REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY
(BPsych)

These regulations apply to students admitted to the BPsych curriculum in the academic year 2023-2024 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)

Definitions

P1[1] In these Regulations, and in the Syllabuses for the degree of BPsych, unless the context otherwise requires
'Course' means a course of study, with a credit value expressed as a number of credit-units as specified in the syllabus.
'Credits' means the value assigned to each course to indicate its study load relative to the total load under a degree curriculum. The study load refers to the hours of student learning activities and experiences, both within and outside the classrooms, and includes contact hours and time spent on assessment tasks and examinations.
'Pre-requisite' means a course or a group of courses which candidates must have completed successfully or a requirement which candidates must have fulfilled before being permitted to take the course in question.

Admission to the degree

P2 To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Psychology, candidates shall
(a) comply with the General Regulations;
(b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
(c) complete the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow.

Period of study

P3 The curriculum shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years.

Completion of the curriculum

P4
(a) Candidates shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG 5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula[2].
(b) Candidates shall complete not fewer than 240 credits of courses.

---

[1] This regulation should be read in conjunction with UG 1 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.
[2] Specific requirements are spelt out in the syllabuses.

(c) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty, or except in the final semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirements may be fewer than 24 credits.

(d) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits for the normative period of study specified in P3, save as provided for under P4(e).

(e) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in P3.

(f) Candidates shall normally enrol in not more than 108 credits of introductory courses in the first three years of study.

(g) Candidates shall not enrol in any introductory courses in the final year of study (except Common Core courses and Chinese Language Enhancement course).

(h) Candidates shall successfully complete not fewer than 84 credits of courses for the major in Psychology including 6 credits of social sciences pre-requisite course, 48 credits of core courses, 18 credits of disciplinary electives and 12 credits of capstone experience requirement.

(i) Candidates shall undertake 24 credits of off-campus experiential learning for the Faculty's Social Innovation and Global Citizenship requirements.

Selection of Courses

P5 Candidates who wish to change their selection of courses at the beginning of each semester may do so up to 2 weeks after the commencement of the semester. Requests for changes beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons accepted by the Faculty Board, and candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.

Assessment

P6 Candidates shall be assessed in each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG 8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

P7 Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner

(a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or

(b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
(c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
(d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

P8 Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

Discontinuation of studies

P9 Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
(a) failed to complete 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
(b) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
(c) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in P3.

Absence from examination

P10 Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at the written examinations of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the first semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall normally be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

Advanced standing

P11 Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the University in accordance with UG 2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Credits granted for advanced standing will not be included in the calculation of the GPA but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

Credit transfer

P12 Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. Subject to Regulation P11, the number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the

University.

Award of the degree

P13 To be eligible for award of the degree of BPsych, candidates shall have:
(a) achieved a Graduation GPA of 1.00 or above;
(b) passed a minimum of 240 credits; and
(c) satisfied the requirements in UG 5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

Honours classification

P14

(a) Honours classification shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Graduation GPA scores (GGPA), with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values[3]:

Class of honours	*GGPA range*
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

(b) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Graduation GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Graduation GPA falls below the range stipulated in P14(a) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.

(c) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty noticeboards.

[3] For students in the 2017-18 intake and thereafter who have successfully completed six Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all four Areas of Inquiry), or all six courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

I. OBJECTIVES

This programme aims to

- allow students to develop basic skills across all areas of Psychology, including the biological and cognitive bases of behaviour, developmental changes, social influences, and contemporary issues, to enhance their learning and career development in the area of Psychology;
- provide students with training in statistical and research methods that are essential for the implementation and consumption of research in Psychology;
- develop skills in critical analysis, reasoning, and self-reflection;
- provide students opportunities for tackling novel problems, and give them experience of addressing issues that are ill-defined; and
- be an internationally-recognized qualification in fundamental aspects of Psychology that allows students to pursue both professional training in applied aspects of Psychology (e.g. Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology) and advanced research training in all related research area of Psychology including Cognitive Science and Neuroscience.

II. CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS AND STRUCTURE

The regulations specify the requirements with which candidates have to comply for completion of the BPsych degree curriculum. Further details of the requirements are given in the syllabuses. Candidates shall complete not fewer than 240 credits. They shall enrol in not fewer than 24 and not more than 30 credits of courses for each semester other than the final semester as specified in P4. The normal semester load is 30 credits.

