

## Introduction to Year 3 Psychology

Course organiser: Elena Gherri  
[elena.gherri@ed.ac.uk](mailto:elena.gherri@ed.ac.uk) S41

Teaching Coordinator: Eva Murzyn  
[eva.murzyn@ed.ac.uk](mailto:eva.murzyn@ed.ac.uk) G10

## How to find course information

Online Course Handbook

<http://www.handbooks.psy.ed.ac.uk/psychology-3>

PPLS Undergraduate Student Handbook – general information about student support, illness, LEARN, plagiarism, submitting coursework, etc.

## Course Aims

To develop *advanced knowledge* of the core areas of Psychology and of the *methodological framework* underpinning psychological research.

To develop skills in reading and *critically appraising* the research literature in core areas of Psychology.

## Transition from pre-honours

- Expectation of working independently, taking responsibility for your own learning.
- Expectation of independent study in addition to attending lectures.
  - Official university time model is 100 hours per 10 credit course.
- Primarily reading course material, but other activities as well, e.g. attend research seminars, discussions with other students
- Coursework load is increased

## Expectations for the year

- Semester 1 assessments: Your marks may well go down 😊 but don't fear, they will go up!
- Honours is a 2-year process, this is the transition point but by the end of Honours you should be producing publishable work.
- Important to use assessment feedback early on.

## We are here to help!

### *Interactive Transition to Honours Workshop*

Run by the Teaching Coordinators and the Academic Transitions Advisor from the Institute of Academic Development

Date: Thursday 20/09/2017

Time: 11:00 - 13:00

Will include sections on study skills, writing and essays

## We are here to help!

### **PPLS Writing Centre**

Experienced tutors will be available to provide feedback on your essay drafts and help you achieve better results.

Individual feedback and group workshops.

<http://writingcentre.ppls.ed.ac.uk/>

## Y3 Teaching Coordinator



Y3 Teaching Coordinator  
Dr Eva Murzyn  
Eva.Murzyn@ed.ac.uk

Eva provides support to y3 students and is the first point of contact for questions or concerns about the course.

Location of TCs' office – G10

## Advantages of having one contact person

- Queries collated, so course team get a clear idea of what student concerns are (e.g. need to provide more information or re-word handbook).
- Particularly important for a course with 15 different components!
- Required information gets back to whole class.
- Creation of an on-line FAQ resource for y3.

## List of modules

15 separate courses, each with a different course/module organiser:

- 5 compulsory courses
- 10 psychology topic lecture courses – 10 weeks (20 credits each)

## Compulsory courses

Two small group courses:

- *Critical Analysis* (S1 & S2) 10 credits  
tutorials approx. once per fortnight
- *Psychology Mini-Dissertation* (S1 & S2) 20 credits  
groups meet regularly with supervisor

Two Methodology lecture courses

- *Research Methods & Statistics 2* (S1) 10 credits
- *Research Methods & Statistics 3* (S2) 10 credits

One blended course:

- *Psychology in Action* (S1 & S2) 10 credits

## Your Compulsory Module Course Organisers



*Research Method and Statistics 2*  
(RSM2)  
Dr Thomas Booth  
Tom.Booth@ed.ac.uk



*Critical Analysis*  
Dr Thomas Bak  
thomas.bak@ed.ac.uk



*Research Method and Statistics 3*  
(RSM3)  
Dr Sue Widdicombe  
S.Widdicombe@ed.ac.uk



*Psychology in Action*  
Dr Alexa Morcom  
alexa.morcom@ed.ac.uk



*Mini Dissertation*  
Dr Elena Gherri  
Elena.gherri@ed.ac.uk

## Critical Analysis

- Aims:
  - facilitate critical reading and analysis of psychological research reports
  - To show how design principles and statistics are applied in psychological research, and how research is actually done
  - To encourage careful, deep consideration the value of published research studie
- **Small group Tutorial** (approx. every 2 weeks)
  - in depth discussion of a scientific paper (drawn from the 3rd year lecture courses taking place concurrently with the tutorial sessions)
  - The tutor will start each tutorial session by providing discussion points

## Psychology in Action

- Gives you an opportunity to find out how research happens in academia, place science in a real-world context, and learn skills of science communication.
- In **lectures, online self-study modules, and practical workshops** you will study the ecosystem of a project from ethics to outcomes, assess and debate the replication 'crisis' and reproducibility, and learn how to engage people in science.
- In **small groups**, you will also interview active researchers at the University and report on their work in a short piece meant for non-academic audiences.

