Course Outline

PSYC7413

Research Thesis (Forensic) 1 12 UOC

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T1, 2019
1. Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Consultation times and locations</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Convenor</td>
<td>A/Prof Kristy Martire</td>
<td><a href="mailto:k.martire@unsw.edu.au">k.martire@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
<td>By appointment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Supervisors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mathews 1007</td>
<td>9385 3641</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Course information

- Units of credit: 12
- Pre-requisite(s): Restricted to program 8257.
- Teaching times and locations: Individual supervision with research supervisor

2.1 Course summary

This course involves undertaking a research project under the supervision of a member of academic staff in the School of Psychology. Research projects may be carried out on any topic that is relevant to forensic psychology. Students are required to prepare a thesis in the form of a journal article. Refer to the Guide to Research Projects available on the School website http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/sites/all/files/2018%20Forensic%20Masters%20Program%20Guide.pdf

2.2 Course aims

The aim of the course is to further develop trainees’ skills in conducting research and teach them to prepare a report in the form of a research article for submission to a journal.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Construct a research project that demonstrates critical thinking and contributes to knowledge in forensic psychology.
2. Demonstrate cognitive skills associated with review, analysis, consolidation and synthesis of knowledge.
3. Identify and formulate solutions to complex problems with intellectual independence.
4. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of theoretical concepts in relation to forensic psychology.
5. Demonstrate initiative and judgement in scholarship.
6. Demonstrate communication skills in presenting a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences.
7. Construct a research project that demonstrates technical skills in research and design.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of, and competence in, the ethical conduct of forensic psychology research.
## 2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

|-----|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

In this course, students are encouraged to consult, evaluate and be guided by findings in the empirical literature. The development of a research question and the processes of conducting a research project and preparing a journal article for publication develop students’ capacity to conduct theoretically-driven and clinically-relevant research. Teaching in this course is delivered via one-on-one supervision from thesis supervisors, and through verbal and written feedback on drafts of the thesis.

3.2 Expectations of students

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

Students registered with the Disability Support Services must contact the course co-ordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

4. Course schedule and structure

This course is delivered via one-on-one supervision from thesis supervisors as arranged by students with supervisors. Students also participate in one workshop (7hrs).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Related CLO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Proposal presentation</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/03/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Proposal presentation</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/03/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 5. Assessment

### 5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment:</strong> Thesis proposal</td>
<td>20,000 characters</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
<td>Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Midnight Friday Week 4 or Week 5 (depending on allocation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment:</strong> Thesis timeline progress report</td>
<td>3 page form</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>May 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment:** In order to pass PSYC7413 and progress to PSYC7414 (or PSYC7415), supervisors will be required to indicate that students have made adequate progress on their thesis project.

Students must draw up a research proposal, including an indicative timeline for the research. This proposal is presented to the Forensic Masters research panel for approval. At the end of the term, students are required to write a brief progress report which describes progress relative to the timeline contained in the approved proposal, and to note any significant changes to topic or methodology. This progress report must be approved by the supervisor and the Program Director before students can progress to PSYC7414 (or PSYC7415). If adequate progress is made on the thesis project, students will receive a grade of EC (Enrolment Continuing) for PSYC7413. The completed thesis is marked by two members of the School's academic staff. The supervisor is not involved in marking the thesis. Once the mark for PSYC7414 is confirmed in the subsequent semester, this mark will replace the EC grade allocated PSYC7413 (or PSYC7415)

UNSW grading system: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades](https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades)


### 5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

Further details and marking criteria for each assessment will be provided to students closer to the assessment release date (see 4.1: UNSW Assessment Design Procedure).

### 5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

**Thesis:** In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy this must be submitted online via Turnitin.

**Late penalties:** deduction of marks for late submissions will be in accordance with School policy (see: Psychology Student Guide).

**Special Consideration:** Students who are unable to complete an assessment task by the assigned due date can apply for special consideration. Special consideration applications must be submitted to
Student Central within 3 working days of the assessment due date along with a physical copy of the supporting documentation. Students who have experienced significant illness or misadventure during the assessment period may be eligible. Only circumstances deemed to be outside of the student’s control are eligible for special consideration (see - https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration). In the case of take-home assessment tasks, misadventure must occur for at least 3 consecutive days during the assessment period. If approved, students may be given an extended due date to complete take-home assessments, or an alternative assessment may be set.

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>How</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Presentation</td>
<td>After presentation</td>
<td>Forensic Masters Research Panel</td>
<td>On campus</td>
<td>Verbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis timeline progress</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
<td>On campus</td>
<td>Written</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (6th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately:

**APA 6th edition.**

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else’s words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people’s work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing

**Academic integrity** is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others’ ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don’t follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The Current Students site https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism, and
- The ELISE training site http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/presenting

The **Conduct and Integrity Unit** provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct.

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7. Readings and resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Textbook</th>
<th>No set text; suggested readings provided by supervisor and additional readings obtained as a result of students’ literature review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course information</td>
<td>Available on Moodle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Required readings | **School of Psychology Student Guide**  
| | **Guide to Research Projects** |
| Recommended internet sites | **UNSW Library**  
| | **UNSW Learning Centre**  
| | **ELISE**  
| | **Turnitin**  
| | **Student Code of Conduct**  
| | **Plagiarism Policy**  
| | **Email policy**  
| | **UNSW Anti-racism policy statement**  
| | **UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement**  
| | **UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement** |

8. Administrative matters

The **School of Psychology Student Guide** contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Disability Support Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

9. Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/](https://student.unsw.edu.au/)
- Academic Skills and Support: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills](https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills)
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing](https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing)
- UNSW IT Service Centre: [https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html](https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html)