

Centre for Continuing Education

Introduction to psychology

John Beale

The introduction to psychology course will be offered as an intensive course in first semester 2009 and is suitable for UPS students only. This course has two main aims: to provide you with an overview of psychological concepts and to teach or further develop your skills in writing a scientific essay.

Please refer to detailed course outline attached.

John has recently been awarded his PhD at the School of Psychology, ANU. His research interest is decision making under uncertainty. Other interests include psychological methodology and statistics. He also holds a PhD in nuclear physics.

DATES/TIMES: 5.30-7.30pm on 13 Tuesdays and 13 Wednesdays from 21 July (NB No classes, 29, 30 Sept., 6, 7 Oct.)

FEE: \$795 *no discount*

NB. Eligibility for undertaking UPS studies requires you to be a permanent resident of Australia and over 21 years of age at the time of enrolment. You may be requested to provide proof of these during your studies.

COURSE LOCATION: The venue for this course can be found on your tax invoice/receipt (right-hand top corner). Please allow enough time to locate the venue on the first evening.

"The views expressed in this course/activity are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University"

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CRICOS Provider No. 00120C

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What is intelligence? Are people's experiences more important than their biology in shaping their behaviour? How do we remember things? Why do many people hate other races? How does the brain work? What is depression? What does it mean to be rational and how could this be measured? This course will shed light on each of these questions and many others. It will provide a firm foundation for undergraduate study at the ANU.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact us as soon as possible if you have any questions or encounter any problems with the course.

CCE Office: enrolments.cce@anu.edu.au
Centre for Continuing Education
Fulton Muir Building, ANU
Tel: 6125 2892 Fax: 6125 5938

Course convener: John Beale
john.beale@netspeed.com.au
Tel: 0427917517 (business hours)

TIMETABLE

Lectures will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7:30pm beginning in week one of second semester. Note that there are breaks in the lecture schedule for university holidays (see the attached schedule).

TEXTS

The text book for this course is Westen, D, Burton, L and Kowalski, R. (2006). **Psychology**. Sydney: John Wiley and Sons Australia. The course will be following it closely, so it is recommended that you obtain a copy. It is also the first year Psychology textbook so second-hand copies should be available (try ANU Student Association).

As essays make up 60% of the assessment on this course, your ability to write appropriately is extremely important. The textbook pack includes a guide to essay writing for psychology.

The textbook pack can be purchased from the Coop Bookshop on the ANU campus.

ASSESSMENT

Your performance on the course will be assessed through two essays (60%), a two hour exam (30%) and class attendance and participation (10%).

Essays

Each essay consists of 2000 words. For due dates, consult the timetable. The essays will each count for 30% of your final grade. Essays will be distributed on the dates shown in the timetable, during the lecture. Each will consist of 2000 words on **ONE** of the questions provided on the sheet of essay topics.

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FIRST ESSAY: Choice of topics from biological psychology, experimental design, sensation and perception and cognitive psychology.

SECOND ESSAY: Choice of topics from developmental psychology, social psychology, abnormal psychology, personality and intelligence.

Late essays will not be accepted unless a prior arrangement is discussed with the course convener or an extraordinary situation arises. In either case, you should discuss your situation with the course convener as soon as possible.

In-class exam

You will complete an in-class exam on the date shown in the timetable. The exam will consist of short answer questions and an essay question based on the material delivered in the lectures throughout the course. The exam is worth 30% of your final grade. A make-up exam time will only be possible under extenuating circumstances and where you make a prior arrangement with the course convener.

Class attendance and participation

Attendance at lectures is mandatory. If you need to miss a lecture, please discuss this with John beforehand. If you are sick, please provide a doctor's certificate at the next lecture you attend. 10% of your grade for the course will be based on your attendance and participation at the lectures. If you miss more than six lectures, you may not be able to successfully complete the course.

The results from the four pieces of assessment will be compiled to give an overall grade – provided that the assessment requirements above have been satisfied and the **expectations of students** outlined below are met.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

To get into a positive mode for study it is expected that students will:

1. **Attend** lectures. If you cannot attend, please contact us beforehand if possible so that we can help you cover what you have missed.
2. **Participate** in group discussions, as this is one of the most effective methods of learning.
3. **Prepare** for lectures by keeping readings and assignments up to date. Essays are written more easily if you start early.
4. **Give feedback** to the course convener about the contents of the course. Do you want more information on particular areas? Is the material presented too quickly or too slowly?

FEES

Full payment of fees **MUST** accompany enrolment. Fees can only be refunded on written application received by the CCE seven days prior to course commencement and will incur a \$50 admin.charge. There is **NO REFUND** of fees once the course commences, and no transfers are permitted.

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INDICATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Week one	Nature of Psychology – Introduction
Week one	Essay Writing and Library Skills
Week two	Experimental design and statistics
Week two	Experimental design and statistics
Week three	History of psychology
Week three	Biological Psychology, Essay 1 topics handed out
Week four	Biological Psychology
Week four	Sensation and Perception
Week five	Sensation and Perception
Week five	Cognitive Psychology
Week six	Cognitive Psychology
Week six	Developmental Psychology
Week seven	Developmental Psychology
Week seven	Developmental Psychology – Essay 1 due, Essay 2 topics handed out
Week eight	Personality
Week eight	Intelligence
Week nine	Intelligence
Week nine	Careers in Psychology and University Study
Week ten	Abnormal Psychology
Week ten	Abnormal Psychology
BREAK	Two week university break -
Week eleven	Abnormal Psychology
Week eleven	Rationality – Essay 2 due
Week twelve	Social Psychology
Week twelve	Social Psychology
Week thirteen	IN-CLASS TEST
Week thirteen	Review of exam and what you learnt

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