Candidates must successfully complete:

Components	Course Level*	No. of credits
A. University Requirements		
i. Core University English course	Introductory	6
ii. English in the Discipline course	Advanced	6
iii. Chinese Enhancement course	Introductory	6
iv. Common Core courses	Introductory	36
v. Non-credit bearing course(s) as required	-	-
B. Major in Psychology		
i. Introductory disciplinary courses	Introductory	12
ii. Pre-requisite course	Introductory	6
iii. Advanced disciplinary core courses	Advanced	36
iv. Advanced disciplinary elective courses	Advanced	18
v. Capstone requirement	Advanced	12
C. Social Innovation and Global Citizenship	Advanced	24
D. Another major / minor(s) / Free electives	Advanced/ Introductory	78
	Total:	**240**

** Students should take special attention to Regulations P4(f) and (g) regarding the course level requirements of the curriculum.*

A. University requirements (Regulation UG 5)

Candidates are required to complete successfully the courses as prescribed in Regulation UG 5 "Requirements for Graduation" of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

1. Non-credit bearing course(s)

Candidates are required to successfully complete any other non-credit bearing course(s) as required by the University.

2. Introductory courses

a) Language enhancement courses

CAES1000.	Core University English	(6 credits)

[Students who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from this requirement, and Core University English is optional. Those who do not take this course should take an elective course in lieu, see Regulation UG6.]

CSSC9001.	Practical Chinese for Social Sciences Students	(6 credits)
OR		
CUND9002.	Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society (for Putonghua Speaking Students)	(6 credits)
OR		
CUND9003.	Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students (for Putonghua Speaking Students)	(6 credits)

Candidates who have not studied the Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language enhancement course may apply for exemption and take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese (especially for international and exchange students), or take an elective course in lieu.

b) Common core courses

Candidates are required to complete 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum within the first three years of studies, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits.	(36 credits)

3. Advanced courses

Language enhancement courses

Take one of the following English in the Discipline courses[#] (6 credits)

CAES9921. Great Speeches: Rhetoric and Delivery
CAES9922. Language, Genre and Reports
CAES9923. Writing Psychology: Text and Context
CAES9930. Research Writing in the Social Sciences

[#] *Candidates declaring double Majors can, if they fail in the ED course for one of the Majors, either (i) re-take and successfully complete that failed ED course, or (ii) successfully complete the ED course for the other Major which is finally and successfully declared, irrespective of whether the Major is offered within or outside of the candidates' home Faculty.*

B. Major in Psychology

Candidates are required to complete not fewer than 84 credits of the following courses:

1. Introductory courses

a) Disciplinary courses

PSYC1001.	Introduction to psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC1004.	Introduction to quantitative methods in psychology	(6 credits)

b) Pre-requisite course

One pre-requisite course from the following five units : (6 credits)
Faculty of Social Sciences
Geography
Politics and Public Administration
Social Work and Social Administration
Sociology

2. Advanced courses

c) Advanced disciplinary core courses

PSYC2060.	Research and quantitative methods in psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC2009.	Life-span developmental psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC2019.	Psychology of personality	(6 credits)
PSYC2020.	Fundamentals of social psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC2022.	Biological psychology	(6 credits)

AND

Either ONE from the following:

PSYC2007.	Cognitive psychology	(6 credits)

PSYC2051. Perception (6 credits)

d) Advanced disciplinary elective courses (18 credits)

e) Capstone requirement (12 credits)

Option One:
ONE Advanced Lab course from the following:
PSYC3051. Advanced personality psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3052. Advanced social psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3053. Advanced research in industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3054. Human neuropsychology (6 credits)
PSYC3061. Advanced issues in perception (6 credits)
PSYC3064. Advanced developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3068. Advanced cognitive psychology (6 credits)
AND
ONE experiential learning project from the following:
PSYC4010. Experiential learning project I (6 credits)
PSYC4011. Experiential learning project II (6 credits)

OR
Option Two:
Either ONE empirical research project from the following:
PSYC4007. Independent study in psychology (12 credits)
PSYC4008. Thesis in psychology (12 credits)
PSYC4009. Interdisciplinary thesis in psychology (12 credits)

Course lists for Major in Psychology (BPsych students)

Introductory Courses
PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)
PSYC1004. Introduction to quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)

Advanced Courses
Clinical applications
PSYC2002. Psychological testing and measurement (6 credits)
PSYC2005. Introduction to counselling and therapeutic psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2062. Introduction to psychopathology (6 credits)
PSYC2074. Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (6 credits)
PSYC3054. Human neuropsychology (6 credits)

Cognitive science
PSYC2007. Cognitive psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2022. Biological psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2051. Perception (6 credits)
PSYC2066. Foundations of cognitive science (6 credits)
PSYC2067. Seminars in cognitive science (6 credits)
PSYC3061. Advanced issues in perception (6 credits)

