

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



The College

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

700220

2021



UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	January 2021
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Unit name	Introduction to Human Behaviour
Unit number	700220
Coordinator	Dr Mona Shrestha
Session	2021.1
Handbook summary	<p>This introductory unit provides foundational skills and knowledge required for entry to undergraduate courses (Diploma or degree) in Psychology or related disciplines. It provides students with an overview and evolution of Psychology and conventional scientific techniques and methods to explain and understand the causes of human behaviour and human personality. It also assists students in the development of academic skills commensurate with tertiary studies. Topics to be studied at an introductory level include: the history of psychology, intelligence, social psychology, psychoanalytic theories, behaviourist/learning theories, cognitive theories, sociobiological view, developmental psychology and abnormal psychology.</p>
Credit point value	<p>10</p> <p>Successful completion of this unit will not be counted for academic credit in any future studies at Western Sydney University.</p>
Prerequisite/s	N/A
Corequisite/s	N/A
Unit incompatible with and not to be counted for credit with	N/A
Assumed knowledge	N/A
Unit level	Level Z
Attendance requirements	<p>Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes. Educational research consistently demonstrates that this attendance level is associated with a high likelihood of achieving a passing grade.</p>
Enrolment restrictions	<p>Students must be enrolled at The College to enrol in this unit.</p>

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. define and explain important concepts related to the unit
 2. describe the major empirical findings or theories of the domains of psychology covered in the unit
 3. distinguish key characteristics of major theories of human behaviour
 4. demonstrate knowledge of individual differences and the influence of environmental context on behaviour
 5. develop an argument in written form and apply referencing conventions, and
 6. construct a coherent argument in oral form.
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Unit content

In this unit students will learn about:

- The history of psychology
 - Characteristics of scientific psychological research
 - Applied psychology
 - Theories of intelligence
 - The psychodynamic perspective
 - The behaviourist perspective
 - The cognitive perspective
 - Developmental psychology
 - The humanistic perspective
 - Social psychology
 - The biological perspective
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Mode of delivery

This unit consists of six hours of face-to-face teaching (two three-hour classes each week) as well as online activities via vUWS.

Online learning requirements

Essential requirements**Essential text**

- Western Sydney University The College 2019/2020, 700220 *Introduction to human behaviour textbook*, Western Sydney University The College, Quakers Hill, NSW.

Further resources

- Benson, N 2008, *Introducing psychology: a graphic guide*, Australian edn, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW.
 - Burton, LJ 2015, *Psychology*, 4th edn, John Wiley & Sons, Milton, Qld.
 - Findlay, B 2009, *How to write psychology research reports and essays*. Pearson Education Australia, Sydney.
 - Gerrig, RJ, Zimbardo, PG, Campbell, AJ, Cumming, SR & Wilkes, FJ 2009, *Psychology and life*, Australian edn, Pearson Education Australia, Sydney.
 - O'Shea, RP, Moss, SA & McKenzie, WA 2007, *Writing for psychology*, 5th edn, Thomson, South Melbourne.
 - Passer, MW & Smith, RE 2015, *Psychology: The science of Mind and Behaviour* 2nd edn, McGraw Hill, North Ryde, NSW.
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ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components:

Task	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed	Mandatory task
1. Critical thinking exercise (300 words)	5%	1, 2	Yes
2. Individual presentation PPT slides with notes (12 slides minimum)	20%	3, 6	Yes
3. Weekly online quizzes and Week 11 online quiz	15%	1–4	Yes
4. Essay (1000 words)	30%	2, 4, 6	Yes
5. Online multiple choice exam (2 hours)	30%	1–3	Yes
TOTAL	100%		

For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College [Assessment Policy](#).

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task in a unit, they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.