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Department of Psychology

BA and BSc Psychology

Year 3 Manager: Dr Philip Hyland

Final Year Module Guide 2021-2022



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Final Year Psychology Course Content

This is your Final Year BA and BSc Psychology **Module Guide** – this document contains important information about the modules you will take in your Final Year of Psychology, as well as useful guidance and advice about deadlines, assignments, extensions, marking and other relevant information. You should save/print this Guide and retain it throughout the year, as many of the questions and queries that may arise during your studies may be addressed in the pages that follow.

Modules and Credits

Note that your penultimate year accounts for 30% of your final degree result. **This Final Year accounts for 70%.**

Students are required to make up 60 credits from the list of modules in the table below. There are 11 modules in final year, in total, and **6 of these are compulsory**. The compulsory modules include PS351 Mental Health, PS352 Psychology of Learning, PS355 Social Psychology, PS356 Advanced Statistical Methods for Psychology, PS357 Research Project, and PS358 Contemporary Issues and Debates in Psychology. **These compulsory modules account for 45 credits.**

Students **must make up a further 15 credits** from the remaining modules (i.e. pick 3 modules from the 5 optional modules). Students may attend all optional modules – but please check with MU regulations if you wish to change your module:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/records/qualification-subject-or-module-amendments>.

All final year modules are required and must be passed. Note, passing by compensation does not apply to final year modules.

To pass any given module, all pieces of assessment and coursework must be completed. Failure to complete required coursework may result in module marks being capped at 35%.

Final Year BA/BSc Modules

Module code	Module title	Semester	Compulsory or optional module	Credit weight	Class
PS349	Criminal Psychology	1	Optional	5	BA/BSc/PS
PS350	Psychology of Language	1	Optional	5	BA/BSc/PS
PS351	Mental Health	1	Compulsory	5	BA/BSc/PS
PS356	Advanced Statistical Methods for Psychology	1	Compulsory	5	BA/BSc
PS361	Classic Studies in Psychology	1	Optional	5	BA/BSc
PS352	Psychology of Learning	2	Compulsory	5	BA/BSc/PS
PS354	Neuropsychology	2	Optional	5	BA/BSc/PS
PS355	Social Psychology	2	Compulsory	5	BA/BSc/PS
PS358	Contemporary Issues and Debates in Psychology	2	Compulsory	5	BA/BSc
PS357	Research Project	Full year	Compulsory	20	BA/BSc
PS359	Seminars in Psychology	Full year	Optional	5	BA/BSc
Year	Total credits required for final year			60	

Detailed descriptions of each of these modules can be found on the pages that follow:

PS349 Criminal Psychology

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 1

Teaching Methods: 20h lectures
 3h tutorials
 26h planned learning activities
 75h independent learning
 Total: 124h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr. Philip Hyland

Lecturers: Dr. Philip Hyland

Module Objectives

To provide students with a critical overview of contemporary theories of criminal behaviour drawing on biological, psychological, and sociological evidence.

Module Content

1. Criminal Behaviour in the population: Facts and figures; 2. Perpetrators and victims of crime; 3. Evolutionary theories of crime; 4. Biological factors and crime; 5. Developmental pathways to crime I; 6. Developmental pathways to crime II; 7. Criminal Thinking Styles; 8. Criminal Social Identity; 9. Psychopathy I; 10. Psychopathy II; 11. Psychopathy III; 12. Case Study of Richard Kuklinski; 13. Juvenile Offending; 14. Serial Killers; 15. Psychology of Homicidal Offending; 16. Sex Offenders; 17. Mental illness and crime I; 18. Mental illness and crime II; 19. Interventions to reduce crime I; 20. Interventions to reduce crime II.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the module, learners should be capable of:

- Describing how biological, psychological, and social factors contribute to criminal behavior.
- Evaluating alternative models of criminal behaviour.
- Understanding how frequent different forms of criminal behaviours are in society.
- Applying different theories of criminal behaviour to explain the onset, maintenance, and desistance of criminal behaviour.

Recommended Texts:

Durant, R. (2017). *An introduction to criminal psychology* (2nd ed.). Routledge. ISBN-10: 9781138650961 ISBN-13: 978-1138650961

Bartol, C. R., & Bartol, A. M. (2016). *Criminal behavior: A psychological approach* (11th ed.). Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0134163741 ISBN-10: 0134163745

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 20 marks; University Examination – 80 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment; University examination.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: 1 x 120 minute paper.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: 1 x 120 minute written paper.

PS350 Psychology of Language

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 1

Teaching Methods: 20h lectures
 3h tutorials
 26h planned learning activities
 76h independent learning
 Total: 125h

Module Co-ordinator: Prof. Fiona Lyddy

Lecturers: Prof. Fiona Lyddy

Module Objectives

To consider human language from psycholinguistic, neuropsychological, and cognitive perspectives.