PSYC3068. Advanced cognitive psychology (6 credits)

Neuroscience
PSYC2101. Foundations of neuroscience I (6 credits)
PSYC2102. Seminar in neuroscience (6 credits)
PSYC2103. Foundations of neuroscience II (6 credits)
PSYC2110. Developmental neuroscience (6 credits)
PSYC2111. Neurobiological basis of psychological issues (6 credits)
PSYC2113. Introduction to brain imaging (6 credits)

Educational and developmental psychology
PSYC2002. Psychological testing and measurement (6 credits)
PSYC2009. Life-span developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2035. Introduction to educational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2038. Psychology of language (6 credits)
PSYC2059. Current issues in applied developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3064. Advanced developmental psychology (6 credits)

Social, health, and industrial/organizational psychology
PSYC2019. Psychology of personality (6 credits)
PSYC2020. Fundamentals of social psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2063. Industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2065. Health psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2071. Judgments and decision making (6 credits)
PSYC3051. Advanced personality psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3052. Advanced social psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3053. Advanced research in industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)

Research and quantitative methods
PSYC2060. Research and quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2061. Advanced quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2072. Research internship in psychology I (6 credits)
PSYC2073. Research internship in psychology II (6 credits)

Other contemporary issues
PSYC2010. History and issues in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2036. Special topics in psychology (6 credits)

Final year research/experiential learning project
PSYC4007. Independent study in psychology (12 credits)
PSYC4008. Thesis in psychology (12 credits)
PSYC4009. Interdisciplinary thesis in psychology (12 credits)
PSYC4010. Experiential learning project I (6 credits)
PSYC4011. Experiential learning project II (6 credits)

C. **Social Innovation and Global Citizenship (24 credits)**

Students are required to undertake 24 credits of off-campus learning under the twin themes Social Innovation and Global Citizenship as a condition of graduation.

To fulfil the Social Innovation requirement, candidates must complete FOSS2018 or PSYC2075.

To fulfil Global Citizenship requirement, candidates must either complete FOSS2019 or a combination of two 6-credit endorsed experiential learning courses, or undertake 12 credits of advanced courses on exchange study or on an overseas summer programme approved by the Faculty. Candidates may complete a maximum of 30 credits of experiential learning (internship) during their studies.

FOSS2018.	Social Innovation internship (12 credits)
FOSS2019.	Global Citizenship internship (12 credits)
FOSS2022.	Global intensive learning programme (6 credits)
FOSS2023.	Global Social Impact lab (6 credits)
PSYC2075.	Field placement (12 credits)

D. Another major / minor(s) / free electives

Besides fulfilling the above requirements, i.e. (A) University Requirements and (B) Major in Psychology Requirement, candidates should complete additional courses to fulfil the total credit requirement for graduation. These courses can be used to fulfil requirements for another major or minor. Another major is defined as completing successfully not fewer than 72 of courses in a particular programme including all pre-requisites unless otherwise specified.

A minor is defined as completing not fewer than 36 credits of courses in a particular programme including all pre-requisites unless otherwise specified. Candidates may opt for another major or minor offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences or other Faculties.

For free elective courses, candidates could take free elective courses offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences or other Faculties.

(For detailed requirements of another major, minors, free electives and course description, please refer to the syllabuses of the respective programmes.)

Major in Psychology (for non-BPsych students)

Programme structure

Requirements		Course-level	No. of credits
i.	Introductory disciplinary courses	Introductory	12
ii.	Pre-requisite courses	Introductory	12
iii.	Advanced disciplinary core courses	Advanced	36
iv.	Advanced disciplinary elective courses	Advanced	6
v.	Capstone requirement	Advanced	6
		Total	**72**

Candidates are required to complete not fewer than 72 credits of the following courses:

1. Introductory courses

a) Disciplinary courses

PSYC1001.	Introduction to psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC1004.	Introduction to quantitative methods in psychology	(6 credits)

b) Pre-requisite courses

Two pre-requisite courses from the following five units, but not more than one from a single unit: (12 credits)

Faculty of Social Sciences
Geography
Politics and Public Administration
Social Work and Social Administration
Sociology

2. Advanced courses

c) Advanced disciplinary core courses

PSYC2060.	Research and quantitative methods in psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC2009.	Life-span developmental psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC2019.	Psychology of personality	(6 credits)
PSYC2020.	Fundamentals of social psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC2022.	Biological psychology	(6 credits)

