

2024_25							Modules are subject to change
LEVEL 4							
Module Title	Module Code	Credits	% Exam	% Coursework	% Practical	Semester	
People in Society	4LMS2050	15	70	30	0	B	
Brain and Behaviour	4LMS2048	15	80	20	0	A	
Understanding Child Development	4LMS2093	15	50	50	0	B	
Inner Workings of the Mind	4LMS2095	15	50	50	0	A	
LEVEL 5							<i>*Note: Level 5 modules assume knowledge and understanding at level 4, of some of the core topics (social, developmental, biological and cognitive psychology). See the module descriptions below</i>
Individual Differences	5LMS0093	15	50	50	0	A	
Social and Developmental Psychology	5LMS0143	15	100	0	0	A	Pre-requisite (4LMS2093 Understanding child development and 4LMS2050 People and Society – both 15 credit modules at Level 4).
Biological and Cognitive Psychology	5LMS0144	15	50	50	0	B	Pre-requisite (4LMS2048 Brain and Behaviour and Inner workings of the mind 4LMS2095 both 15 credit modules at level 4).
Nonverbal Behaviour	5LMS0099	15	100	0	0	B	*
Cyberpsychology	5LMS0101	15	100	0	0	B	
Culture and Psychology	5LMS2000	15	0	100	0	B	*
LEVEL 6							<i>**Note: L6 modules assume two years of studying the core topics (at level 4 and level 5) of Social, Cognitive, Developmental and Biological Psychology, depending on the module. See the module descriptions below</i>
Health Psychology	6LMS0144	15	100	0	0	A	**

Counselling	6LMS0146	15	100	0	0	A	**
Clinical Psychology	6LMS0147	15	100	0	0	B	**
Forensic Psychology	6LMS2025	15	50	50	0	B	**
Occupational Psychology	6LMS0150	15	0	100	0	B	**
Educational Psychology	6LMS0151	15	0	100	0	B	

Level 4 OLD module names (pre 2024_25)	For 2024_25 NEW names and codes
Foundations in Cognitive Psychology	4LMS2095 Inner Workings of the Mind
Foundations in Biological Psychology	4LMS2048 Brain and Behaviour
Foundations in Social Psychology	4LMS2050 People in Society
Foundations in Developmental Psychology	4LMS2093 Understanding Child Development

4LMS2095 Inner Workings of the Mind: 15 Credits, Semester A

Module Lead: Prof Mike Page (m.2.page@herts.ac.uk)

This module introduces students to core methods and topics in cognitive psychology and shows how this knowledge may be applied to an understanding of everyday processes like object recognition, attention, memory, language, and decision making.

Assessment: 50% Coursework 50% Exam The exam will comprise answering Multiple-Choice Questions drawn from all the content lectures, and a single essay in video format.

Suggested reading: (Lecture slides and links to additional reading materials will be provided for each lecture) Eysenck, M. W. & Keane, M. T. (2015). *Cognitive Psychology: A student's handbook* (7th ed.) Hove, East Sussex: Psychology Press.

4LMS2048 Brain and Behaviour : 15 Credits, Semester A

This module will introduce the basic workings of the brain, including the names, organisation and functions of brain structures, neurons and how neurons communicate and process information at synapses, and how drugs affect brain function by altering communication at synapses. Topics will include cases of brain damage affecting psychological processes, behavioural genetics and mechanisms of learning by classical and operant conditioning.

Assessment: Coursework: 20%. Exam: 80%

The coursework will consist of regular multiple-choice quizzes completed online.

Main textbook: Chandler, C. (2015). *Psychobiology*. BPS Textbooks, Wiley. Alternative textbook: Pinel, J.P.J. and Barnes, S.J. (2014). *Introduction to Biopsychology* (9th edition). Harlow: Pearson International Edition

4LMS2050 People in Society: 15 Credits, Semester B

The main aim of this module is to introduce theories and selected topics in social psychology. It is expected that the student will:

- Identify the major theoretical perspectives in social psychology
- Acknowledge the multi-perspective nature of social psychology theories
- Recognise the relationship and influence between individuals and groups
- Evaluate the main current theories in social psychology

Assessment: Two multiple choice question tests (30% of overall grade). Exam (70% of overall grade) consisting of multiple-choice questions and one essay question

The main textbook is: Hogg, M. A., & Vaughan, G. M. *Social psychology* (6th ed.). Pearson. There are several editions of this book, but the content is similar. Students also have access to an online version of the book from the university library (see the module homepage).

