



Module Specification

Psychology of Appearance and Embodiment

Version: 2023-24, v4.0, 19 Apr 2024

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Psychology of Appearance and Embodiment

Module code: USPK68-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Psychology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: The module will discuss:

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

Normalising & pathologising appearance

Socio-cultural issues, including the influence of the media

Dominant appearance norms

Choosing to alter and manipulate appearance

Links between body image and health behaviours

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 around body image

Students will develop skills in:

Effective written communication

Integration of information from different source and perspectives

Critical evaluation based on appreciation of multiple perspectives

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: A variety of approaches will be used with the aim of maximising the active engagement of students. These may include:

Lectures

Seminars

Workshops

Scheduled learning: Students will participate in a lectures, seminars and workshops which will orientate students to the key issues, debates and concepts in a given area.

Independent learning: Students will engage in independent thinking and research in relation to particular topics and engage in class, and assessment preparation.

TEL: MyUWE and Blackboard, the university supported learning portal and virtual learning environment, will be used to support students' learning, conduct activities, organise and communicate learning materials. Students will be able to engage with the material, other students and members of staff through these systems and make use of the various functionalities built into them (e.g., blogs, journals, audio, video, discussion boards, wikis, etc.) as appropriate and useful for the module learning.

Contact Hours As a 15-credit module this module assumes 150 hours of study on the part of the student. This will include:

36 hours of scheduled learning typically delivered through 12 x 3 hour workshops. The scheduled learning may include lectures, seminar discussion, workshop tasks and films.

114 hours of independent learning.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding and critical awareness of psychological perspectives on appearance and embodiment theory, research and practice

MO2 Show insight in applying complex theoretical concepts related to appearance and embodiment to real-world situations, including students' own lives.

MO3 Demonstrate critical awareness of methodologies and methods used to study appearance and embodiment

MO4 Demonstrate an understanding of current issues in psychology as they relate to appearance and embodiment.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspk68-15-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspk68-15-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment in this module has been chosen to encourage reflection, critical analysis and evaluation as well as to allow students to demonstrate their mastery of the module learning outcomes. Formative assessment will begin from week 1 of teaching, and dedicated seminar time will be given in most weeks' learning to engage students in defining their marking criteria, live marking demos from the module leader and peer assessment activities.

The first assessment is a 1000 word reflective piece on a personal challenge to an appearance norm and a discussion of how this relates to a piece of research on the same topic. This will allow students to really engage in the course material and demonstrate critical awareness of methodologies and methods used to study appearance and embodiment

The second assessment will be a written assignment comprised of 2 x 700-word mini-essays in response to 2 questions selected from a list of 8 questions. The students will select from a range of questions which require them to discuss various perspectives on a specific issue within appearance and embodiment. The assignment will assess broad understanding of the different conceptualisations, methodologies and perspectives used in the literature. It will also allow students to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of a particular appearance related topic. Questions corresponding to each learning topic will be released at the end of each lecture, providing students with autonomy both over the questions to answer and the timing of their assessment work.

Assessment tasks:

Reflective Piece (First Sit)

Description: 1,000-word reflective report on a personal behavioural experiment

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: 2 x 700-word mini-essays selected from 8 questions presented week-by-week for the corresponding topic areas

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

Reflective Piece (Resit)

Description: 1,000-word reflective report on a personal behavioural experiment

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: 2 x 700-word mini-essays selected from 8 questions presented week-by-week for the corresponding topic areas

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Psychology (Applied) [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Applied Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Applied Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Psychology with Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] - Withdrawn BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Criminology with Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Law with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] LLB (Hons) 2021-22

Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Health Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Applied Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Social Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Biological Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology and Mental Health [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Applied Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Health Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Social Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Biological Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Psychology and Mental Health [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons)
2019-20

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-
21

Criminology with Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons)
2020-21

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons)
2019-20

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons)
2020-21

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons)
2019-20