AND

Either ONE from the following:

PSYC2007.	Cognitive psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC2051.	Perception	(6 credits)

d) Advanced disciplinary elective courses (6 credits)

e) Capstone requirement (6 credits)

ONE Advanced Lab course from the following:

PSYC3051.	Advanced personality psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC3052.	Advanced social psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC3053.	Advanced research in industrial/organizational psychology	(6 credits)
PSYC3054.	Human neuropsychology	(6 credits)
PSYC3061.	Advanced issues in perception	(6 credits)
PSYC3064.	Advanced developmental psychology	(6 credits)

PSYC3068. Advanced cognitive psychology (6 credits)

Course lists for Major in Psychology (non-BPsych students)

Introductory Courses
PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)
PSYC1004. Introduction to quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)

Advanced Courses
PSYC2002. Psychological testing and measurement (6 credits)
PSYC2005. Introduction to counselling and therapeutic psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2007. Cognitive psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2009. Life-span developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2010. History and issues in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2019. Psychology of personality (6 credits)
PSYC2020. Fundamentals of social psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2022. Biological psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2035. Introduction to educational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2036. Special topics in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2038. Psychology of language (6 credits)
PSYC2051. Perception (6 credits)
PSYC2059. Current issues in applied developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2060. Research and quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2062. Introduction to psychopathology (6 credits)
PSYC2063. Industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2065. Health psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2066. Foundations of cognitive science (6 credits)
PSYC2067. Seminars in cognitive science (6 credits)
PSYC2071. Judgments and decision making (6 credits)
PSYC2072. Research internship in psychology I (6 credits)
PSYC2073. Research internship in psychology II (6 credits)
PSYC2074. Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (6 credits)
PSYC2101. Foundations of neuroscience I (6 credits)
PSYC2102. Seminar in neuroscience (6 credits)
PSYC2103. Foundations of neuroscience II (6 credits)
PSYC2110. Developmental neuroscience (6 credits)
PSYC2111. Neurobiological basis of psychological issues (6 credits)
PSYC2113. Introduction to brain imaging (6 credits)
PSYC3051. Advanced personality psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3052. Advanced social psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3053. Advanced research in industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3054. Human neuropsychology (6 credits)
PSYC3061. Advanced issues in perception (6 credits)
PSYC3064. Advanced developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3068. Advanced cognitive psychology (6 credits)
PSYC4007. Independent study in psychology (12 credits)

Minor in Psychology

Programme structure

Requirements	Course-level	No. of credits
i. Introductory disciplinary courses	Introductory	6
ii. Advanced disciplinary elective courses	Advanced	30
	Total	**36**

Candidates are required to complete not fewer than 36 credits of the following courses:

1. Introductory course

a) Disciplinary course

PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)

2. Advanced courses

b) Advanced disciplinary elective courses (30 credits)

Course lists for Minor in Psychology

Introductory Course
PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)

Advanced Courses
PSYC2002. Psychological testing and measurement (6 credits)
PSYC2005. Introduction to counselling and therapeutic psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2007. Cognitive psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2009. Life-span developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2010. History and issues in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2019. Psychology of personality (6 credits)
PSYC2020. Fundamentals of social psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2022. Biological psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2035. Introduction to educational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2036. Special topics in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2038. Psychology of language (6 credits)
PSYC2051. Perception (6 credits)
PSYC2059. Current issues in applied developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2060. Research and quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2062. Introduction to psychopathology (6 credits)
PSYC2063. Industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2065. Health psychology (6 credits)
PSYC2066. Foundations of cognitive science (6 credits)
PSYC2067. Seminars in cognitive science (6 credits)
PSYC2071. Judgments and decision making (6 credits)
PSYC2072. Research internship in psychology I (6 credits)
PSYC2073. Research internship in psychology II (6 credits)

PSYC2074. Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (6 credits)
PSYC2101. Foundations of neuroscience I (6 credits)
PSYC2102. Seminar in neuroscience (6 credits)
PSYC2103. Foundations of neuroscience II (6 credits)
PSYC2110. Developmental neuroscience (6 credits)
PSYC2111. Neurobiological basis of psychological issues (6 credits)
PSYC2113. Introduction to brain imaging (6 credits)
PSYC3051. Advanced personality psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3052. Advanced social psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3053. Advanced research in industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3054. Human neuropsychology (6 credits)
PSYC3061. Advanced issues in perception (6 credits)
PSYC3064. Advanced developmental psychology (6 credits)
PSYC3068. Advanced cognitive psychology (6 credits)

Course Descriptions 2022 – 2023
Department of Psychology

Introductory Courses

PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)

Discussion of basic concepts in psychology and a preliminary survey of representative work carried out in various areas of psychological investigation, together with an investigation at some length of one such area.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC1004. Introduction to quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)

This course adopts a practical approach to teaching the analytical aspects of research in psychology. The course is designed to provide students with the basic background in research design and data analysis, covering the logic of statistical reasoning and inference as well as the key concepts involved. Priority will be given to students who plan to major in psychology.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Advanced Courses

In addition to class sessions, each course may include a practical element on which candidates may expect to spend about two hours per week.