## Mini-dissertation Information

- List of topics/supervisors now available online.
  - Complete an online preference form (top 8 potential supervisors, ranked in order of preference) by 12 noon Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- In semester 1, you will be reading the *literature, designing* the study, and starting your data collection.
- In Semester 2, you will be finishing your *data collection, analysing your data* and considering the interpretation and implications of your findings.
- 10 small group (4-7 students + supervisor) meetings (5 in S1; 5 in S2). You will be required to spend approximately two hours per week in semester one, and three hours per week in semester two, to research the literature, design the study, and successfully complete data collection, analysis and write-up of the work
- You will be able to submit your section drafts for feedback, and you will write a response to that feedback in your **final report**.
- Project teams will present their research orally at a Mini Conference with other Mini Dissertation groups. **Y3 Conference** (21<sup>st</sup> of March 2019)

## Compulsory courses – Lecture timetable

- Methodology courses run twice per week during each semester
  - S1 **RMS2**: Tues 13.10-14.00 & Wed 11.10-12
  - S2 **RMS3**: Mon & Tues 13.10-14.00
- **Psychology in action**:
  - S1 Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 10-12, Hugh Robson Lecture Theatre
  - S2 January 17<sup>th</sup> 10-12, Hugh Robson Lecture Theatre
- **Mini-Dissertation**:
  - S1 Monday 24th September, 10am-12noon, Hugh Robson Lecture Theatre
  - S2: Thursday 24th January, 10am-12noon, F21, 7 George Square
- **Critical Analysis**:
  - S1 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 11-13, Lecture Theatre 3 in Appleton Tower
  - S2 Monday 21th January 10-12, Hugh Robson Lecture Theatre

## Option courses

- Critical and Discursive Social Psychology
- Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience: Childhood
- Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience: Infancy
- Introduction to Neural Network Modelling
- Methods and Controversies in Parapsychology
- Motivation and Emotion
- Perception, Action, Cognition
- Personality Topics
- Psychological Therapies
- Thinking and Reasoning
- Critical and Discursive Social Psychology

## Your Option Module Course Organisers



Critical and discursive social psychology  
Dr Sue Widdicombe  
S.Widdicombe@ed.ac.uk



Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience: Infancy  
Dr Hugh Rabagliati  
hugh.rabagliati@ed.ac.uk



Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience: Childhood  
Dr Nicholas Chevalier  
nicolas.chevalier@ed.ac.uk



Introduction to neural network modelling  
Dr Alex Dumas  
alex.dumas@ed.ac.uk

## Your Option Module Course Organisers



Critical and discursive social psychology  
 Prof Caroline Watt  
 Caroline.Watt@ed.ac.uk



Motivation and Emotion  
 Dr Sarah Stanton  
 sarah.stanton@ed.ac.uk



Perception, Action, Cognition  
 Dr Rob McIntosh  
 r.d.mcintosh@ed.ac.uk

## Your Option Module Course Organisers



Personality Topics  
 Prof Wendy Johnson  
 wendy.johnson@ed.ac.uk



Psychological Therapies  
 Dr Mark Hoeltherhoff  
 mark.hoeltherhoff@ed.ac.uk



Thinking and reasoning  
 Dr Adam Moore  
 amoores23@staffmail.ed.ac.uk

## Option courses – Lecture timetable

Topic courses run once per week (Mon to Fri) over a semester 14.10-16.00

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Semester 1	Introduction to Neural Network Modelling	Psychological Therapies	Personality Topics	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience: Infancy	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience: Childhood
Semester 2	Perception, Cognition and Action	Methods and Controversies in Parapsychology	Motivation and Emotion	Critical and Discursive Social Psychology	Thinking and Reasoning

## British Psychological Society (BPS) Accreditation

- Over the honours years (y3+y4), students\* must take at least one course in each of the BPS core areas: Cognitive, Biological, Individual Differences (Differential), Social, Developmental
- RMS2, RMS3, & Dissertation (Y4) are required for BPS accreditation

\* Single and combined Hons

Course	BPS area(s)
Critical and Discursive Social Psychology	Social
Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience: Childhood	Developmental, Biological, Cognitive
Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience: Infancy	Developmental, Biological, Cognitive
Introduction to Neural Network Modelling	Cognitive, Biological, Developmental
Methods and Controversies in Parapsychology	Social, Individual Differences
Motivation and Emotion	Social, Cognitive, Developmental, Biological
Perception, Action, Cognition	Cognitive, Biological
Personality Topics	Individual Differences, Biological, Developmental
Psychological Therapies	Individual Differences, Social
Thinking and Reasoning	Cognitive
Critical and Discursive Social Psychology	Social

## Course registration

- Option choice forms for topic courses should have been completed over the summer.
- Some courses are capped; not all students were able to enrol on the preferred courses
  - If there are places available, Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September students on the waiting list will be selected
  - You will have the option of taking that course next year
- If you want to make changes, do this ASAP; must be finalised by the end of Week 2 for courses running this semester.

## COURSE STRUCTURE FOR DIFFERENT STUDENT GROUPS

### Single Honours Students

- RMS2 (10 credits)
- RMS3 (10 credits)
- Mini-dissertation (20 credits)
- Critical Analysis (10 credits)
- Psychology in Action (10 credits)
- + three of the option courses (60 credits)

### Combined Honours Students

- RMS2 (10 credits)
- RMS3 (10 credits)
- + One or two option courses (20-40 credits)

Check DPT for your course for details.

Generally don't take Mini-dissertation, Psychology in action or Critical analysis – emphasis on topic courses.

Generally don't cover all of BPS core in 3<sup>rd</sup> year, so some constraints on 4<sup>th</sup> year option selection.

### Intercalated 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)

See 4<sup>th</sup> year handbook or DPT for further information.

