

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	Psychology
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	4
<b>Course Title:</b>	Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology
<b>Course Code:</b>	PSY 4205
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Ira Konstantinou
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>
Lectures:	30
Seminar / Tutorials:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course engages students in an overview of the main philosophical, scientific and social ideas that formulated psychology as we know it today. We will cover conceptual and methodological positions underlying different paradigms and research trends in the study of human behaviour. We will examine the following questions: what is science and to what extent is psychology permeated by the characteristics of science; what is the extent of social and cultural construction in psychology; is or can psychology be morally or politically neutral; what can we learn from the history of psychology so far? In addition this course will address the issues involved in acquiring knowledge through various scientific methodologies, the critique of traditional methods in psychology, the relationship between facts and values and the significance of the standpoint from which values are understood. Finally, we will discuss ethical issues in psychology, their origins, the moral underpinnings of theory, research and practice and how psychologists construct ethically responsible practices within a social environment.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 3100 and PSY 3105

### **Aims and Objectives:**

In this module we will cover important conceptual issues relevant for psychological research, and the recent history of major schools of thought in Psychology, linking present day research with the underlying historical debates.

**Programme Outcomes :**

4A.i, 4A.ii, 4B.ii, 4C.i, 4Ciii, 4Di, 4Diii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of conceptual and historical perspectives
- Develop an understanding of the links between schools of thought in psychology
- Develop an understanding of how issues in modern psychology relate to historical intellectual problems
- Appreciate the ethical decisions made by psychologists and implications of those
- Demonstrate the ability to critical evaluate the sources of knowledge and theories/systems in psychology
- Demonstrate the ability to work in a group and independently to answer critical thinking questions on readings

**Indicative Content:**

- A bit of History (and Pre-History)
- Scientific Revolution ( 17<sup>th</sup> century)
- Psychology as an Independent Discipline
- Behaviourism and Cognitive Psychology
- Input from Brain Research
- Mind-Brain Problem, Consciousness and Free Will
- History of Applied Psychology
- What is science (20<sup>th</sup> century theories), Is Psychology a Science
- Balance between Biological, Psychological and Social Influences
- Psychology, Politics and Society

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lecture presentations with the key concepts
- II. Group discussions on journal articles and important questions on the topics discussed
- III. Internet sites related to psychology
- IV. Intra-net access to lecture notes

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

***IndicativeText(s):***