PSYC2002. Psychological testing and measurement (6 credits)

This course surveys the major concepts and techniques in the field of psychometrics, and provides students with some hands-on experience with commonly used tests. Topics covered include: the context of testing and measurement; the testing process; test standardization; reliability and validity; intelligence and its appraisal; personality assessment; special domain testing; occupational applications; large-scale measurements; ethics and prospects.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2005. Introduction to counselling and therapeutic psychology (6 credits)

This course provides a theoretical and experiential foundation for counselling and further training in the mental health profession. Major theoretical approaches in psychotherapy are surveyed and critiqued. Experiential learning is used to help elucidate some of the course material and facilitate reflection. Topics covered also include basic counselling skills and practice, ethics, diversity and cultural values, indigenous and community-based models, and outcome and process research. Students who have taken SOWK0117 / SOWK2117 / SOWK2137 are not allowed to enrol PSYC2005.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2007. Cognitive psychology (6 credits)

This course covers how humans process information from the environment. Topics include various aspects of perception, attention, memory, imagery, language and decision-making. Students will learn from attending lectures and active participation during tutorials. Students will also conduct experiments about cognitive functioning and learn to critically evaluate existing studies in the research literature and to write research reports on experimental findings.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004

PSYC2009. Life-span developmental psychology (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction to developmental psychology from a life-span perspective. The topics include: basic concepts and theories of human development; research methodology and issues in the study of developmental change; biological, environmental and social influences on development; processes of physical development over the life-span; attachment and emotional development; development of perception, language, cognition and morality; development of personality and social relationships.
Assessment: 100% coursework
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2010. History and issues in psychology (6 credits)

This course provides an in-depth study of psychology within an historically- and issue-based framework. Beginning with the philosophical and physiological forerunners to how the modern discipline became an experimental, scientific project, it will move on to examine some of the debates in the West in the first half of the twentieth century which either forestalled or encouraged the use of mental concepts and the (re)emergence of cognitive psychology. The course will end by a discussion over how psychology in the West was brought into the East and various issues arising from such a history.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2019. Psychology of personality (6 credits)

This course will critically examine a number of theories of personality as exemplified in the lives of some of the significant figures in the field. The relationship of specific theories to practical applications, personality assessment and psychotherapeutic techniques may be included. The major aims of the course are to provide a survey of the breath and complexity of this field and to provide a perspective from which to examine assumptions about human nature and the evaluation of behaviour.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2020. Fundamentals of social psychology (6 credits)

The course gives an overview of the field which studies the behaviour of individuals in social contexts. It covers social perception, social cognition, social motivation, attitudes and attitude change, relationship between attitude and behaviour, aggression, helping, interpersonal attraction, social influence on individual behaviour and group dynamics. The impact of Chinese culture on various social behaviours will form part of the discussion.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2022. Biological psychology (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction to biological aspects of behaviour. The topics include: biological bases of behaviour, development, learning, memory, and abnormal psychology; the nervous system; processes of brain maturation; psychophysiology.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2035. Introduction to educational psychology (6 credits)

This course focuses on how psychological theories are applied to learning, teaching, and facilitation of human growth. The topics include major developmental theories and their application to learning and instruction, learning theories from both behavioral and cognitive traditions, effective teaching methods and practices, learners' individual and group differences, achievement motivation, and assessment. Students will be involved in learning activities that require self-reflection and integration of daily life experience.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2036. Special topics in psychology (6 credits)

This course provides an opportunity to study in some depth an area of psychology of interest to students and a staff member alike. Individual topics may have special requirements for eligibility.

Students taking this course may select one topic from a list of topics to be announced in the semester immediately prior to that in which they are taken.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2038. Psychology of language (6 credits)

A study of the cognitive processes involved in language comprehension and production, including the acquisition of native as well as second languages, the biological and cognitive bases of language learning and use, the psychology of reading and reading disabilities, the comparison of psychological aspects of the Chinese language and other languages, and bilingualism.

