School of Psychology

Head of School  
Dr V. J. Brown

Degree Programmes

Single Honours Degree:  
Psychology  
Neuroscience (see Biomedical Sciences)

Joint Honours Degrees:  
Psychology and  
Art History, English, French, Geography, German, International Relations, Management, Mathematics, Mediaeval History, Modern History, Philosophy, Social Anthropology, Theological Studies.

Major Degree Programmes:  
Psychology with French, Geography or Linguistics.  
* available also as ‘with Integrated Year Abroad Degrees’

Programme Prerequisites

For all Programmes: passes at 12 or better in both PS2001 and PS2002

Programme Requirements

Single Honours Degree: At least 210 credits from PS3005 - PS3074 including PS3005, PS3021, PS3022, PS3050, PS3060 (recognized by the British Psychological Society). Students must take modules PS3006, PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010 and PS3011 in their junior Honours year.

Joint Honours Degree: PS3006, PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010 and PS3011 and up to a further 60 credits from PS3021, PS3022, and PS3005-PS3074, subject to the constraint that PS3005, PS3021, PS3022 and PS3050 must be taken for recognition of the degree by the British Psychological Society.

Major Degree Programmes:

Psychology with French: PS3006, PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010, PS3011 and a further 90 credits from PS3005-PS3074, subject to the constraint that PS3005, PS3021, PS3022 and PS3050 must be taken for recognition of the degree by the British Psychological Society.

Psychology with Geography: PS3006, PS3007, PS3008, PS3009, PS3010, PS3011 and a further 60 credits from PS3005-PS3074, subject to the constraint that PS3005, PS3021, PS3022 and PS3050 must be taken for recognition of the degree by the British Psychological Society.

In the case of students who spend part of the Honours Programme abroad on a recognized Exchange Scheme, the Programme Requirements will be amended to take into account courses taken while abroad.

Honours students are, subject to their individual programme requirements, eligible to take Feminist Theory, DI3499.

Modules

PS1001 Psychology I

Credits: 20.0  
Semester: 1

Description: This module aims (i) to provide an introduction to the theoretical foundations, historical perspectives and modern developments of psychology; (ii) to provide an introduction to the variety of subjects which make up contemporary psychology; (iii) to provide a thorough grounding in the empirical basis of psychology. Lectures comprise the principal teaching method. In addition, a specialized methodology and practical course will introduce methods of research including experimental design, analysis and interpretation of results. The skills necessary for writing research reports will be stressed. It will be assumed that entrants have no previous knowledge of psychology.

Class Hour: 12.00 noon.

Teaching: Four lectures and one 2 hour laboratory.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

Re-Assessment: 2 Hour Examination = 100%
PS1002  Psychology II
Credits: 20.0  Semester: 2

Description: This module aims (i) to provide an introduction to the theoretical foundations, historical perspectives and modern developments of psychology; (ii) to provide an introduction to the variety of subjects which make up contemporary psychology; (iii) to provide a thorough grounding in the empirical basis of psychology. The principal teaching method for PS1002 is formal lectures, with a continuation of the specialized methodology and practical courses exploring methods of research. It will be assumed that students have taken PS1001 and will therefore have some experience in methodology and writing research reports.

Class Hour: 12.00 noon.
Teaching: Four lectures and one 2 hour laboratory.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%
Re-Assessment: 2 Hour Examination = 100%

PS1505  People and Health: Behaviour and Health
Credits: 10.0  Semester: 1

Availability: Available only to students enrolled in the Medical Science Programme.

Co-requisites: Other first semester Medical Science modules

Description: This module focuses on theoretical and scientific as well as lay approaches to concepts of health and health related behaviour. Population patterns of health and risk behaviour, the assessment and explanations for these behaviours and methods of changing them will be addressed. In addition to lectures, students will gain practical experience in obtaining information about concepts of health and health behaviour from interviews in community settings and by self-observation and monitoring. Students will receive training in communication skills necessary to conduct a family interview.

Class Hour: 3.00 pm Tuesday and 3.00 pm Thursday.
Teaching: 11 lectures, 11 hours of workshops or tutorials, 11 hours of community/clinical/workbook scheduled project work.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment & Oral Examination= 50%, One-and-a-half Hour Examination = 50%
Re-Assessment: One-and-a-half Hour Examination & Oral Examination = 100%

PS1506  People and Health: Stress and Coping
Credits: 10.0  Semester: 2

Availability: Available only to students enrolled in the Medical Science Programme.