4LMS2093 Understanding Child Development : 15 Credits, Semester B

The greatest changes in cognitive and social development arguably occur in childhood. This is therefore a period of particular interest in psychology. This module introduces students to topics in child development including language. Consideration will be given to research methods applicable to working with children. In addition, an applied area of interest (e.g. the classroom, interventions, health care, parenting, and advertising) will be presented and discussed with a view to students learning how theory and research can be drawn on to explain and understand contemporary questions.

Assessment Coursework: 50%. Exam: 50%

Suggested reading: Slater, A. & Bremner, G. (2010). *An Introduction to Developmental Psychology* (2nd ed.). BPS Blackwell.

Individual Differences 5LMS0093: 15 Credits, Semester A

This module focuses on the scientific method of studying individual differences and personality, intelligence, personality disorders/mental health, psychometrics, intelligence, cognitive styles, emotion and motivation. Students become familiar with the theories associated with these complex concepts, the issues and debates in these areas as well as the methodology for observing, describing and predicting behaviour. Students also gain detailed awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of theoretical and research approaches related to individual differences, and the historical origins of thinking in this area.

Assessment: Exam (50%) Essay (1500 words) (50%) *Both components of the assessment must be passed to pass the module overall.*

Recommended Reading: Maltby, J., Day, L. and Macaskill, A, (2017) Personality individual differences and intelligence. Pearson

Social and Developmental Psychology 5LMS0095: 15 Credits, Semester A

Prerequisite: Foundations in Social Psychology (4LMS0157 and 4LMS0169) Foundations in Developmental Psychology (4LMS0159) (or from 2025_26 4LMS2093 Understanding child development and 4LMS2050 People and Society)

The module covers key topics in both social and developmental psychology supported by seminar sessions for each week. Students will be introduced to age-related development in specific cognitive and social areas in both typical and atypical populations and to the theories offered to explain such change (examples of topics which *may* be discussed are the development of theory of mind, atypical language development, development in adolescence, ageing and prospective memory and deprivation). Seminar readings for both Developmental and Social Psychology will be journal articles. The course will also extend students' knowledge and understanding of principles, processes and applications in social psychology. This will include coverage of leadership traits, styles, and contingency theories; Interpersonal relationships, attraction, and evolutionary factors; Stereotype suppression; and social identity and intergroup behaviour. This course will also provide students with knowledge of research methods and applications related to these topics.

Assessment:

- Exam (100% consists of one essay and 50 multiple choice questions) *Both components of the assessment must be passed to pass the module overall.*

Recommended Reading: *Please note that this should be used for introductory purposes only and will NOT be sufficient preparation for the exam.*

- Developmental Psychology The reading will largely be based on journal articles. An introduction (background) to many of the topics to be discussed can be found in: Gillibrand, R., Lam, V. and O'Donnell, V (2016) *Developmental Psychology*, Harlow: Pearson and Mitchell, P and Ziegler, F. (2012). *Fundamentals of Developmental Psychology*: Taylor & Francis Group
- Social Psychology The reading will be largely based on journal articles. An introduction to many of the topics to be discussed can be found in:

- Hogg, M. A. & Vaughan, G. M. (2014/2018). *Social psychology* (7th/8th ed.). Harlow: Pearson

Biological and Cognitive Psychology 5LMS0144: 15 Credits, Semester B

Prerequisite: Foundations in Biological Psychology (4LMS0180) Foundations in Cognitive Psychology (4LMS0160) (or from 2025_26 4LMS2048 Brain and Behaviour and Inner workings of the mind 4LMS2095)

This course examines key topics in biological and cognitive psychology at level 5 (see table above). It will examine theories, evidence and applications relating to selected areas of cognitive psychology. Topics such as perception, motion, action, long-term memory, amnesia, spatial Memory, cognition and emotion / consciousness. It will also develop students' understanding of methods of enquiry and current knowledge in biological psychology, paying particular attention to brain function, including the influence of genetic variables and chemical agents.

Assessment: Exam (50%). Essay (1500 words) (50%)

Suggested reading: Eysenck & Keane (2015). *Cognitive Psychology: A Student's Handbook*, 7th Edition. and Carlson, N.R. (2010) *Physiology of Behavior*(10th), Allyn and Bacon. Further recommended reading is to be announced in the lectures and on Canvas.