Assessment: 40% coursework and 60% examination
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2051. Perception (6 credits)

An introduction to sensation and perception, with an emphasis on the psychology of seeing. Specific topics include the following: examination of the functional properties of sensory systems (e.g., auditory system, color vision, vestibular system, touch and kinaesthesia); phenomenology of sensation and perception; psychophysical limits of perceptual systems; goals of sensory coding; structure and evolution of sensory systems; theories of perception. Perceptual experiments will be conducted by students in laboratory classes.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2059. Current issues in applied developmental psychology (6 credits)

This course will explore applications of developmental psychology to issues pertaining to improving the well-being of children and their families. Topics include: The quality of child care, patterns and ranges of normal child behaviors, child-rearing practices, developmentally challenged children, legal and public-policy issues.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001

PSYC2060. Research and quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)

This course is designed to extend the skills and knowledge of students on research design and quantitative methods in psychology, so that they are better prepared to conduct their own independent empirical research. The course builds on what students already learned in PSYC1004 to cover more advanced topics.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004.

PSYC2061. Advanced quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)

(For psychology as a first major) This course aims to extend the learning of students from previous research method courses (e.g., PSYC1004 and PSYC2060) to cover more advanced quantitative methods used in psychological research. Students will learn to apply the quantitative methods to analyse data, interpret the results, and report the findings. The knowledge and skills acquired from this course will enable students to conduct empirical research more independently. This course also aims to enhance students' abilities to evaluate psychological research critically.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060

PSYC2062. Introduction to psychopathology (6 credits)

This course will provide a broad exposure to both theory and practice in clinical psychology. It is a foundation course in mental health, counselling and other psychological services. A wide array of types of mental disorders will be examined. Important themes will be emphasized such as the continuum in behaviour from mental health to mental illness, the diathesis-stress and nature-nurture models and epidemiology.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2063. Industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)

This course surveys the complex relationships that exist between people, their social environment, and their work. Topics may include job analysis, personnel selection, personnel training, performance management, vocational guidance, work motivation, job satisfaction, leadership, group relations, conflicts, organization design, occupational stress, and errors.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2065. Health psychology (6 credits)

This course acquaints students with the realm of health psychology. Students will gain (a) an understanding of the ways psychosocial factors influence health concerns and healthcare utilization, and (b) familiarity with basic concepts that guide the work of health professionals. Topics covered in this course include health behaviors, coping with health-related stress, social support and health, psychoimmunology, management of chronic illnesses, and patient-practitioner interaction.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2066. Foundations of cognitive science (6 credits)

This course allows students to gain an understanding of the workings of the mind in the context of the technological advances that are increasingly shaping our lives and our society. The course introduces students to the domain, goals and methods of Cognitive Science, showing how different disciplines converge in their enquiry into how the brain works. Lectures will present case studies highlighting research findings which show how similar questions about the functioning of the human mind are answered from the perspective of each contributing discipline. Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: COMP1117 or ENGG1330 or LING1000 or PHIL1012 or PSYC1001.

PSYC2067. Seminars in cognitive science (6 credits)

This course is a tutorial-based reading course in specialist areas of cognitive science research and interest. It will include presentations and group discussion of research and issues of interest within cognitive science, providing an opportunity for students to examine critically the cognitive science approach to understanding intelligent systems.

Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC2066 or two disciplinary electives.

PSYC2071. Judgments and decision making (6 credits)

To understand the psychological factors involved with human judgment and decision making. We will contrast human decision making with normative theories of rational choice, and survey psychological evidence of systematic decision biases and errors in judgments. We will discuss the heuristics and biases approach to judgment and decision errors, and critiques of this approach. Real world examples will be presented from the domains of medicine, economics, and consumer choice.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2072. Research internship in psychology I (6 credits)

Students will have an opportunity to learn to do research as an intern in ongoing empirical research projects under a teacher's supervision in the Department of Psychology. Students spend 10-12 hours per week assisting various research activities. The internship includes participating in lab meetings or meeting individually with the supervisor, reading relevant theoretical and empirical articles, assisting in ongoing empirical research projects, and writing an internship report. Information about research projects offering internship placements and application procedure will be available in the Psychology Department webpage. Internship I and II can be done with the same supervisor or two different supervisors.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC2073. Research internship in psychology II (6 credits)

Please refer to Research internship in psychology I for the course description. Internship I and II can be done with the same supervisor or two different supervisors.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC2074. Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (6 credits)