Co-requisites: Other first semester Medical Science modules

Description: This module focuses on theoretical and scientific approaches to stress and coping. Definition and measurement of stress and coping, situational/contextual and personality influences, the relationship between stress and disease, stress and mental health, psychophysiological responses and stress management will be addressed. In addition to lectures, students will gain practical experience in obtaining information about stress and coping from interviews in community settings. Students will receive training in communication skills necessary to conduct a family interview.

Class Hour: 3.00 pm Tuesday and 3.00 pm Thursday.
Teaching: 11 lectures, 11 hours of workshops or tutorials, 11 hours of community/clinical/workbook scheduled project work.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment & Oral Examination= 50%, One-and-a-half Hour Examination = 50%
Re-Assessment: One-and-a-half Hour Examination & Oral Examination = 100%

PS2001  Psychology I
Psychology - 2000 Level modules

PS2001 Psychology I
Credits: 30.0 Semester: 1
Prerequisites: PS1001 and PS1002
Description: This module uses PS1001 and PS1002 as the foundation for a more advanced treatment of a number of areas in psychology. In this way, and in conjunction with PS2002, it forms a sound preparation for Honours Psychology. It also provides greater depth of understanding of psychology for those who are taking the module as part of a more general course. Module PS2001 involves advanced treatment of the following areas of psychology, complementing PS2002: the relations between brain and behaviour; cognition; perception; comparative aspects of behaviour; social and health psychology. It also contains a methodology component covering laboratory and field techniques; no methodological grounding beyond PS1002 will be assumed.

Class Hour: 10.00 am
Teaching: Four lectures, one 3 hour laboratory and course-related tutorials.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 3 Hour Examination = 75%
Re-Assessment: 3 Hour Examination = 100%

PS2002 Psychology II
Credits: 30.0 Semester: 2
Prerequisites: PS1001 and PS1002
Description: This module uses PS1001 and PS1002 as the foundation for a more advanced treatment of a number of areas in psychology and extends the range of teaching available in PS2001 to complete the preparation for Honours Psychology. It also provides greater depth of understanding of psychology for those who are taking the module as part of a more general course. Module PS2002 involves advanced treatment of the following areas of psychology, complementing PS2001: the relations between brain and behaviour; cognition; perception; comparative aspects of behaviour; social and health psychology. It also contains a methodology component covering laboratory and field techniques; grounding in the methodological skills of PS2001 will be assumed.

Class Hour: 10.00 am
Teaching: Four lectures, one 3 hour laboratory and course-related tutorials.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 3 Hour Examination = 75%
Re-Assessment: 3 Hour Examination = 100%

PS2505 People and Healthcare: Becoming ill and seeking medical treatment
Credits: 10.0 Semester: 1
Availability: Available only to students enrolled in the Medical Science Programme.
Prerequisites: PS1505, PS1506
Description: This module focuses on theoretical and scientific approaches to symptom perception and reporting and to factors affecting use of health services. Perceptual and decision processes, self-regulatory mechanisms, illness behaviour, self-care, social factors in seeking healthcare, pain and pain management will be addressed. In addition to lectures, students will gain practical experience in obtaining information about symptom reporting and decision making about consulting doctors from interviews in community settings and by self-observation. Students will receive further training in communication skills necessary to conduct a family interview.

Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: 11 lectures, 11 hours of workshops or tutorials, 11 hours of community/clinical/workbook scheduled project work.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment & Oral Examination= 50%, One-and-a-half Hour Examination = 50%
Re-Assessment: One-and-a-half Hour Examination & Oral Examination = 100%

PS2506 People and Healthcare: Interactions with healthcare
Psychology - 2000 & 3000 Level modules

Credit: 10.0  Semester: 2
Availability: Available only to students enrolled in the Medical Science Programme.
Prerequisites: PS1505, PS1506
Description: This module focuses on theoretical and scientific approaches to the process of healthcare delivery and its impact on those delivering and receiving healthcare. Doctor-patient communication, social interaction, the experience of hospitals, stress and healthcare, communications with special populations will be addressed. In addition to lectures, students will gain practical experience in obtaining information about patients’ preferences and satisfaction in primary care and hospital settings. Students will receive further training in communication skills and will be trained to evaluate communication processes in healthcare delivery.

Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: 11 lectures, 11 hours of workshops or tutorials, 11 hours of community/clinical/workbook scheduled project work.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment & Oral Examination = 50%, One-and-a-half Hour Examination = 50%
Re-Assessment: One-and-a-half Hour Examination & Oral Examination = 100%

PS2507 People and Chronic Disease

Credit: 10.0  Semester: 2
Availability: Available only to students enrolled in the Medical Sciences Programme.
Prerequisites: PS1505, PS1506, PS2505, PS2506
Description: This module focuses on theoretical and scientific approaches to psychological and social aspects of chronic illness. Psychological and social changes resulting from illness, coping and responses by patients and carers, physical disability, neuropsychological and psychological disorders will be addressed. In addition to lectures, students will gain practical experience in obtaining information about patients’ and carers’ experiences and evaluating outcomes of chronic illness. Students will receive further training in communication skills and will be trained to evaluate psychological and social outcomes of chronic illness.

Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: 11 lectures, 11 hours of workshops or tutorials, 11 hours of community/clinical/workbook scheduled project work.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, One-and-a-half Hour Examination = 50%
Re-Assessment: One-and-a-half Hour Examination and Oral Examination = 100%

The prerequisite for each of the following Honours modules is entry to the Honours Programme(s) for which they are specified, save where a specific prerequisite is given.

PS3005 Psychology Review

Credit: 10.0  Semester: Whole Year
Co-requisite: PS3021 and PS3022.
Description: This module will foster the abilities needed to search, collate and integrate an extensive area of psychological literature. Emphasis will be placed on analytical and methodological issues, and this module therefore complements PS3021 and PS3022. A systematic approach to the analysis of a specific body of literature will be encouraged. Students will be able to adopt a suitable, by negotiation with their supervisor. Supervision will be given to aid students in the collation, planning and organisational phases of their work. The review will be limited to 5,000 words.
Assessment: Review = 100%

PS3006 Perception, Cognition and Action I
Psychology - 3000 Level modules

PS3007 Perception, Cognition and Action II

Credits: 15.0  Semester: 2
Prerequisite: PS3006

Description: This module is designed to complement PS3006 in developing skills required to analyse human behaviour in addition to providing an opportunity for students to develop familiarity with computational modeling and its application to the principles of sensory coding. Stress will be laid on the integration of findings from physiology, neuropsychology, anatomy, psychophysics and cognition. The major areas covered will include the empirical study of perception, memory and action; theories of human vision and their application to understanding the nature of visual defects; the ability to perceive distinct visual properties (e.g. object motion, size, distance and identity) with emphasis given to specialised brain systems and coding at the level of brain cells.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am Wednesday and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Monday.
Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3008 Brain, Behaviour and Health I

Credits: 15.0  Semester: 1
Prerequisites: Available only to students in the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to provide an understanding of psychological knowledge in several inter-related domains concerned with (i) the biological bases of mental health; (ii) the relationships between psychological theory and treatment; (iii) psychological factors in health and illness. In all cases emphasis will be laid on the relationship between basic experimental science and its applicability in practical settings, and the relationship between cognitive, emotional, behavioural, neurological and physiological processes will be examined.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am Tuesday and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Tuesday.
Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3009 Brain, Behaviour and Health II

Credits: 15.0  Semester: 2
Prerequisite: PS3008

Description: This module is designed to further understanding developed in PS3008. The module aims to provide an understanding of psychological knowledge in several inter-related domains concerned with (i) the biological bases of mental health; (ii) the relationships between psychological theory and treatment; (iii) psychological factors in health and illness. In all cases emphasis will be laid on the relationship between basic experimental science and its applicability in practical settings, and the relationship between cognitive, emotional, behavioural, neurological and physiological processes will be examined.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am Tuesday and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Tuesday.
Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3010 Social and Evolutionary Psychology I
Psychology - 3000 Level modules

PS3011 Social and Evolutionary Psychology II

Credits: 15.0  Semester: 2
Prerequisite: PS3010

Description: This module is designed to further understanding developed by PS3010. This module aims to provide an understanding of psychological knowledge at large-scale levels of analysis. Thus the module includes such topics as: (i) psychological processes operating at whole individual, inter-individual and inter-group levels, (ii) the social, evolutionary and developmental influences in the acquisition of skills and knowledge, (iii) how individuals exist in society and the social influences on individual, (iv) the impact of evolution, individual history and history of inter-group relations on the development of psychological processes, (v) social and cognitive evolution of thought processes, (vi) the relationship between communication and cognition.