Module Content

Introduction to Psycholinguistics; Communication in Other Species; Language Development; Language and Thought; Speech Comprehension; Speech Production; Reading; Computer-Mediated Communication; Language and the Brain; Neuropsychology of Language.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

- Appraise the contribution of neuropsychological case studies to the understanding of language function
- Describe the brain areas underlying language production and comprehension
- Appreciate the differences between the communication systems of humans and non-human animals
- Evaluate models of reading and how they apply cross-linguistically
- Evaluate the evidence regarding the nature of the relationship between language and thought
- Contrast the use of language in face-to-face and computer-mediated communication

Recommended Texts:

- Gilhooly, K., Lyddy, F., Pollick, F. & Buratti, S. (2021). *Cognitive Psychology*, 2nd edition. London: McGraw Hill.
- Harley, T.A. (2014). *The Psychology of Language: From Data to Theory*. 4th edition. Hove: Psychology Press.
- Menn, L., & Dronkers, N.F. (2015). *Psycholinguistics: Introduction and Applications*. 2nd edition. Plural Publishing.
- Spivey, M., McRae, K. & Joanisse, M. (2012). *The Cambridge Handbook of Psycholinguistics*. Cambridge University Press.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 20 marks; University Examination – 80 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment; University examination.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: 1 x 120 minute paper.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: 1 x 120 minute written paper.

PS351 Mental Health

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 1

Teaching Methods: 20h lectures
3h tutorials
26h planned learning activities
75h independent learning
Total: 124h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Brenda O'Connell.

Lecturers: Dr Brenda O'Connell.

Module Objectives

To introduce students to the key conceptual approaches to understanding mental health and current evidence regarding the aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of psychological disorders.

Module Content

Conceptualizations of mental health; the concept of 'abnormality' in psychology; key theoretical paradigms in understanding mental health; the social context of mental health and illness; the classification of psychological disorders including psychosis, mood disorders, anxiety disorders and personality disorders; current evidence regarding aetiology, prevention and treatment of common disorders; the lived experience of mental illness.

Learning Outcomes

- Define and critique the concept of 'abnormality' in psychology
- Describe the characteristic features of the main types of psychological disorder;
- Understand how psychological disorders are classified, assessed and treated;
- Critically appraise current evidence regarding the aetiology of mental illness;
- Understand the broader and more complete conceptualization of mental health.

Recommended Texts

Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2014). *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach* (7th Ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

Cromby, J., Harper, D., & Reavey, P. (2013). *Psychology, Mental Health and Distress*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave MacMillan.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 20 marks; University Examination – 80 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment; University examination.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: 1 x 120 minute paper.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: 1 x 120 minute written paper.

PS352 Psychology of Learning

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 2

Teaching Methods: 20h lectures
3h tutorials
26h planned learning activities
75h independent learning
Total: 124h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Bryan Roche.

Lecturers: Dr Bryan Roche and Dr Sean Commins.

Module Objectives

To consider cognitive and behaviour-analytic approaches to learning.

Module Content

The Cognitive Approach to learning; Core features of the biological bases of learning; Cognitive maps and spatial learning, Classical Conditioning; Operant Conditioning; The Behavioural Analysis of Language and Cognition.

Learning Outcomes

- Describe the key features of the behavioural approach to psychology;
- Outline the main technical terms and concepts of behaviour analysis
- Appraise the utility of a modern behavioural approach to language and cognition
- Understand the neural and molecular underpinnings of learning;
- Compare and contrast spatial learning across various species.

Recommended Texts

Catania A. C. (2012). Learning. 5th Edition. Sloan Publishing.

Commins S. (2018) Behavioural Neuroscience. Cambridge University Press.

Skinner, B. F (1988). About Behaviorism. Random House USA Inc. I

Dymond. S. & Roche, B. (2013). Advances in Relational Frame Theory. New Harbinger.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 20 marks; University Examination – 80 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment; University examination.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: 1 x 120 minute paper.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: 1 x 120 minute written paper.

PS354 Neuropsychology

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 2

Teaching Methods: 20h lectures
3h tutorials
26h planned learning activities
75h independent learning
Total: 124h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Unai Diaz-Orueta.

Lecturers: Dr Unai Diaz-Orueta and Dr. Richard Roche.

Module Objectives

To explore aspects of neuropsychology in relation to specific areas of the brain, and damage and pathologies of these areas, with an emphasis on discussion and critical thinking in relation to classic studies in neuropsychology.

Module Content

Neuroanatomy of cortical and subcortical regions; Neuropsychology of the visual system; Neuropsychology of acquired brain injury; Neuropsychology of disorders of the temporal lobe; Neuropsychology of attentional disorders; Neuropsychology of aging and neurodegenerative disorders; Technological developments in the field of neuropsychological assessment and intervention: computerized tools and virtual reality applications.