The course has a strong experiential component. The standard 8-week program of mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) is embedded in the course. Students have first-hand experience as the participants of the MBCT. They are required to do mindfulness practice 45-60 minutes daily and participate in a whole day silence retreat. In addition to this experiential learning, students also have the opportunities to study the theoretical background of meditative traditions and how mindfulness is applied in contemporary mental health services. This is a course that requires both practical involvement and theoretical understanding.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Pre-requisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2101. Foundations of neuroscience I (6 credits)

This course covers the fundamental principles of neuroscience. Topics include history of neuroscience, neurons and glia, neuronal membrane at rest, action potential, synaptic transmission, neuroanatomy, the somatic sensory system, chemical senses: taste and smell. the auditory system, vision and the eye, vision and the brain, spinal control of movement, brain control of movement, chemical control of the brain and behavior, development in the nervous system, memory systems, learning and memory: molecular biology, emotion and attention. (Priority will be given to students planning to major in neuroscience)
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2102. Seminar in neuroscience (6 credits)

This course surveys key topics in neuroscience research. Students will be reading, analysing, and evaluating classical and cutting-edge research studies. Throughout the course, students will be able to learn research methods in cellular and system neuroscience, and their applications in research of neurological and psychiatric syndromes. Students will be able to apply the basic concepts and technological knowledge on various experimental methods for neuroscience investigation, as well as be able to critically evaluate empirical research. In-class activities will include presentations and discussions, among other activities..
(Priority will be given to students planning to major in neuroscience)
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC2101.

PSYC2103. Foundations of neuroscience II (6 credits)

This course complements the first course in this series, Foundations of Neuroscience I, covering the fundamental principles of neuroscience. This second course will familiarise students with principles related to chemical control of the brain (e.g., homeostasis, hypothalamic control, and relevance to behaviour), the autonomic nervous system, and diffuse modulatory systems (e.g., noradrenergic, serotonergic, dopaminergic, and cholinergic regulation). This course will culminate with a series of introductory programming modules to prepare students for advanced research at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Priority will be given to students majoring/minoring in neuroscience.
Assessment:100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001 and PSYC2101

PSYC2110. Developmental neuroscience (6 credits)

Developmental neuroscience is an interdisciplinary research topic that integrates neuroscience, cognitive science and developmental science. This course aims to uncover the brain and neural mechanisms that underlie social, affective and cognitive development across the life span. Specific topics will include the introduction of theories and methods in developmental

neuroscience, neuroplasticity, neural mechanisms that underlie the development of attention and perception processes, motor learning, memory, cognitive control, social-emotional processes. This course will examine these processes at different developmental stages, including infants, toddlers, adolescence and ageing population. This course will also cover the neural mechanisms underlying atypical development such as the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC2101.

PSYC2111. Neurobiological basis of psychological issues (6 credits)

Human behavior is generated by complex psychophysiological mechanisms of the brain. This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to the biological basis of stress, emotion, and regulation of cognitive-affective processes affecting psychological health. The neurobiological basis of psychopathologies e.g. depression, anxiety, will be examined as examples to demonstrate the complex relationships between brain, behavior, and psychopathology.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001.

PSYC2113. Introduction to brain imaging (6 credits)

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) is widely used to study brain functions. This course is designed to provide a general introduction to the physical and physiological bases and principles of fMRI, MRI related safety issues, and design and analysis of fMRI experiments.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004.

PSYC3051. Advanced personality psychology (6 credits)

This advanced laboratory course is designed for students interested in acquiring advanced research and communication skills for conducting independent research and report findings to a broad audience. Students will develop skills in critically evaluating current theoretical controversies and methodological paradigms. Special attention is given to theoretical, methodological, and measurement issues such as critical thinking in personality psychology, personality research design, proposal writing, and research ethics. This course is conducted in a seminar format with the expectation that students will participate actively and on occasion help lead a discussion. Some combination of readings, written assignments, and oral presentation is required. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1004 and either PSYC2019 or PSYC2020.
Mutually exclusive with: PSYC3052

PSYC3052. Advanced social psychology (6 credits)

This advanced laboratory course is designed for students interested in learning how to conduct studies in social psychology. Students will develop skills in critically evaluating current theoretical controversies and methodological paradigms. Special attention is given to theoretical, methodological, and measurement issues such as critical thinking in social psychology, social research design, proposal writing, and research ethics. This course is conducted in a seminar format with the expectation that students will participate actively and on occasion help lead a discussion. Some combination of readings, written assignments, and oral presentation is required. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1004 and either PSYC2019 or PSYC2020.
Mutually exclusive with: PSYC3051

PSYC3053. Advanced research in industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)

This research-based course focuses on specific topics in industrial/organizational psychology that are pertinent to the latest economic development in Hong Kong and in the Greater China Region. Psychometric assessment of various job attitudes, aptitudes, and work-related personality will be one such topic. Students will develop their knowledge and hands-on skills in selected areas covered in the introductory course on Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1004 and PSYC2063.