### Visiting Students

- Students select Psychology 3 courses, outside courses, Psychology 4 courses by permission



Dr Nicholas Chevalier  
nicolas.chevalier@ed.ac.uk



Prof Caroline Watt  
Caroline.Watt@ed.ac.uk

Dr Chevalier and Prof Watt  
can advise on course selections

### General Admin Staff

- Check **Y3 handbook** for assessment details (exam/coursework/both) and coursework deadlines.
- Check **LEARN** course sites and university email regularly (**every day!**) for course information.

## Coursework Word Count Policy

- Writing within a specified word limit is an important professional skill, all coursework should comply with stated word limit.

Avoid getting marked down!

## Online Submission

- All coursework marked online ☺☺
- **Turnitin** (LEARN), there will be a box to fill in as your "submission title". Type your exam number **FIRST** before the title of your work.
- **BEWARE:** A penalty for incorrect filename labelling may be enforced for the Critical Analysis course.

## Exams

- **DON'T** make any arrangements to travel away from Edinburgh until the **FINAL** exam timetable is published (in October).
- <http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/exams/exam-diets>

## Feedback on coursework and exam scripts

- Online feedback for coursework ☺☺
- Mid course assessment
- Numerous feedback opportunities, e.g. comments on coursework, exam script review session (semester 2).
- Purpose of feedback meetings is to see what led to the mark and how to improve – NOT to argue mark up!
- All Honours – level work is moderated or double marked. Marking is also reviewed by external examiners. Grounds for appeal of Honours mark are very limited. (See course handbook)

## Psychology Grading Policy – 20 point scale (for impression based marking)

Grade		Marks	Advisory adjective	Degree Class
A1	Extraordinary First	92, 100	excellent	1 <sup>st</sup>
A2	Excellent First	85	excellent	1 <sup>st</sup>
A3	First	72, 75, 78	excellent	1 <sup>st</sup>
B	Upper Second	62, 65, 68	very good	2.1
C	Lower Second	52, 55, 58	good	2.2
D	Third	42, 45, 48	adequate	3
E	Marginal Fail	32, 38	inadequate	
F	Clear Fail	25	inadequate	
G, H	Bad Fail	0, 15	inadequate	

## Psychology Grading Policy – 20 point scale

- <http://students.ppls.ed.ac.uk/assignments/psychology/markings-policy/>
- Fairer: judgement of whether work falls into a category (e.g., high 2.2 (58) vs a low 2.1 (62)) more reliable than an individual mark (e.g., 59 vs 60)
- Fewer possible marks within 1<sup>st</sup>-class and fail categories
  - Fewer 1<sup>st</sup> class marks will encourage markers to consider marks higher up on the scale for work that is really impressive!
- Mean mark, across courses, should not be affected (for every 62 which might have been a 63 there's a 68 which might have been a 67)

## Library

The Psychology Library is located in this building (ground floor)

Out-of-hours access with swipe card ↻

Worth going here before main library!



Contact our librarian, Karen Fleet (karen.fleet@ed.ac.uk), for access, information, or an introduction to the library facilities.

## Class representatives

Represent student views on the course

Visiting Students Rep sought, too!

Attend SSLC meetings (2 x semester)  
Liaise with Teaching Coordinator and Course Organiser

Training available from EUSA

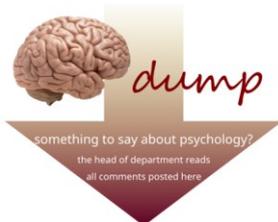
## Help us to help you!

Comments box outside of G10 teaching coordinators office (7 George Square).

Any issues that you would like to feed back (anonymously or not) please dump them there.



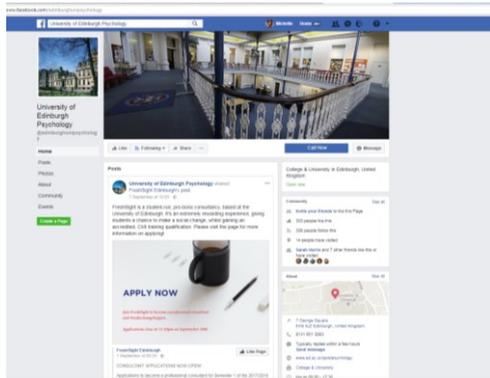
Dr Martin Corley,  
Head of Psychology  
[Martin.Corley@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Martin.Corley@ed.ac.uk)



## Year 3 Social Events

- **Semester 1**  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - basement concourse 7GS from 4-6pm  
– Come meet fellow students and staff at this catered event
- **Semester 2**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (Activity week) at 3pm  
– Transitions into honours joint social event with Y2 students

<https://www.facebook.com/edinburghunipsychology>



## VRA – Voluntary Research Assistant Programme

- If you would like to learn more about this programme, including how to apply for it, please go to the following webpage:  
<http://resource.ppls.ed.ac.uk/vra/>
- The deadline for applications is end-of-day on Friday 28th September
- Organizer: Dr Hugh Rabagliati  
[hugh.rabagliati@ed.ac.uk](mailto:hugh.rabagliati@ed.ac.uk)

**Questions?**