Learning Outcomes

- Describe the history and theoretical bases of neuropsychological research;
- Demonstrate knowledge of functional human neuroanatomy;
- Describe key methods used in neuropsychology;
- Differentiate between acquired, congenital and pathological syndromes of brain injury and their neuropsychological features;
- Appreciate the use of neuropsychology principles in clinical practice
- Describe key experiments that have shaped contemporary behavioural and cognitive neuroscience.
- Critically evaluate the methodology and conclusions of seminal papers in neuropsychology.

Recommended Texts

Cicchetti, F., & Robinson, E.S.J. (2017). *Neuroanatomy and Neuroscience at a Glance*. New Jersey: Wiley Blackwell.

Code, C. (1996). *Classic cases in neuropsychology, Volume I (Brain, Behaviour and Cognition)*. Hove, East Sussex: Psychology Press.

Code, C. (2012). *Classic cases in neuropsychology, Volume II (Brain, Behaviour and Cognition)*. Hove, East Sussex: Psychology Press.

Ellis, A.W., & Young, A.W. (1996). *Human Cognitive Neuropsychology: A Textbook with Readings*. London: Routledge.

Kane, R.L., & Parsons, T.D. (2017). *The Role of Technology in Clinical Neuropsychology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kolb, B., & Whislaw, I.Q. (2015). *Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology*. London: MacMillan International Higher Education.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 20 marks; University Examination – 80 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment; University examination.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: 1 x 120 minute paper.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: 1 x 120 minute written paper.

PS355 Social Psychology

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 2

Teaching Methods: 20h lectures
 3h tutorials
 26h planned learning activities
 75h independent learning
 Total: 124h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Bryan Roche.

Lecturers: Dr. Brenda O'Connell and Dr Bryan Roche.

Module Objectives

To explore advanced conceptual issues in social psychology and the application of social psychology to real-world problems.

Module Content

Social psychology and the built environment; Social relationships and prosocial behaviour; Theories of intergroup conflict; Group processes and decision making in legal and political contexts; Positive Psychology; Creating social contexts for a happy and healthy society.

Learning Outcomes

- Provide examples of large-scale social problems that can be understood as psychological problems;
- Review prominent theoretical and empirical accounts of how to effect large-scale behaviour change;
- Illustrate the application of social psychological findings in interventions designed to ameliorate social problems
- Articulate the relative roles of several different group processes in group decision making and inter-group conflict.

Recommended Texts

Steg. L., van den Burg & de Groot, J. I. M. (Eds.). (2016). Environmental Psychology: An Introduction. Wiley-Blackwell.

Myers, D.G. & Twenge, J. (2019). Social psychology (13th ed). New York: McGraw Hill.

Montgomery C. (2014). Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design. Macmillan USA.

Donaldson, S. I., Csikszentmihalyi, M., & Nakamura, J. (Eds.). (2011). Applied positive psychology: Improving everyday life, health, schools, work, and society. Routledge.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 20 marks; University Examination – 80 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment; University examination.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: 1 x 120 minute paper.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: 1 x 120 minute written paper.

PS356 Advanced Statistical & Quantitative Methods for Psychology

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 1

Teaching Methods: 5h lectures
 40h practical/labs
 80h independent learning
 Total: 125h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Philip Hyland.

Lecturers: Dr Philip Hyland.

Module Objectives

To explore more advanced topics in statistical and quantitative techniques applied to psychological data in order to outline the usefulness and limits of such methods.

Module Content

Introduction to the course; p-values; statistical power; advanced forms of regression analysis; advanced factorial designs; factor analysis; advanced graphical representations of data.

Learning Outcomes

- Undertake various types of factorial ANOVA on psychological data.
- Have an advanced appreciation of the usefulness and limitations of hypothesis testing
- Appreciate the vital role of statistical power in designing and executing reliable studies in psychology
- Be able to represent psychological data graphically in the most meaningful manner.

Recommended Texts

Pallant, J. (2020). *SPSS survival manual: A step-by-step guide to data analysis using SPSS program* (7th ed.). London: McGraw-Hill.

Field, A. (2017). *Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS Statistics* (5th ed.). London: Sage.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 100 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination: No

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: No supplemental assessment or examination.

PS357 Independent Research Project

Credit Weighting: 20

Semester: 1 and 2

Teaching Methods: 200h planned learning activities
300h independent learning
Total: 500h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Philip Hyland.

Lecturers: All academic staff.

Module Objectives

To provide experience in conceptualising and conducting empirical research in psychology, and to establish the skills necessary to produce a report of that research presented according to current academic standards within psychology.

Module Content

Undertaking independent empirical research based on quantitative and/or qualitative methods; the quantitative and/or qualitative analysis of collected data; the presentation and critical analysis of those data in the context of a research report; the presentation of those data and research findings in an oral presentation.

Learning Outcomes

- Organise the design, planning, and completion of a research study in a scientific and professional manner;
- Rigorously apply professional ethical standards in designing, conducting and reporting psychological research;
- Collect the primary data necessary to complete a research project;
- Analyse data using the appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative methods;
- Produce a written report of a research study that follows the conventions of the discipline;
- Produce a concise oral presentation of the major research findings of the project

Recommended Texts

Journal articles as recommended by each individual staff member.