PSYC3054. Human neuropsychology (6 credits)

This course introduces basic principles of brain-behaviour relationships. Research methods for investigating brain-behavior relationships are reviewed. The neuro-anatomical and neuropsychological mechanisms underpinning various cognitive and affective processes as well as how these processes are dysregulated in some common brain disorders are discussed. Students will participate in an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology and neuroscience.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: Either PSYC2101 or PSYC2022.

PSYC3061. Advanced issues in perception (6 credits)

This advanced seminar course reviews findings from both recent and classical research on human perceptual systems. Modules will consider in-depth, select special topics such as cross-modal perceptual interactions, lessons from abnormal perception in agnosia, amblyopia, etc. Modules will be discussed from a multidisciplinary standpoint, integrating computational, psychophysical and neurobiological approaches. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology and neuroscience.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1004 and PSYC2051.

PSYC3064. Advanced developmental psychology (6 credits)

This course will introduce you to recent and classical research findings and methods in developmental psychology. It will provide hands-on experience with the research process by having you design and implement your own independent empirical research project. It will focus on key issues facing researchers, such as problems of observing and interpreting, generating testable questions, validity, research design and measurement. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1004 and PSYC2009.

PSYC3068. Advanced cognitive psychology (6 credits)

This course covers some of the more recent developments in cognitive psychology. Students will learn about current issues in cognitive psychology by reading research articles. Topics may include consciousness, mental representations of objects/faces/letters, language, memory and decision making, as well as other topics reflecting the interests of the teacher. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology and neuroscience.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1004 and either PSYC2007 or PSYC2051.

PSYC4007. Independent study in psychology (12 credits)

(For psychology major) Students will each conduct an independent empirical research project. Regular attendance for research supervision is required. The project write-up should be about 8,000 to 10,000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices) and should follow the practice of communication in top psychology journals. Approval by Departmental Head is required for admissions into this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060.

PSYC4008. Thesis in psychology (12 credits)

(For psychology as a first major) Students will conduct an independent empirical investigation of a psychological problem. Thesis research will be supervised individually by teaching members of the Department. The thesis should be about 8,000 to 10,000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices) and should follow the practice of communication in top psychology journals. Eligible students will be invited by the Department to apply for admissions into this course. Approval by Departmental Head is required for admissions into this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060

PSYC4009. Interdisciplinary thesis in psychology (12 credits)

(For psychology as a first major) Students will conduct an independent empirical investigation of an interdisciplinary psychological problem. Thesis research will be supervised by two teaching members of the Department from two different subfields. The thesis should be about 8000 to 10,000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices) and should follow the practice of communication in top multidisciplinary psychology journals. Eligible students will be invited by the Department to apply for admissions into this course. Approval by Departmental Head is required for admissions into this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060

PSYC4010. Experiential learning project I (6 credits)

(For psychology as a first major) Students will have an experiential learning opportunity to apply psychology knowledge to solve real-life problems and reflect upon this experience. Potential project topics include knowledge exchange activities or community volunteering experiences that aim to make an impact to the society. Students are encouraged to plan or design their own project under a teacher's supervision in the Department of Psychology. The project can be implemented individually or by a group of students. In addition to project implementation, students are expected to meet with the supervisor regularly, reflect upon specific psychological knowledge applied and how they affect various practices and people's life in the society, and write a project report to conclude the project impact and the reflections. Information about potential knowledge exchange activities in individual labs available for the project and application procedure will be available on the Psychology Department webpage. Experiential learning project I and II can be done with the same supervisor or two different supervisors.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060

PSYC4011. Experiential learning project II (6 credits)

(For psychology as a first major) Please refer to PSYC4010 Experiential learning project I for the course description. Experiential learning project I and II can be done with the same supervisor or two different supervisors. Experiential learning project II can be either a new project, or an extended project on Experiential learning project I if students are interested in doing a big project across 2 semesters.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060

PSYC2075. Field placement (12 credits)

(For psychology as a first major) Students will begin their placement after completing the intensive training workshops. They will be placed in NGOs, government agencies, or other

mental health/psychology-focused public/private organisations during term time or summer. They will be assessed by both an academic tutor and a workplace supervisor.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004