Module Details for Foundations in Psychology

### Current Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>BCPS4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Name</td>
<td>Foundations in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Short Title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECTS Weighting</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester/Term Taught</td>
<td>MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Hours</td>
<td>One semester: 22 lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Personnel</td>
<td>Prof. Lorraine Swords, Prof. Lorina Naci</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- synthesize the different systems in the history of psychology and understand how one discipline within psychology differ from its peers and predecessors;
- critically analyse psychological knowledge within a wider socio-historical and intellectual context;
- write effectively in the discourse of the discipline with reference to important historical arguments and present-day applications;
- have a heightened sensitivity to historical perspectives on ethics and values that have influenced the nature of psychological research;
- be critical consumers of psychological knowledge to use and understand a range of methodologies and recognise why certain historical approaches were abandoned while others were improved and refined;
- understand how and why a number of key historical figures have made seminal contributions to community and public policy;
- trace the historic origins and paths of development to applied and professional psychology and assess their current nature and scope;
- demonstrate capacity for critical thinking about the interplay of core principles, research and practice in the development of various psychological disciplines.

Methods of Teaching and Student Learning

The format of lectures will be mostly conventional but students are encouraged to ask questions, engage the lecturer in discussion and participate in group work and group presentations as they arise.

Inclusive curriculum: Each lecture and any supporting and accompanying documentation is posted on Blackboard to facilitate independent study and self-paced learning.
This module traces the development of the discipline of psychology from its philosophical and physiological foundations right up to its present-day application in various spheres of human activity. Students will be introduced to key historical happenings, conceptual issues, research approaches and practices within the major psychological perspectives and fields of study.

A number of pertinent questions are addressed: How does one school of thought within psychology differ from its predecessors? Can different methods in psychology be considered scientifically valid? What counts as progress in psychological research? What has been psychology’s greatest findings and biggest mistakes? Will psychology ever develop a cohesive, widely accepted explanatory theory and should it try? How relevant are historical perspectives in psychology today?

For whom is the module intended?
JF, SH/TSM, and PCC in Psychology Year 1

How does it fit in to the academic programme?
This is one of the core foundation areas of the discipline of psychology and is also required to be covered by the professional accreditation body, Psychological Society of Ireland.

Is it mandatory or optional?
Mandatory

Are there prerequisites?
No.

From a teaching point of view, what are the intentions of the lecturer?
To orient students to historical developments the field of psychology; to understand the strengths and limitations of different levels of analysis in psychology; to synthesize different levels of explanation in psychology; to encourage critical evaluation of the methods used to acquire psychological knowledge in order to understand the relationships between theories, observations, and conclusions and to critically analyse psychological knowledge within a wider socio-historical and intellectual context.

- Module Overview
  - Key Historical & Conceptual Issues in Psychology
  - Historical Timeline
- Towards a Science of Psychology
  - Origins of Modern Psychology Within Philosophy & Physiology
- Early Psychological Approaches to Studying Mind & Behavior
  - Structuralism
  - Functionalism
  - Associationism
- Major Psychological Perspectives from the Twentieth Century
  - Behavioural
  - Cognitive
  - Psychodynamic
  - Biological
  - Humanistic
Recommended Reading List

Indicative Resources
Core texts:

Additional Readings:
- A list of some additional recommended readings, linked to specific topics, will be provided to students via Blackboard Web CT.

Module Pre Requisite

Module Co Requisite

Assessment Details

There is a written examination in the annual session that constitutes 100% of the assessment of this module. The exam is 2 hours in duration and students are required to answer two questions discursively. Students are given very detailed guidelines in their handbook as to grading criteria for degree classes.

Evaluation

All modules are evaluated by students by means of a survey requested by the School and all feedback is noted and incorporated in module design where appropriate for delivery of the module in subsequent years. Feedback is also delivered via student representatives at the School’s once a term staff-student meetings, at School Committee meetings and at the Committee for Undergraduate Teaching & Learning meetings.

Module Website

Module approval date

Approved By

Academic Start Year

Academic Year of Data 2018/19