Class Hour: 9.00 - 11.00 am Thursday and 2.00 - 5.00 pm Thursday.
Teaching: One 2 hour lecture and one 3 hour laboratory class or seminar
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3021 Research Design and Analysis I

Credits: 10.0  Semester: 1
Prerequisite: Available only to students in the Honours Programme.

Description: This module is designed to provide a basic understanding of research design and statistics that will provide the foundations for independent empirical research and critical analysis required in the final year of the Honours programme. Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of design and analysis skills and an understanding of the underlying philosophy that guides research. The syllabus will include core aspects such as ethical issues in research, basic statistics, technical writing and the use of statistical packages.

Class Hour: 10.00 am Friday and 2.00 - 4.00 pm Friday.
Teaching: One lecture and one 2 hour laboratory class or seminar.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, 2 Hour Examination = 60%

PS3022 Research Design and Analysis 2

Credits: 10.0  Semester: 2
Prerequisite: PS3021

Description: This module is designed to provide a more advanced understanding of research design and statistics. Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of analytical skills covering typical research situations encountered in the behavioural sciences. The syllabus will include advanced analysis of variance, multivariate statistics and non-parametric statistics, as well as training in computerised data analysis and presentation.

Class Hour: 10.00 am Friday and 2.00 - 4.00 pm Friday.
Teaching: One lecture and one 2 hour laboratory class or seminar.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, 2 Hour Examination = 60%

PS3050 Psychology Project
Prerequisites: PS3005, PS3021 and PS3022

Description: The aim of the project is to develop and foster the skills of experimental design, appropriate research management and statistical analysis. A wide choice of topics is possible, but the skills developed in modules PS3021, PS3022 and PS3005 are an essential preparation. The empirical part of the project may be conducted with another student, to allow greater research scope and the choice of more realistic problems, but all analysis and report-writing must be carried out individually. Topics range over all areas of psychology under active investigation in the School, and effort is made to arrange for students to work in one of their preferred areas.

Assessment: 6,000 word Project = 100%

**PS3060 Review Essay**

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1 or 2

Prerequisite: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: In this module candidates will choose a title from a range of topics and questions and write an unsupervised review essay addressing it. Titles will be designed to allow candidates both to tackle an issue of current active interest in psychology and to display their ability to appreciate links between material from different areas of psychological enquiry.

Teaching: This is an unsupervised assignment

Assessment: 5,000 Word Dissertation = 100%

**PS3061 Evolution and Development of Mind**

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop an advanced understanding of topics that have been subjected to intensive research in recent years concerning the evolution and development of social cognition. Seminars will focus on such topics as theory of mind, co-operation and conflict, social learning and culture. Teaching will be based on seminars in which class members will be expected to play an active part, contributing on the basis of their own extensive reading. Emphasis will be placed on development of the skill of critical evaluation of research reports, and those skills necessary for designing future research programmes.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

**PS3062 Cognitive Development**

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: The purpose of this module is to use the study of cognitive development as a tool for discussing basic issues of cognitive science, such as the nature and acquisition of knowledge, the distinction between social and physical cognition, domain general and domain specific conceptions of the mind, implicit and explicit knowledge, etc. Atypical cases of cognitive development (e.g. Autism, Williams syndrome) and/or cognitive development in other species (e.g. non-human primates) are discussed as a source of insight for understanding the mechanisms of basic cognitive processes such as communication, theory of mind, executive function etc. The module is based on seminar discussions of selected readings.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

**PS3064 Working Memory**
Psychology - 3000 Level modules

PS3065 Visual Perception

Credits: 15.0
Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module will include lectures and seminars in which class members will be expected to play an active part, contributing on the basis of their own extensive reading and reviewing of research papers. The aim of the module is to develop an advanced understanding of visual recognition and its functions. Emphasis will be placed on development of the skill of critical evaluation of evidence and theory. Topics will be selected from those of particular current interest in visual processing (e.g. information conveyed by the face). The module emphasises the biological underpinnings of perception and will draw on evidence from a variety of experimental methods (e.g. neuroscience and psychophysics).

