School of Psychology & Neuroscience  
2016-2017  
Module Controller:  
Dr Reiner Sprengelmeyer  
rhs3@st-andrews.ac.uk
Deadline and timelines to remember

- In the second week of semester 1 arrange a meeting with your allocated supervisor to discuss a suitable essay topic.
- By end of November, after having read and digested the core literature for your essay, hand a structured outline of the essay to your supervisor for comments.
- At the end of the first teaching week in semester 2, hand a final draft of the essay to your supervisor for comments – you will get the commented draft back within a week – that leaves one further week for alterations.
- Deadline for the essay: 5 pm, 10th of February 2017. Upload a digital copy (word file) to MMS. The essay must have the title, Module code PS4040, and only your MATRICULATION NUMBER, not your name, on the front cover, nor should your name appear anywhere within the text. At the end of this handbook you will find 2 marking forms – these must be attached to the essay when you upload it to MMS.

Aim

The aim of PS4040 (10 credit module) in relation to the essay is for students to develop the ability to critically analyse and review current thinking in an area of psychology by reading, digesting, critically evaluating and synthesizing the evidence of the chosen topic. Students should consider both the theoretical significance and the real world relevance of the work they examine.

Allocation of supervisors

PS4040 Students are allocated to supervisors in the School of Psychology and Neuroscience after advising and will be informed about their supervisor at the end of teaching week one. Unfortunately, the allocation system does not allow allocation of students to specific or preferred supervisors.

Choice of essay topic

Important: The Essay topics can be selected on students own interests unrelated to the specific field of expertise of the allocated supervisor.

Supervision

Your supervisor will devote up to 3 hours for individual supervision of your essay, so you have plenty of opportunity for longer discussions or simply to drop by for a moment to clarify some aspects related to the essay. The supervisor will also give advice on practical aspects of essay writing, how to best structure the essay, and the best ways to find suitable background literature.

Objectives

1. For students to develop their skills in conducting literature searches using the university’s library and electronic database facilities
2. For students to develop their skills in reading, digesting and critically evaluating psychological research articles
3. To familiarize students with the ways in which psychological concepts, theories and research are described and presented
4. To enable students to identify and extract key elements of written reports of
psychological research

5. For students to develop their skills in writing about psychological concepts, theories, and data.

Word processing
The essay should be presented as follows:
A title page stating the title of the work, students matriculation number, and the module number. There is a **4000 word limit to the review essay, this includes the mandatory abstract with maximal 250 words, in text citations [please use the APA system] figure legends, and table legends. The word count does NOT include title, and tables, figures, reference list at the end of the essay, and appendices.**
The default formatting is: **type font Arial at 12 points; line spacing at 1 ½; with Margins of 1”**. Please make use of meaningful headings and sub-headings. Footnotes should be avoided.

Assessment
The essay is marked on a 20 point scale by your supervisor as the first marker and an independent second marker. At the end of this handbook you will find the grading criteria.

Penalties
For any word overlength up to 5% (1 to 200 words in our case) a mark will be deducted, then a mark for every further 5% (201 to 400, 401 to 600, and so on). Late submission will be punished by 1 mark deduction per day.

Plagiarism
You should be reading original scientific papers and review articles as your primary source material. When you read a paper, make careful notes on its content including the exact bibliographic reference. At this stage MAKE SURE that you distinguish between any exact quotes, and notes written in your own words. It is ESSENTIAL that you avoid plagiarism when you write your essay, and one way that plagiarism might happen “by accident” is by forgetting which statements are actually quotes, and which are your own summaries of a research article. **For more details about plagiarism, see the Honours Handbook at the school website.**

Extensions
Extensions are granted under exceptional circumstances, these are longlasting illnesses (a flue or an upset stomach on the last 3 days before the deadline are not sufficient, this simply shows bad time management. Please keep this in mind when you allocate time to your essay). For illnesses, you may be asked for medical documentation.
When asking for an extension, please use the online form on the school website. Please note, that your supervisor can not give an extension – this is done via a central process.
This sheet is for guidance for markers to enhance consistency in evaluations. It is not intended to indicate an overall grade by application of weighted averages – sections will be weighted differently in the final determination of the overall grade, and furthermore this weighting might vary according to the nature of the specific project.
*In some cases, the nature and extent of plagiarism will not merely attract a failing grade, but will also require referral to the Academic Disciplinary Process.

**PS4040: Junior Honours Psychology Review**

Supervisor ........................................................Student ID ........................................... 

Date Submitted ..............................................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content (including use of sources)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referencing</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factual Accuracy</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation and Coherence</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precision of Expression</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Evaluation</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Comments</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Overall Mark ............................................................................................................ 1st Marker’s Initials

2nd Marker’s Initials

1 copy to be completed by each marker