- Hyland, P. (2021). BA/BSc research project PS357 handbook. Department of Psychology, Maynooth University
- BPS Code of Human Research Ethics:
<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/BPS%20Code%20of%20Human%20Research%20Ethics.pdf>
- BPS Guidelines for Conducting Internet Mediated Research:
<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/ethics-guidelines-internet-mediated-research>

- Sternberg, R.J. (2016). The psychologist's companion: A guide to scientific writing for students and researchers. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Forshaw, M. (2013). Undergraduate Psychology Project: A Student Guide (2nd ed.). BPS Blackwell.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 100 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination: No

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: No supplemental assessment or examination.

PS358 Contemporary Issues & Debates in Psychology

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 2

Teaching Methods: 24h lectures
8h tutorials
36h planned learning activities
56h independent learning
Total: 124h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Michael Cooke.

Lecturers: Dr Michael Cooke, Dr Deirdre Desmond, Professor Mac Maclachlan, and Dr. Bryan Roche

Module Objectives

To explore contemporary controversies and issues in psychology and to develop a critical view of psychology as a modern meaningful discipline.

Module Content

The distinction between science and pseudo-science, and its relevance for psychology; Fundamental assumptions in psychology and its definitions, subject matter and impacts; Philosophy of science for psychology; Paradigms and approaches to psychological enquiry; The relationship between psychology and culture; Insights from modern philosophy for psychology; What psychology can learn from other disciplines (social and natural sciences, and humanities); Public perceptions of and misconceptions about psychology.

Learning Outcomes

- Distinguish between science and pseudo-science in the context of psychology;
- Demonstrate understanding of the role of evidence and reason in constructing arguments on topics relevant to psychology;
- Discuss philosophical influences on contemporary psychology and its methodologies;
- Critically assess contemporary controversies and debates in psychology;
- Construct an appraisal, informed by the relevant literature, of a current topic involving a conceptual or methodological question in psychology;
- Critically discuss what psychology can learn and integrate from other disciplines.

Recommended Texts

Fox, D., Prilleltensky, I., & Austin, S. (2009). *Critical Psychology: An Introduction* (2nd ed). Los Angeles: Sage.

Bem, S. & Looren De Jong, H. (2013) *Theoretical Issues in Psychology*, third ed. London: Sage. Gross, R. (2009). *Themes, issues, and debates in psychology* (3rd ed). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Koocher, G.P., & Keith-Speigler, P. (2007). *Ethics in psychology: Professional standards and cases* (3rd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Lilienfeld, S.O., Lynn, S.J., Ruscio, J., & Beyerstein, B.L. (2010). *50 Great myths of popular psychology*. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.

Slife, B.D. (2010). Taking Sides: Clashing views on psychological issues (6th ed). NY: McGraw-Hill.

Stanovich, K.E. (2010). How to think straight about psychology (9th ed). Boston: Pearson.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 50 marks; University Examination – 50 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment; University examination.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: 1 x 120 minute paper.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: 1 x 120 minute written paper.

PS359 Seminars in Psychology

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 1 and 2

Teaching Methods: 4h lectures
34h planned learning activities
87h independent learning
Total: 125h

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Michael Daly

Lecturers: Guest lecturers.

Module Objectives

To consider cutting-edge research and practice across the disciplinary spectrum of psychology.

Module Content

Attendance at departmental research seminars in psychology; Critical analysis of contemporary psychological research findings; Ethical considerations for psychological research; Viewing psychological research in its broader context.

Learning Outcomes

- Critically evaluate contemporary psychological research;
- Reflect on the practical applications of ethical principles in psychological research;
- Describe links between fundamental research and real-world applications in topics in psychology;
- Appreciate the evolving nature of research and knowledge in psychology

Recommended Texts

As suggested by each individual guest lecturer.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 100 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: No.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: No supplemental assessment or examination.

PS361 Classic Studies in Psychology

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester: 1

Teaching Methods: 24h lectures
36h planned learning activities
75h independent learning
Total: 125h.

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Richard Roche

Lecturers: Various

Module Objectives: To appreciate and critique seminal studies and experiments in contemporary psychology.

Module Content

Contemporary classic studies in psychology. The replication crisis in psychology and what we have learned about what constitutes classical studies. Methodology and impact of seminal studies in psychology. Critical discussion of contemporary classic studies in psychology published since 2000. Group presentation and discussion of critical analysis of student-selected papers.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

- Describe the history and theoretical bases of contemporary classic studies in psychology;
- Critically evaluate the methodology and conclusions of influential papers in psychology;
- Describe the “replication crisis” in psychology and discuss how this has improved psychological science;
- Present and discuss results of key experiments in a number of domains of psychology.

Recommended Texts: Research papers will be recommended for each session.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment – 100 marks.

Compulsory Elements: All continuous assessment.

Penalties (For Late Submission of Course Work etc.): 1 grade deducted per day from that awarded.

