

COURSE OUTLINE

PSYCHOLOGY

The course gives an overview of Psychology both autonomously (independently), and as a convoluted discipline (in relation to the natural sciences and the social sciences). Thus psychology is looked at from a number of different perspectives that range from the biological/genetic to the sociological, philosophical and (even) the theological. This is therefore a demanding course that treats popular subject matter in a holistic, objective manner.

Conventional psychological factors and taxonomies such as behaviour, pathology and social psychology are considered alongside the metaphysical.

The emphasis is on encouraging students to think freely around a structured syllabus, and to learn to communicate their thoughts in an eruditely 'appropriate' way.

Small seminar groups examine the main themes which can then be developed in individual tutorials. There is some scope within the course for students to explore areas of particular interest in more depth. Reading, written assignments and presentations are set each week. Discussion and analysis is encouraged.

Week One	<p>What is Psychology? Defining psychology Beginnings of psychology Behaviourism: empiricism Introspectionism: interpretivism ESSAY: Should psychology try to be a science?</p>
Week Two	<p>Conditioning, learning Human memory: learning and forgetting Issues and debates in psychology The psychology of dreaming ESSAY: Compare and contrast two major theories of memory.</p>
Week Three	<p>Occupations in Psychology Clinical Psychology: Definitions Mental health classificatory system Cultural relativism Educational psychology Applications to everyday life Counselling psychology: expert versus expert ESSAY: Critically analyse one of the three approaches to mental health.</p>
Week Four	<p>Philosophical Psychology Free will versus determinism Reductionism Validity and reliability Intelligence (reification) Race, class, and gender "Value free" research? Objectivism/subjectivism Mainstream approach Qualitative versus quantitative Research methods RESEARCH REPORT</p>

Recommended Reading (It is not necessary to read this before the course begins)

Jones, D., and Elcock, J. (2001)
Oxford University Press.

History and Theories of Psychology, a Critical Perspective.
ISBN 0340741171

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk>

or

www.amazon.co.uk