PSYCHOLOGY HONOURS
YEAR 4
2019-2020

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Course Organizer: Elena Gherri
elena.gherri@ed.ac.uk
Room S.41 (7GS)

Teaching Coordinator: Hannah Cornish
Room G.10 (7GS)

Course Secretary: Stephanie Fong
psynfo@ed.ac.uk
Room G.06 (DSB)

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

CAREERS TALKS

- Rebecca Valentine from the Careers Service

- Lunchtime Fridays in G32 in Semester 2

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 (27th September)
- Contact (ppls.sso@ed.ac.uk) to apply
ONLINE HANDBOOK

- Handbook materials are now online
  - Still new... Might contain bugs (let us know!)
  - FAQ
- 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

COURSE STRUCTURE - SINGLE HONOURS

- 3 Optional Courses (20 credits each)
- Tutorial Course (10 credits)
- General paper (10 credits)
- Dissertation (40 credits)

COURSE STRUCTURE - JOINT HONOURS

- 1-2 Optional Courses
- No General Paper
- For BPS accreditation, you need to
  1. choose a Dissertation in psychology
  2. make sure that your Optional courses across years 3 and 4 cover the 5 BPS core areas:
     - Social, developmental, cognitive, differential, biological
     - also RMS 2 and 3

COURSE STRUCTURE - 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, you should register for RMS2 and/or RMS3 this year.
- If you’re unsure about methodology courses, contact Nic Chevalier at (nicolas.chevalier@ed.ac.uk)
COURSE STRUCTURE - MEDICAL STUDENTS

- 3 Optional Courses (20 credits each)
- RMS 2 (10 credits)
- 10 credits, choose one from RMS 3/ Tutorial Course/ Critical Analysis/ Psychology in Action
- Dissertation (40 credits)

OPTIONAL COURSES

- 16 different Optional Courses
- Mid-course assessment
  variety of assessments, different submission deadlines:
  - S1 -> 17th - 31st October
  - S2 -> 10th - 27th February
- Final assessment
  - Some assessed by exam in December (S1 courses), others in May (S2 courses)
  - Some assessed in other ways, online submission
  - S1 -> 12th December
  - S2 -> 9th April
- Waiting list (email the Teaching Office)
- Deadline for course changes is 27th September

GENERAL PAPER

- 10 credits module, assessed by exam in May
- In the exam, you need to answer 2 essay questions on general topics in psychology
- No specific teaching for the general paper
  - but general paper topics are often covered in tutorials
- And staff members will offer a workshop on the general paper in S2
- Examples of past questions can be seen in the online exam papers (accessed via library website)
  https://exampapers.ed.ac.uk/

TUTORIAL COURSE

- 10 credits
- Small group teaching in blocks 2 and 3
- Assessment (one in each block)
  - 1000-word written work OR PowerPoint presentation OR poster
  - Assessment should be submitted via Learn, deadlines:
  - S1 -> 4th December
  - S2 -> 19th February
- You will receive an email (week 1 or 2) listing all staff members teaching on the tutorial course and you will be asked to rank your preferences
- You will have a different lecturer in block 2 and in block 3
DISSERTATION

- 40 credits
- Original Research
- Students usually work in pairs during data collection, data analysis and write-up is completed independently
- Usually structured like a research paper:
  - Introduction
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Discussion

Most projects have already been allocated, but you can still change to another if available

Deadline for finalising project (title+supervisor) is Wednesday 2nd October, 4pm

- Paper form, with supervisor’s signature
  (You will receive an email with instructions about this)

POSTER DAY - 20th November

- Make poster presentation of your dissertation
- Feedback on the design of your dissertation from staff and peers feedback (unassessed)
- Coordinator Chris Egan: c.egan@ed.ac.uk
- Talk on poster preparation: 4th October
- You can submit your poster to be printed by us (deadline TBA – watch for emails!)

FEED-BACK from your supervisor

- As your work progress, you will be asked to complete a STRUCTURED REPORT FORM (major component of dissertation feedback)
- Reports should be submitted to supervisors between week 8 of Semester 1 and week 3 of Semester 2, by mutual arrangement (5 Nov - 31 Jan; around the midpoint of your dissertation work)
- Supervisors will provide written feedback on the report and this will be supplemented by a feedback meeting where progress to date, and plans for completion and writing of the project, will be discussed
DISSERTATION

- Submission deadline: Wednesday 25th March, 4pm
- Dissertation dinner - to celebrate the final submission of your dissertation Wednesday 25th March
- The written report of your dissertation project is worth 100% of the mark
  - 2 independent markers (one is your supervisor), general feedback on your work

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/

TIMELINE FOR THIS YEAR

SEMESTER 1

- Block 1: Semester 1, Weeks 1-5 (Sep 16 – Oct 18)
  - Optional courses start
  - Start work on dissertation research
- Semester 1, Week 6: No classes
- Mid-course assessment for optional courses (between 17 and 31 Oct)
  - Great opportunity to make progress on dissertation
  - Great time to arrange notes for exams
- Block 2: Semester 1, Weeks 7-11 (Oct 28 – Nov 29)
  - Optional courses resume
  - Y4 Tutorial course (single honours)
  - Continue dissertation research
  - Submit SRF (5 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020)
  - Dissertation poster day, Nov 20
- Final assessment for Optional courses - 12 December
- Exams (9-20 December)
- Winter vacation

SEMESTER 2

- Block 3: Semester 2, Weeks 1-5 (Jan 13 – Feb 14)
  - Optional courses start
  - Y4 Tutorial course (single honours)
  - Finalise dissertation research and begin write-up
  - Submit SRF (5 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020)
  - Flexible Learning Week: 17-21 Feb
- Mid-course assessment for Optional courses (between 10 and 27 Feb)
- Block 4: Semester 2, Weeks 6-10 (24 Feb– 3 Apr)
  - Dissertation write-up and exam prep
  - Dissertation deadline (and dinner!): 25 March
  - Final assessment for Optional courses – 9 April
  - Exams (27 April – 22 May, including General Paper)
  - Late June or early July: Graduation!!
WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO - NOW

- Finalise your choice of dissertation project
- Finalise your choice of optional courses
  - Any changes to timetable
  - Requests for course changes should be directed to the course secretary, Stephanie Fong (psyinfo@ed.ac.uk)
  - Deadline for course changes is 27th September

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/edinburghuni
  - It is NOT an official communication channel, but is used to highlight events that may be of interest

STAY WELL

10 TIPS TO STAY WELL
- Move every 30 minutes
- Drink water
- Take a walk
- Reach out, help others
- Enjoy the outdoors
- See a funny creature
- Reach out before things go wrong
- Eat a piece of chocolate
- Take a bath
- Enjoy the music

Thank you for your efforts so far.