Option Modules (all level 5 modules assume knowledge of core psychology topics social, developmental, cognitive and biological psychology, 15 credit modules, studied at level 4)

Nonverbal Behaviour 5LMS0099: 15 credits, Semester B

Prerequisites: None

This module introduces the study of nonverbal behaviour in psychology (including facial expressions, eye gaze and posture) with a focus on hand gestures. On this module, we'll look at how we can communicate and interpret information from others nonverbally and learn what this reveals about their social and cognitive skills throughout different stages of development. In addition, this module will explain how we can apply this knowledge to the real world (such as in interviews, attraction and deception detection). For more information on this course, please contact Daniel Gurney.

Essential reading: Various journal articles will be recommended throughout the module in lectures and on Canvas

Assessment: 100% Exam

Recommended reading: McNeill, D. (2005). *Gesture and thought*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. And Matsumoto, D., Frank, M. G., & Hwang, H. S. (2012). *Nonverbal communication: Science and applications*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

Cyberpsychology 5LMS0101: 15 credits, Semester B

The module will introduce students to a variety of recent theoretical developments and empirical evidence in the field of Cyberpsychology and how these may be relevant in various applied settings. Cyberpsychology is the study of online behavior and thinking. More broadly, the field is also interested in how individuals interact with emerging and connected technologies. Topic areas that may be covered include the impact of technology on cognitive processing; individual differences and the use of social networking and the internet; online identity & impression formation & management; technology and psychological wellbeing; technological addiction; online leisure activities (e.g. gaming, consumer, gambling); online relationships, online dating, computer-mediated-communication; online health, education and work; online aggression and cyberbullying. The module will also consider the similarities and differences between online and comparable face-to-face behaviours.

Assessment: 100% Exam. The module is assessed with a 2-hour unseen exam. This will include a section of Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs) and one essay question.

The recommended reading will consist of recent journal articles and book chapters specified in the lectures and on Canvas.

Culture and Psychology 5LMS2000: 15 credits, Semester B

This module will introduce students to the field of cross-cultural psychology, exploring the impact of culture on human cognition, emotion and behaviour in a number of different subject areas in psychology, such as social psychology, cognitive psychology, health psychology and mental health. Students will develop an understanding of the concept of culture, of different approaches to studying the effects of culture in psychology and the implications of a cross-cultural perspective for psychological theory as well as relevant applications relating to health, social issues and global challenges. As such, the module also aims to enhance students' awareness of cultural differences and their cultural competence. Learning will be supported by a number of seminars that give students the opportunity to complete exercises related to the lecture content and discuss the material with each other.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Level 6 *L6 modules require two years of studying (L4 and 5) of the core topics Social, Cognitive, Developmental and Biological Psychology*

Optional Modules

Health Psychology 6LMS0144: 15 credits, Semester A

Health psychology is the practice and application of psychological research into the promotion and maintenance of health; prevention and treatment of illness; the analysis and improvement of the health care system and health policy formation. This module introduces some of the key theories and principles of health psychology in relation to the maintenance of health, the adoption of healthy behaviours as well as the development of, recovery from and adaptation to illness. In particular the emphasis will be on health in its broadest sense, i.e. a state of social, physical and mental well-being, rather than simply the absence of illness.

Within the module you will critically evaluate theories and evidence of the role of psychology in health Identify strengths and limitations of psychological interventions in health improvement and health promotion. Synthesise ideas and data from research to identify key psychological processes involved in developing illness and improving health. Analyse contradictions in research in health psychology and develop an understanding of how these can be resolved. Lectures will be supported by online materials and recommended reading.

Assessment: Exam (100%).

Counselling 6LMS0146, 15 credits, Semester A

The module begins with an introduction to the historical and professional basis of counselling and routes into the profession. Theories of counselling may typically include humanistic, psychodynamic, and CBT approaches. Ways of working with a range of client groups will also be covered, including where clients present with either mental health problems or a range of life issues. Clinical methods and practice and their weaknesses are considered, as are ways to improve the validity of clinical assessments and assess the effectiveness of counselling interventions. The module will also focus on practical, methodological and ethical issues that are likely to affect the efficiency of counselling and psychotherapy in the different settings. There will be opportunities throughout the course for discussion, evaluation activities and experiential learning

Successful students will typically: Critically discuss different schools of psychotherapy, appreciate their strengths and weaknesses and be able to perform comparisons of underlying assumptions, philosophies and core constructs Analyse the effectiveness of different counselling practices and methods for given problems Identify the ethical and professional parameters applicable to counselling and therapeutic settings Make use of a variety of information, data and knowledge sources to be able to evaluate and consider the effectiveness of counselling approaches.

