than the choice in Assessment 1. You will source two journal articles each reporting an empirical study relevant to the chosen area of interest, ensuring that you have not previously critiqued these journal articles in this unit or other units in this course.

The assessment piece will include consideration of the following:

- What is the predominant area of interest for the researcher/s, and why is the area considered important? (This will be the basis for the introduction.)
- What are the main research questions in each article?
- Compare and contrast the methodologies used by the researchers in each article
- What are the key findings in each of the publications, and do they appear to be justified? (Are the conclusions drawn justified based on the evidence gained in the study?)
- What are the strengths and limitations of each of the research publications? (This should be more than a repetition of the limitations that the article authors report themselves.)
- A critical evaluation of the suggestions made by the researcher(s) for future research
- Identification of an important 'gap' in the research literature (based on the 2 chosen publications) that you propose could be further explored in research, and a justification for why this proposed future research would be worthwhile. The justification will include how addressing this 'gap' links to the publications you have reviewed, and is a logical next-step for developing the publication authors' line of inquiry further.
- Formulation of at least one future research question that would meaningfully address the identified 'gap' in knowledge (using the guiding principles of the PICO/PEO [Population, Intervention/Exposure, Comparison, Outcomes] framework).

The maximum word count for this assessment task is 2000 words (+/- 10%). This word limit includes in-text citations but excludes any reference section. Meeting the word count is included as a part of the marking criteria in your marking rubric on Moodle. See the Psychology Word Count Information document on Moodle for a rationale for using this type of word limit restriction.

Further information will be provided in the Unit and Assessment Guide on the unit Moodle site.

Assessment Due Date
Week 12 Tuesday (4 Oct 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Exam Week Tuesday (18 Oct 2022)
Feedback and mark for this assessment will be provided within 2 weeks of submission.

Weighting
55%

Assessment Criteria
This assessment task will be assessed via a marking rubric, which will be available on the unit Moodle site.
You will be assessed on:

- Identification of the predominant research area of interest in the studies, and their research questions
- Quality of comparing and contrasting of the research methodologies used in the studies
- Ability to interpret, critique and summarise the reported research findings
- Quality and comprehensiveness of the identification of the strengths, weaknesses, and future research directions
- Critical analysis of key gaps/areas for further research based on the chosen literature
- Rationale as to why the identified gap would be of benefit to address in future research
- Development of a meaningful research question using the principles of the PICO/PEO (Population, Intervention/Exposure, Comparison, and Outcomes) style framework.
- Clarity, conciseness and quality of written communication and critical thinking in the assessment, and adherence to the word-limit.
- Correct use of APA referencing style for in-text citations and the Reference list.

Detailed information regarding assessment requirements and criteria for assessment can be found in the Unit and Assessment Guide on Moodle.

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
A submission portal will be provided in the Assessment section of the unit Moodle site.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Locate, interpret, and synthesise appropriate peer-reviewed empirical research relevant to positive psychology
- Analyse research concepts through the critical appraisal of peer-reviewed empirical research relevant to positive psychology
- Develop a research question based on identified research gaps to enhance the body of knowledge in positive psychology

Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management

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