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.

End of Semester Written Examination Profile: No.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination: No supplemental assessment or examination.

Tutorials

Tutorials are connected to three modules in Semester 1 (PS349, PS350, and PS351) and three modules in Semester 2 (PS352, PS354, and PS355) (**see the table below**). Tutorial will be led by a Teaching Assistant.

There will be a block of three tutorials associated with three modules in each semester. These tutorials will adopt a problem-based approach to learning. In general, each block of tutorials will proceed in a similar manner: In the first tutorial you will discuss a seminal study in that specific field of psychology; in the second tutorial you will evaluate the findings of that seminal study in light of the contemporary scientific literature; and in the third tutorial you will engage in a small group based effort (e.g., presentation, debate, discussion) to describe how the seminal study has fared in light of more modern findings.

All students must sign up to and attend a tutorial group. Make sure to attend all of your lectures in order to learn how to sign up for the tutorial scheme. The sign-up system will be on-line and accessible via Moodle:

<http://moodle.maynoothuniversity.ie>

The sign-up system for Psychological Studies Psychology will be placed on the Moodle page for PS357.

Moodle is important website with which you should become familiar because a considerable amount of teaching support is provided through the on-line Moodle system. The schedule for your tutorial group is also provided on Moodle. If you have any queries regarding your tutorial group, you can contact the Departmental Office.

Places for particular timetabled tutorial slots will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis, so please do not hesitate in logging on to Moodle and making your tutorial slot choice as soon as the sign-up system goes live (announcements will be made in class). Once assigned, you cannot change into another tutorial group. **It is your responsibility to ensure your tutorial sessions do not clash in the timetable with your modules in either Semester 1 or Semester 2.**

PS358 Tutorials

In addition to the tutorials that are attached to the aforementioned modules, more in-depth discussion between a small number of students and individual **staff members** will take place in semester 2. There will be 8 hours of tutorials - typically 1 hour per week for 8 weeks (but this may vary) commencing after the final year project hand-in. Times and dates will be arranged by individual staff members in Semester 2. The content will also vary across tutorial groups and will be **student-led**, with the staff member acting as a facilitator. However, tutorials may involve general debates surrounding contemporary issues in psychology, helping students to develop presentation and critical thinking skills.

Tutorials Semester 1

Week	Tutorial Topic	Related Module
1	Sign up for tutorials	
2	Mental Health 1	PS351
3	Mental Health 2	PS351
4	Mental Health 3	PS351
5	Generic skills tutorial - Critical Analysis in Academic writing	
6	Psychology of Language 1	PS350
7	Psychology of Language 2	PS350
8	Psychology of Language 3	PS350
9	Criminal Psychology 1	PS349
10	Criminal Psychology 2	PS349
11	Criminal Psychology 3	PS349
12	Generic skills tutorial - Academic guidance	

Tutorials Semester 2

Week	Tutorial Topic	Related Module
1	Psychology of Learning 1	PS352
2	Psychology of Learning 2	PS352
3	Psychology of Learning 3	PS352
4	Social Psychology 1	PS355
5	Social Psychology 2	PS355
6	Social Psychology 3	PS355
7	Generic skills tutorial Presentation skills	
8	Neuropsychology 1	PS354
9	Neuropsychology 2	PS354
10	Neuropsychology 3	PS354
11	Generic tutorial Preparing for postgraduate study	
12	No tutorials	

Research Project Report, Essays and Other Assignments

Requirements

You will be required to write essays, a research project report, and complete other assessments. Further details pertaining to essay titles, the project report, and other assessments will be provided within the context of each module.

Submissions

All essays and other assignments will be submitted in an electronic form on Moodle. **The deadline for all assignments is 5.00pm sharp on a Thursday.** Your assignment will be automatically noted as received and date stamped on Moodle. It is your responsibility to ensure your assignment is submitted before the deadline.

Psychology students should NOT submit coursework by email.

All submission on Moodle should be checked through Turnitin by you prior to submission. Turnitin will generate a similarity percentage and can be used to identify cases of plagiarism. You should carefully review your submission for cases of unintentional plagiarism prior to submitting your thesis. Note that there is no 'correct' or 'ideal' percentage, as it may depend on whether references and other data have been included in the report. However, the percentage and highlighted areas in the report allows you a chance to reflect on your work and make any necessary changes. Note that Turnitin sometimes requires up to 24 hours to process material. To allow for this, your assignment needs to be completed well before the departmental deadline.

The final project report should be submitted directly to the Departmental Office. Two wire-bound hard copies are required to be submitted. The front page of the report sheet from Turnitin (indicating the similarity percentage) MUST be attached to your final year project submission. You will also be required to submit your thesis via Turnitin to ensure that there is an electronic copy available.

You should retain a copy of all submitted work and keep it safely through the academic year. You should also retain all returned work for re-submission to the Examination Board at the end of the academic year.

