

# Psychology Y4 Honours

2018-2019



# Important Contacts

Course Organiser:

Alex Weiss

alex.weiss@ed.ac.uk

Room B18 (7GS)

Teaching Coordinator:

Kasia Banas

kasia.banas@ed.ac.uk

Room G10 (7GS)

Course Secretary:

Stephanie Fong, psyinfo@ed.ac.uk

(when emailing this address, make sure you identify yourself as a Y4 student!!)

Room G.06 (DSB)

# Careers Talk: 27<sup>th</sup> September



Rebecca Valentine from the Careers Service

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1pm

Room G32, 7 George Square



# Course structure (Single Honours)

- **Six option** courses (10 credits each)
  - Some assessed by exam in December, others in May
  - Some assessed in other ways
  - Wait list (email the Teaching Office before 19 Sept.)
- **Tutorial Course** (10 credits)
  - Small group teaching in blocks 2 and 3
  - Assessment through **1000-word written work OR PowerPoint presentation OR poster at end of each block**
- **General paper** (10 credits)
- **Dissertation** (40 credits)

# Joint Honours

- 2-4 option courses, which may include the tutorial course
- Joint honours students don't do General Paper
- Joint honours students usually choose to do a dissertation in psychology (needed for BPS accreditation)
- For BPS accreditation, you need to make sure that your courses across years 3 and 4 cover the 5 BPS core areas:
  - Social, developmental, cognitive, differential, biological
  - also RMS 2 and 3

# Junior Year Abroad Students

- If you are interested in **BPS accreditation**, you need to make sure that you take courses in the 5 core areas across your JYA and year 4
- If you didn't take a stats course in your overseas institution, or didn't take a comprehensive enough stats course, register for RMS2 and/or RMS3 this year
- If you're unsure about methodology courses, **contact Nic Chevalier at (nicolas.chevalier@ed.ac.uk)**
- **Stay after this meeting for a few words from Kasia**

# Medical students

- Five options from Psychology 4 (10 credits each)
- One option from Psychology 3 (20 credits each)
- RMS 2 (10 credits)
- Dissertation (40 credits)

# New online handbook

- Handbook materials are now online
  - Still new... Might contain bugs (let us know!)
  - FAQ needs filling up
- Links, updates and news will be posted in the online handbook – you'll get emails alerting you to changes

<http://www.handbooks.psy.ed.ac.uk/psychology-4>





# Dissertations

- Students usually work in pairs
- Most projects have already been allocated, but you can still change to another *if available*
- Deadline for finalising project (title+supervisor) is **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 4pm:**
  - Paper form, with supervisor's signature
  - Download form from Y4 handbook, Dissertation section:
    - <http://www.handbooks.psy.ed.ac.uk/psychology-4/dissertation>
- Deadline: **4pm, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

# What *is* a dissertation?

- Original Research
- Most of the mark (90%) is for the *written submission* at the end
- The process is assessed separately by supervisor, and worth 10% of the mark
- Usually structured like a research paper:
  - Introduction
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Discussion
- You get feedback on a draft from your supervisor

# Dissertation poster day

- Poster day: Wednesday 21st November in the concourse
- Make poster presentation of your dissertation, receive staff feedback, give/receive peer feedback (unassessed)
- Coordinator Chris Egan: [c.egan@ed.ac.uk](mailto:c.egan@ed.ac.uk)
- Talk on poster preparation: Friday 5 October, 1pm
- You can submit your poster to be printed by us (deadline TBA – watch for emails!)

# Writing Centre

- Designed to help our students grow as writers
- Has database of documents and articles to provide guidance and answer questions about writing
- Offers:
  - One-on-one appointments with personalised feedback
  - Group workshops on a variety of topics
- Great for dissertation writing prep (but not only!)
- <http://writingcentre.ppls.ed.ac.uk/>

# General Paper

- The general paper in psychology is a 10 credit module, assessed by exam in May
- In the exam, you need to answer two essay questions on general topics in psychology
- There is no specific teaching for the general paper, but general paper topics are often covered in tutorials
- Examples of past questions can be seen in the exam papers at the main library website

<https://exampapers.ed.ac.uk/>



# Outreach Course

- Chris Egan will say more after my talk
- Much interest, limited places



# Timeline for this year

- Block 1: Semester 1, Weeks 1-5 (Sep 17 – Oct 19)
  - Option courses
  - Start work on dissertation research
- Semester 1, Week 6: No classes
  - Great opportunity to make progress on dissertation
  - Great time to arrange notes for exams
- Block 2: Semester 1, Weeks 7-11 (Oct 29 – Nov 30)
  - Option courses
  - Y4 Tutorial course (single honours)
  - Continue dissertation research
  - Dissertation poster day, Nov 20
- Exams (10-21 December)
- Winter vacation

# Timeline for this year

- **Block 3: Semester 2, Weeks 1-5 (Jan 14 – Feb 15)**
  - Option courses
  - Y4 Tutorial course (single honours)
  - Finalise dissertation research and begin write-up
- **Block 4: Semester 2**
  - No Y4 Option courses
  - Junior year abroad students may still be doing RMS3
  - **Dissertation write-up and exam prep!!**
- **Dissertation deadline (and dinner!): March 27**
  - Draft to supervisor *at least* 3 weeks earlier for feedback
- **29 April – 27 May:**
  - Surveys, etc. (including NSS)
  - Exams (including General Paper)
- **Late June or early July: Graduation!!**

# Year 4 Reps for SSLC

- The staff-student liaison committee (SSLC) needs 2 student representatives
- 2 meetings per semester
- Collect student comments, feed back to staff and vice versa
- A great way to have your (and other students') voice heard!!
- Deadline for applying: end of Week 2
- Contact ([ppls.sso@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ppls.sso@ed.ac.uk)) to apply

# What you have to do **now**

- Finalise your choice of courses.
  - Any changes to timetable
  - Direct requests for course changes to the course secretary, Stephanie Fong (psyinfo@ed.ac.uk)
- Finalise your choice of dissertation project
  - If you'd like to change, email Kasia in the first instance

# What you have to do in general

- Check university email regularly and frequently – that's where official announcements about changes to courses, important dates, etc., come through
- We have a departmental Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/edinburghunipsychology>
- It is **NOT** an official communication channel, but used to highlight events of interest

# Stay well

## 10 TIPS TO STAY WELL

Move every

day

Get a  
good night's  
sleep

Try  
something  
new

Take  
a walk

Note down  
things  
that go  
well

talk  
with  
old  
friends

Enjoy the  
meadows

See  
the sea

Pet a  
furry  
creature

Reach out  
before things  
get tough

# Psychology Keynote Lectures

Regular seminars by prominent speakers, usually held at 4:00 on Fridays

First one by Prof. Kathy Rastle



<https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/psychology/events>

# Additional qualitative projects

Would you like to use qualitative methods in your dissertation?

A few more projects are now available (see Handbook)

Supervision by a newly appointed staff member, Dr Cristina Da Silva Marinho





# Exit Interview

Sometime after you submit your dissertation,  
I'd like to set up an hour-long discussion

It would be informal and about what worked,  
what hasn't worked, and other matters  
relating to your degree

I will select six people at random. If you are  
chosen, please attend if possible

PsychSoc...

Questions?