Assessment: Exam (100%)

The content will be presented in a series of lectures supported by online materials and recommended reading. There will also be opportunities throughout the course for discussion, evaluation activities and experiential learning.

Clinical Psychology 6LMS0147, 15 credits, Semester B

The course begins by providing an overall conceptual framework for considering traditional and contemporary theories relevant to clinical psychology, and a variety of routes into the profession. In the sessions that follow, the course addresses substantive and methodological issues relating to mental illness from a cognitive perspective. This will be achieved by looking at a number of key mental health disorders

Successful students will typically: Critically evaluate the contributions and limitations of psychological theory Conceptualise the different kinds of mental health problems Critically evaluate the use of diagnostic classification systems Identify and critically evaluate the development and practice of treatments/therapies in relation to the mental health field. Each week's lecture presents a topic within the field of psychopathology. The course is supported by the use of video material as a way of demonstrating specific diagnoses and highlighting topical questions

Assessment: Exam (100%)

Forensic Psychology 6LMS0149 15 credits, Semester B

Forensic Psychology concerns the application of psychological theory and principles to the understanding of crime, crime control and the legal process. This module is designed to give students an understanding of how forensic psychology can be applied to legal and criminal issues, where it stands in relation to other disciplines, and make clear the paths and routes to becoming a Forensic Psychologist. The module will equip students with an overview of current and historical psychological theory as applied to forensic topics. Particular attention will be paid to the psychology of judicial proceedings, eyewitness testimony, false confessions, offender profiling, investigation of the causes of offending behaviour and methods of tackling crime and offender behaviour. In addition, students will study the role the media play in the construction of ideas about crime, fear of crime and policy in relation to crime.

Successful students will typically: Critically evaluate and synthesise a range of theoretical and research orientations used to address and explain crime and offending behaviour Identify and evaluate the worth of key practice and techniques used in the reduction and detection of crime. Contextualise and analyse crime statistics and offending behaviour within the social and legal framework within which it occurs. %). This lecture-based course is designed to provide insight into the current knowledge base of Forensic Psychology.

Assessment: Coursework (2500 words, 100

Occupational Psychology 6LMS0150 15 credits Sem B

This module will provide an introduction to some of the key topics relating to people's behaviour in the workplace. Topics will include: Learning and development; Leadership, engagement and motivation; Well-being and work; Work design and change; Psychological assessment at work. These are all applied to the context of work and the activities of departments such as Human Resources, Organisational Development, Health and Safety and Recruitment. This module will also introduce students to the routes for professional practice in Occupational Psychology.

Successful students will typically: Use evidence and theory to appraise learning activities and plans Evaluate engagement surveys based on current theory and practice Using theory and best practice techniques, devise interview questions for selection Critically evaluate accident reports Demonstrate reflexive skill in applying psychological knowledge to the workplace. The course content will be presented in a series of lectures supported by online materials and recommended reading.

Assessment: Coursework (essay, 1500 words, 50%). Coursework (blog, 1500 words, 50%)

Educational Psychology 6LMS0148 15 credits, Semester B

Educational Psychology is concerned with children and young people in educational and early settings. This module will enable students to appreciate the contexts in which educational psychologists operate by examining the historical development of this profession within legislative and policy contexts. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of assessment and intervention work with specific populations such as young people at risk or experiencing mental health difficulties. Additionally, the course will examine psychological approaches to group work with teachers and pupils as well as the application of theory in helping transform aspects of schools and other organisations.

Students will learn to critical evaluate the contributions and limitations of theory and method as applied to educational psychology. To identify and conceptualise a range of special educational needs. To analyse assessment strategies and evaluate their effectiveness. To identify and critically evaluate psychological approaches to learning. Lectures will be supported by online materials and recommended reading. Students will be prepared for each coursework task with a dedicated seminar session.

Assessment: Coursework (2000 words, 100%)