Work submitted late without supporting documentation will have one sub-grade deducted per day from that awarded (e.g. an essay graded a B-, but submitted two days late, will be awarded a C grade). All essays and other assessments must be re-submitted to the Departmental Office at the end of the academic year.

Plagiarism

The University has a formal policy on plagiarism which is available on the Maynooth University web site:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies/rules-regulations-students>.

Plagiarism-avoidance guidelines are also provided in tutorials throughout each year of the degree. Should you have any questions pertaining to plagiarism or feel that the current information is unclear in any way, you should seek advice from a Teaching Assistant or member of academic staff before submitting an assignment.

Be aware that you could be required to supply the Department with a Turnitin report for any of your assignments at any point.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have not committed plagiarism.

List of Essay/CA Deadlines for Final Year

Semester 1

Code	Module	Assignment (% of overall module)	Deadline
PS349	Criminal Psychology	MCQ (20%)	02/12/2021
PS350	Psychology of Language	MCQ (20%)	09/12/2021
PS351	Mental Health	Essay (20%)	18/11/2021
PS356	Advanced Statistical and Quantitative Methods for Psychology	In-class exam (50%) In-class SPSS exam (50%)	07/12/2021 14/12/2021
PS361	Classic Studies in Psychology	Group presentation (50%) Essay (50%)	10/12/2021 17/12/2021

Semester 2

Code	Module	Assignment (% of overall module)	Deadline
PS352	Psychology of Learning	MCQ (20%)	05/05/2022
PS354	Neuropsychology	MCQ (20%)	28/04/2022
PS355	Social Psychology	Design Project (20%)	10/03/2022
PS358	Contemporary Issues and Debates in Psychology	Essay (50%)	05/05/2022

Semesters 1 & 2

Code	Module	Assignment (% of overall module)	Deadline
PS357	Final Year Project	Proposal Research Project (100%)	07/10/2021 24/02/2022
PS359	Seminars in Psychology	Abstracts (6 x 10%) Essay (40%)	Ongoing 28/04/2022

The following table will help you to plan your work through the year, indicating week by week when each assignment is due.

Semester 1 Submission Dates & Checklist

Week	Assignment	Deadline Date	Completed (tick)
1		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
2		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
3	PS357: Final Year Project Research proposal	07/10/2021	
4		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
5		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
	Study week	<i>(no deadline)</i>	
6		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
7	PS351: Mental Health Essay	18/11/2021	
8		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
9		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
10	PS349: Criminal Psychology MCQ	30/11/2021 - 02/12/2021	
11	PS356: Advanced Statistical and Quantitative Methods for Psychology In class Exam PS350: Psychology of Language MCQ PS361: Classic Studies in Psychology Group Presentation	07/12/2021 07/12/2021- 09/12/2021 10/12/2021	
12	PS356: Advanced Statistical and Quantitative Methods for Psychology SPSS Exam PS361: Classic Studies in Psychology Group Presentation	14/12/2021 17/12/2021	

Semester 2 Submission Dates & Checklist

Week	Assignment	Deadline Date	Completed (tick)
1		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
2		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
3		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
4	PS357 Final Year Project Research Project	24/02/2022	
5		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
6	PS355: Social Psychology Design project	10/03/2022	
	Study week	<i>(no deadline)</i>	
7		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
8		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
9		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
10		<i>(no deadline)</i>	
	Easter Break	<i>(no deadline)</i>	
11	PS354: Neuropsychology MCQ	26/04/2022- 28/04/2022	
	PS359: Seminars in Psychology Essay	28/04/2022	
12	PS358: Contemporary Issues and Debates in Psychology Assignment	05/05/2022	
	PS352: Psychology of Learning MCQ	03/05/2022- 05/05/2022	

Essay Submissions

All assignments will be submitted electronically via Moodle. A submission link (called 'Turnitin') for your assignments will be posted on your module Moodle page and you will be required to submit your coursework here. Your submission will receive a date and time stamp automatically. It is your responsibility to ensure that you submit your assignment prior to the established deadline. Although Turnitin retains a copy of all submitted work, you should endeavour to maintain a copy of all work submitted for in your own records. Please note that the electronic submission that you make is the formal submission of an assignment. You will not be required to submit a hard copy of your assignment in addition to the electronic copy. Grades and feedback for your assignments will be provided via Moodle. You simply have to open your assignment on Moodle (through the Turnitin link where you submitted your assignment) and you will obtain your grade and feedback. You will be provided with a tutorial session in Week 5 of Semester 1 to guide you through this process

All coursework submitted via Moodle will automatically be checked by Turnitin, which will generate a similarity report within 24 hours of submission. This report will be accessible to students via their My Submissions page on Moodle. Turnitin generates a similarity percentage by comparing the submitted text for matches found in its database, which can be used to identify cases of plagiarism. You should carefully examine your Turnitin similarity report and review your submission for cases of unintentional plagiarism. Note that there is no 'correct' or 'ideal' similarity percentage, as it may depend on whether references and other data have been included in the report. However, the percentage and highlighted areas in the report allow you a chance to reflect on your work and make any necessary changes before resubmitting. There is no limit on the number of resubmissions you can make, but please bear in mind that penalties for late submission will be incurred once the assignment deadline has passed. Note that Turnitin sometimes requires up to 24 hours to process material. To allow for this, your assignment needs to be completed well before the departmental deadline.