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.
Teaching: Two seminar hours
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3066 Neural Modelling

Credits: 15.0
Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop an understanding of some of the fundamental principles of brain function in terms of the information processing involved in psychological phenomena and working models of specific neural circuits in the brain. Teaching will be based on seminars in which class members will be expected to play an active part, contributing on the basis of their extensive reading. Emphasis will be placed on developing the skill of critical evaluation of research reports, and those skills necessary for going beyond current topics into future directions of research. There will be some flexibility on the choice of topics to be covered by the seminars, but they may include some of the following topics: models of processes involved in perception, memory, neural organisation (e.g. neural maps), the representation of information and knowledge (e.g. neural coding and decoding) and models of cognitive processes.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.
Teaching: Two seminar hours
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3068 Health and Behaviour
Credits: 15.0  
Semester: 1  
Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop an understanding of a topic that has been subjected to intensive research in recent years: the extent to which behaviour influences and is influenced by health and healthcare. Teaching will be based on seminars in which class members will be expected to play an active part, contributing on the basis of their own extensive reading. Emphasis will be placed on development of the skill of critical evaluation of research reports, and those skills necessary for going beyond current topics into future directions of research. Seminars will focus on such topics as: behaviour as risk factors for disease, theories of health behaviour, behaviour in the delivery of health care, behaviour as an outcome of healthcare and changing health and healthcare relevant behaviour.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3069 Group Behaviour

Credits: 15.0  
Semester: 2  
Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop an advanced understanding of selected topics relating to the psychology of groups and collective behaviour. It will address how behaviour is affected by the group context and examine the psychological mechanisms which shape how people act as group members. Teaching will be seminar based and students will be expected to read independently and contribute actively to sessions. Emphasis will be placed on the development of critical skills and the ability to relate individual studies and theories to broader conceptual debates in social psychology. More detailed course content will be announced in advance of student choices.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3071 Behavioural Neuroscience

Credits: 15.0  
Semester: 1  
Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: The overall aim of this module is to allow students access to current research in the area of behavioural neuroscience. Possible topics include motivation, learning and attention. Past themes explored in the module include: the relationship between ‘normal’ learning and addiction; the transition from goal-directed action to stimulus-response habit; the neural basis of compulsive gambling; the efficacy of biological treatments of addiction; and the behavioural and neural effects of MDMA (‘ecstasy’). Results from both human and animal research will be considered in parallel, with examples of papers ranging from molecular neuroscience to neuropsychology. The format of the course will include lectures (which are designed to provide the students with the background necessary to read research articles); guided seminars and student presentations summarising research articles. In order to maximise the benefits of the students presentations, each student will meet with the lecturer at least twice to discuss the topic and content of their talk.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminar hours

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3073 Neuropsychology, Health and Disease

Credits: 15.0  
Semester: 2

Psychology - 3000 Level modules
Psychology - 3000 Level modules

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop an advanced understanding of brain-behaviour relationships in relation to health and disease. Teaching will be based on seminars in which class members will be expected to play an active part (individual presentations followed by class discussion), based on reading and critical evaluation of original material. Emphasis will be placed on the development of the skill of critical evaluation of research reports, with a particular focus on the clinical significance of such research. Overall, the purpose of the module is to involve participants in discussion and debate on the importance of neuropsychological factors in a variety of clinical disorders and their treatment.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.
Teaching: Two seminar hours
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%

PS3074 Cognitive Psychology and the Emotional Disorders

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisites: Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme.

Description: This module is designed to demonstrate how theories from cognitive psychology can enhance our understanding of the emotional disorders. Teaching will be based on individual seminar presentations followed by class discussion. In the presentations students will be expected to review and critically evaluate original research. Seminars will focus on topics such as autobiographical memory and depression, autobiographical memory and anxiety, attentional bias in depression and anxiety, and interpretative biases in depression and anxiety. At the end of the seminar series, students should understand how depression and anxiety can be differentiated on the basis of these biases.

Class Hour: 9.00 am or 11.00 am, to be arranged.
Teaching: Two seminar hours
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, 2 Hour Examination = 75%