



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: USPJGD-20-3 **Title:** Psychology of Appearance and Embodiment **Version:** 3

Level: 3 **UWE credit rating:** 20 **ECTS credit rating:** 10

Module type: Standard

Owning Faculty: Health and Life Sciences **Field:** Psychology

Faculty Committee approval: Quality and Standards Committee **Date:** November 2010

Approved for Delivery by: N/A

Valid from: September 2010 **Discontinued from:**

Pre-requisites:
None

Co-requisites:
None

Entry Requirements:
N/A

Excluded Combinations:
None

Learning Outcomes:

- Students who have successfully completed this module should be able to:
- demonstrate an understanding and critical awareness of current psychological perspectives on appearance and embodiment theory, research and practice;
 - identify strengths and weaknesses in the existing literature on appearance and embodiment;
 - demonstrate critical awareness of methodologies and methods used to study appearance and embodiment;
 - debate current issues in psychology and appearance.

Syllabus Outline:

The development of the study of appearance & embodiment within social and health psychology; what do we mean by embodiment?; why should we study embodiment and appearance? .

Different epistemological perspectives in studying appearance

The use of methodology in the psychology of appearance & embodiment

Normalising & pathologising appearance

Body image & body (dis)satisfaction

Appearance & the body over the lifespan

Socio-cultural issues, including the influence of the media

Appearance issues amongst the general population

Choosing to alter and manipulate appearance

Exercise and physical appearance

Appearance issues amongst those who are visibly different: what do we mean by visibly different?

Causes and consequences of visible difference, theories and models of adjustment, Interventions to meet the psychosocial needs of people who are visibly different

Current debates in appearance & embodiment - these sessions will focus on "hot topics", so the content will alter from year to year. Examples of likely topics include facial transplants, availability of cosmetic surgery on the NHS, plastic surgery for children with Down's Syndrome, ethical issues relating to the psychology of appearance

Teaching and Learning Methods:

Lectures, seminars, debate

Reading Strategy:

All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them through membership of the University. These include a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through web sites and information gateways. The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely. Students will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively.

Any **essential reading** will be indicated clearly, along with the method for accessing it, e.g. students may be expected to purchase a set text, be given or sold a print study pack or be referred to texts that are available electronically, etc. This guidance will be available either in the module handbook, via the module information on Blackboard or through any other vehicle deemed appropriate by the module/programme leaders.

If **further reading** is expected, this will be indicated clearly. If specific texts are listed, a clear indication will be given regarding how to access them and, if appropriate, students will be given guidance on how to identify relevant sources for themselves, e.g. through use of bibliographical databases.

Indicative Reading List:

Students will be required to rely heavily on journal articles to support this module. The following list is designed as a guide only:

Bull, R. & Rumsey, N. (1988). *The social psychology of facial appearance*. New York, Springer-Verlag.

Cash, T.F. & Pruzinsky, T. (2002). *Body Image: a handbook of theory, research and clinical practice*, London, The Guilford Press.

Davis, K. (1995). *Reshaping the female body*,

Grogan, S. (1999). *Body image*. London, Routledge.

Lansdown, R. et al (1997). *Visibly different: coping with disfigurement*. Oxford, Butterworth-Heinemann.

Partridge, J. (1990). *Changing Faces: the challenge of facial disfigurement*. London, Penguin.

Newell, R. (2000). *Body image & disfigurement care*. London, Routledge.

Rumsey and Harcourt (2005) *Psychology of Appearance* London, Open University ADDED

Journals: a wide range of social and health psychology journals cover topics relevant to this module, in particular:

Body Image: An international journal of research

Psychology of Women Section Review (2003). Special issue: Appearance, volume 5, no 2.

Assessment:

Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: 40% B: 60%

FIRST ATTEMPT

First Assessment Opportunity

Component A (*controlled*)

Description of each element

EX1 Timed assignment (1 hour)

Element Wt (Ratio)

(*within Component*)

Final Assessment 1

Component B

Description of each element

CW1 Literature review (3000 words max)

Element Wt (Ratio)

(*within Component*)

1

Second Assessment Opportunity (Resit) further attendance at taught classes is required

Component A (*controlled*)

Description of each element

EX1 Timed assignment

Element Wt (Ratio)

(*within Component*)

Final Assessment 1

Component B

Description of each element

CW1 Literature review (3000 words max)

Element Wt (Ratio)

(*within Component*)

1

EXCEPTIONAL SECOND ATTEMPT Attendance at taught classes is not required.

Specification confirmed by**Date**
(Associate Dean/Programme Director)