Submitting an Assignment in Moodle

A link to the assignment will be made available on your module's Moodle page, e.g.



To submit your assignment:

1. Click the assignment icon. The *My Submissions* page will open (you may be asked to accept the Turnitin license agreement before you can proceed).

2. At the top of the page, you will see the *Start Date*, *Due Date* and *Post Date* (the post date is the date at which grades and feedback are made available), along with the total points available for the grade. Below this row is the *Submission Inbox*.
3. In the *Submission Inbox*, click the **Submit Paper** icon  (at right). The *Submit Paper* dialogue box will open.
4. In the *Submit Paper* dialogue box:
 - a. From the Submission Type drop-down menu (if available), select **File Upload** or **Text Submission**.
 - b. In the *Submission Title* field, enter a **name** for your submission. This is usually the title of your paper or a combination of the course and assignment name, e.g. "PS150 Assignment".
 - c. For a **Text Submission**, in the *Text to Submit* field, type or paste your submission.
 - d. For a **File Upload** submission, in the *File to Submit* field:
 - i. **Drag and Drop** your file to the blue arrow.
 - ii. Or, click the **Add** button (). The *File picker* window will open. Locate the file you wish to upload, select it, and click **Open**.
Note: Check with your lecturer for accepted file formats. For papers, PDF or Word files are usually the best options.
 - e. Click the **Add Submission** button. A Digital Receipt pop-up will open showing the *Turnitin submission ID* and *Submission extract* to the assignment.
 - i. Click **Close** (top right) or click away from the message box. You will be returned to the *My Submissions* page.
Note: To print a *Digital Receipt*, click the **View Digital Receipt**. A *Digital Receipt* pop-up will open showing the date and time you submitted to the assignment. To print the digital receipt, click **Print** (printing is optional, Turnitin will send a submission confirmation by e-mail).
5. If your lecturer allows, you may be able to resubmit and overwrite previous submissions until the due date and time. Click *Submit paper*  to resubmit.
Note: Upon resubmission, you may see a pop-up indicating that Turnitin will require an additional twenty-four hour delay to generate an originality report.
6. Once the *Post date* for the assignment has been reached, grades and feedback may be made available. For written or audio remarks, under **Grade** click the pencil icon next to your score ().

Viewing Feedback in Turnitin

Once your work has been assessed your lecturer will set a release date and you will be able to view feedback. Feedback may include a Turnitin originality report, text or audio feedback from your lecturer/TA, and grades.

The Moodle gradebook displays only your grade for the completed activity; other feedback is accessed through the Turnitin *Submissions Inbox*. To view feedback in the Submissions Inbox:

1. From your module's Moodle page click the **link to the assignment** to open the *My Submissions* page.
2. Your lecturer may set the assignment to allow you to view an *Originality Report* after submitting. Under *Similarity* you'll see the percentage of text Turnitin found a match for and a coloured bar (36% ). Click the **coloured bar** to view the full report (opens in a new tab or window). Close the browser tab to return to your *Submission Inbox*.
3. On your My Submissions page, click on the name of your submission. A *feedback studio* window will open. On this page, at the top right you will see the overall grade for your submission.
4. To view lecturer/TA's General feedback click on () located on the right. An **Instructor Feedback** will appear in this column you may see instructor's **Voice Comments** or **Text Comments** for your submission.
5. Depending on the type of feedback your instructor gave, on the feedback studio page you may see **Strike Through Text**, **Inline comments**, **QuickMarks** or **Bubble comments** on your submission.

Grading

The standard of your Psychology work will be indicated by a letter grade as shown in the Table below. **Please note that final percentage grades are awarded in consultation with the External Examiners at the end of the academic year.** It is important to understand, therefore, that the letter grades awarded for work submitted during the year merely indicate the percentage range within which the submitted work appears to fall. **Ultimately, however, all marks are subject to change under the advice of the External Examiners.**

Grading Guidelines		
<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Guide Mark</i>	<i>Class</i>
A++	100	I
A+	90	I
A	80	I
A-	75	I
B+	68	II-1
B	65	II-1
B-	60	II-1
C+	58	II-2
C	55	II-2
C-	50	II-2
D+	48	III
D	45	P
D-	40	P
E+	38	F
E	35	F
E-	30	F
F+	20	F
F	10	F
F-	0	F

