Module Specification

Introduction to Psychology

Version: 2026-27, v3.0, Approved

Contents

Module Specification 1

Part 1: Information 2

Part 2: Description 2

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods 3

Part 4: Assessment 5

Part 5: Contributes towards 7

Part 1: Information

Module title: Introduction to Psychology

Module code: USPJLS-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

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: This module introduces students to core areas of psychology, including cognitive, biological, social, developmental, and individual differences, as required by the British Psychological Society (BPS) for accreditation. The module aims to help students develop a wide-ranging and critical understanding of the historical underpinnings and contemporary concepts, theories, and applications of the different sub-disciplines of psychology. This provides a broad foundation of psychological

knowledge and critical engagement with the discipline that is further developed during subsequent years of study within the programme.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In addition to the learning outcomes the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally discretely assess the following:
Working in a team (small group activities);
Independent learning (preparation for activities);
Critical thinking (seminar activities);
Written and oral communication skills (preparation for activities, group discussions).

Outline syllabus: The module will cover topics which span the appropriate range of sub-disciplines of psychology. The syllabus will typically include:

Overview of theoretical perspectives
Conceptual and historical issues
Psychobiology and Neuroscience
Attention, Sensation and Perception
Memory
Intelligence
Personality
Attachment Theory
Language Development
Cognitive Development
Social Development
Moral Development
Motivation and Emotion
Social Cognition and Attitudes
Self and Identity
Interpersonal and Group Processes
Mental Health
Replication Crisis and Critical Psychology

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: A variety of pedagogical approaches are used to encourage the active engagement of students.

Scheduled teaching consists of a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, and practical classes, via either on-campus or online delivery, in order to encourage student engagement with the material. Lectures introduce relevant concepts, theories, methods, and evidence; whereas seminars, workshops, and practical classes provide the opportunity to engage in a range of experiential-learning activities designed to foster deeper insights into the material.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with reading and assessment preparation.

'Blackboard', our virtual learning environment, is used to support students' learning, primarily by providing access to learning materials, but also by enabling and facilitating activities, whether conducted remotely or in on-campus teaching spaces. Students engage with the materials, as well as other students and members of staff, making use of the range of functionalities supported by the platform (e.g., quizzes, blogs, journals, discussion boards, artificial intelligence tools, and both live and pre-recorded audio and video communications), as appropriate for the module.

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

MO1 Demonstrate an appropriate level of understanding of the major theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches within psychology and its sub-disciplines: social, biological, cognitive, developmental, and individual differences.

MO2 Place the development of the discipline of psychology within its historical and cultural context, and appreciate the interconnected and overlapping character of the nominally different sub-disciplines.

MO3 Describe and begin to evaluate selected key studies and research programmes associated with the main sub-disciplines of psychology.

MO4 Engage in discussion about the philosophical foundations of psychology and psychological theory, evidence, and knowledge.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Staff-guided learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment Task 1: A coursework portfolio covering social psychology and individual differences. The content of the portfolio in its entirety is equivalent to 1500 words of written work (maximum).

Assessment Task 2: A coursework portfolio covering cognitive, biological, and developmental psychology. The content of the portfolio in its entirety is equivalent to 1500 words of written work (maximum).

Within each coursework portfolio students provide evidence of being able to source, describe, and evaluate primary sources of peer-reviewed, psychological, academic literature. The portfolios will encourage reflective engagement with the module content on a week-by-week basis. They are each likely to include shorter activities such as quizzes that involve evaluating material from individual topic areas, and a more substantial piece of coursework that provides the opportunity to demonstrate more in-depth study.

Formative feedback is embedded within teaching sessions with specific time allocated for assessment support.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: A coursework portfolio covering social psychology and individual differences. The content of the portfolio in its entirety is equivalent to 1500 words of written work (maximum).
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: A coursework portfolio covering cognitive, biological, and developmental psychology. The content of the portfolio in its entirety is equivalent to 1500 words of written work (maximum).
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: A coursework portfolio covering social psychology and individual differences. The content of the portfolio in its entirety is equivalent to 1500 words of written work (maximum).
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: A coursework portfolio covering cognitive, biological, and developmental psychology. The content of the portfolio in its entirety is equivalent to 1500 words of written work (maximum).
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Criminology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Criminology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25