EXAMINATION GRADING GUIDELINES

Grade	Mark Range	General Grade Guidelines	Letter Grade	Guide Mark	Qualitative Description
1 st	100	Originality of conceptualisation, analysis and insight	A++	100	Cannot be bettered
1 st	89.1 - 99.9	Ability to synthesise material and marshal arguments	A+	90	Outstanding
1 st	79.1 - 89	Wide breadth of reading	A	80	Excellent and original
1 st	69.1 - 79	Clarity of expression	A-	75	Excellent
2 nd (Upper)	67.1 - 69	Wide scope	B+	68	Highly competent
2 nd (Upper)	64.1 - 67	Good analysis, argument and structure	B	65	Very competent
2 nd (Upper)	59.1 - 64	Some breadth of reading	B-	60	Competent
2 nd (Lower)	57.1 - 59	Competent analysis	C+	58	Gradation based on degree of error and omission
2 nd (Lower)	54.1 - 57	Sound structure	C	55	Gradation based on degree of error and omission
2 nd (Lower)	49.1 - 54	Some reading in evidence	C-	50	Gradation based on degree of error and omission
3 rd	44.1 - 49	Adequate but limited scope/analysis	D+	48	Adequate
Pass		Basic structure Limited reading	D	45	
Pass	39.1-44	Basic grasp of ideas	D-	40	Gradation based on level of error and omission
Pass		Perfunctory reading			Gradation based on level of error and omission
Fail (Upper)	37.1 - 39	Some knowledge of material Fails to address question properly	E+	38	Gradation based on level of relevant/correct material
Fail (Upper)	34.1 - 37	Poor grasp of topic Very limited scope	E	35	Gradation based on level of relevant/correct material
Fail (Upper)	29.1 - 34	Poor analysis, structure, expression Little/no reading	E-	30	Gradation based on level of relevant/correct material
Fail (Lower)	19.1 - 29	Little/no relevant/correct material	F+	20	Gradation based on level of relevant/correct material
Fail (Lower)	0.1 - 19		F	10	Gradation based on level of relevant/correct material
Fail (Lower)	0		F-	0	Gradation based on level of relevant/correct material

Requests for Extensions

Students are notified of coursework deadlines well in advance. **A deadline is a deadline.** You should aim to submit your assignment well in advance of a deadline in order to protect yourself from unforeseen events in the days immediately before. It is also your responsibility to manage your materials (e.g. computer files) carefully and responsibly **so do make sure to always save your work (and in two different locations if possible)**. Coursework grades are awarded, in part, for the successful and timely submission of work, and not just the content contained therein.

However, students do experience genuine extenuating circumstances which warrant extensions to deadlines from time to time and we, as a department, are keen to support our students as much as possible in these circumstances. We appreciate that it is difficult for students who are struggling with issues to discuss these with staff. However, it is really important that we are made aware of any difficulties that are likely to impact on your studies and/or your academic progress. We would like to reassure students that we will do our best to accommodate such difficulties and should any students require help/support, we would encourage you to come and speak to us and/or actively seek out and use the many excellent supports that the wider University provides. Naturally, all sensitive information will be treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality, mindful that there are limits to confidentiality in that it is the responsibility of individual members of staff to bring any concerns about the welfare of any student to the attention of the appropriate person/service within the University.

- Extensions can **only** be granted by the Year Manager.
- An extension should be requested **prior to** the deadline. A student should not take an extension of his/her own accord, or assume that its duration can be decided autonomously.
- A student should not expect to meet a Year Manager regarding an extension **within 48 hours** of that deadline.
- Extensions will not be granted for routine or minor illnesses (e.g. headaches, colds, etc.).
- Requests for extensions based on an illness or situation occurring **more than five working days** immediately prior to deadline are not normally granted. If such an extension is granted, the **number of days extended is proportionate to the number of days covered by the appropriate documentation**.
- When a Year Manager approves a request, s/he will set a new deadline that is **directly in line with** the nature of the situation, illness, or medical instructions.
- Even if previously requested, **penalties will only be lifted when appropriate documentation is provided** (e.g. a medical certificate or a death notice on rip.ie). Vague medical certificates or documentation not specifying a timeframe that relates directly to the deadline are not acceptable.

- When an assignment is submitted late (even where an extension is granted in advance), **the relevant medical or other documentation must also be submitted to the year manager or Departmental office.**
- Loss of work due to failure of a PC, laptop, or memory stick does **not normally** warrant an extension.

Penalties

Work submitted late without supporting documentation will have **one sub-grade deducted per day** from that awarded (e.g. an essay graded a B-, but submitted two days late, will be awarded a C grade).

Marks Breakdown

If you require a breakdown of your marks for the year beyond that provided by the Examinations Office, you should contact the Year Manager.

Please note that a University-wide **Consultation Day** occurs following notification of the Summer examination results and Year Managers, along with all academic staff, are available on that day to provide some general information of this kind. You will be notified of the date of Consultation Day in your examination pack. **Post-exam consultation will occur only on this date. In general, academic staff will not be available to consult on modules between this date and the beginning of the new semester.** Under no circumstances will such information be sent via e-mail, fax, or regular post, and neither will such information be transmitted over the phone or given to a third party, including family members.