

BEHV 1016 PSYCHOLOGY: BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 101183

Coordinator Alina Ewald (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alina Ewald/>)

Description This subject expands on the nature and history of psychology as a scientific discipline by focussing on the study of the biological bases of human behaviour, memory, language and thought, sensation and perception, motivation, emotion and learning. Research methods to scientifically study behaviour is introduced, including ethical research and practice with reference to diverse cultural contexts. The subject provides a foundation of knowledge in Psychology which will support later study in Psychology and other behavioural, social and health sciences.

School Psychology

Discipline Behavioural Science

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 1 subject

Restrictions

Note that only students enrolled at WSU Online may register in the WSU Online subjects offered at that location.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Identify major issues and debates in the nature and history of psychology. (APAC GAs 1.1, 1xii, 5)
2. Recognise the key theoretical concepts and major empirical findings in the domains of psychology covered in the subject. (APAC GAs 1.1, 1.1i, 1.3)
3. Evaluate the methods used by psychologists in their research, including ethical practice in Indigenous and culturally diverse contexts. (APAC GAs 1.1i, 1.1Xi, 1.2, 1.4)
4. Communicate in a manner that conforms with current APA (American Psychological Association) Publication Guidelines. (APAC GA 1.1xii, 1.3)

Subject Content

1. Introduction to the Subject.
2. Biological Bases of Mental Life and Behaviour.
3. Research Methods: Foundations and Applications.
4. Genes and Environment.
5. Sensation and Perception.
6. Learning.
7. Attention and Memory.
8. Language and Thinking
9. Emotion and Motivation.
10. Psychopathology – Diagnosis.

11. Psychopathology – Treatment.
12. Health and Wellbeing.
13. Overview and Revision.

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Report	1000 words	40	N	Individual	N
Participation	5 hours of research participation	5	N	Individual	N
Quiz	10 x 5 minute in-tutorial quizzes	10	N	Individual	N
Final Exam	2 hours	45	N	Individual	N

WSU Online Trimester 3

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Report	1000 words	40	N	Individual	N
Quiz	Plagiarism and referencing quiz (4 quizzes in total)	S/U	N	Individual	N
Participation	Five hours of research participation	5	N	Individual	N
Quiz	4 quizzes	10	N	Individual	N
Final Exam	2 hours	45	N	Individual	N

Prescribed Texts

- Burton, L. J., Westen, D., & Kowalski, R. (2023). Psychology: Sixth Australian and New Zealand edition. John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd.

Teaching Periods

WSU Online TRI-1 (2025)

Wsu Online

Subject Contact Alina Ewald (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alina Ewald/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV1016_25-0T1_OW_2#subjects)

Spring (2025)

Bankstown City

On-site

Subject Contact Alina Ewald (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alina Ewald/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV1016_25-SPR_BK_1#subjects)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

Subject Contact Alina Ewald (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alina Ewald/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV1016_25-SPR_KW_1#subjects)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

Subject Contact Alina Ewald (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alina Ewald/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV1016_25-SPR_PS_1#subjects)

WSU Online TRI-3 (2025)

Wsu Online

Online

Subject Contact Rosalind Priestman (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rosalind Priestman/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV1016_25-OT3_OW_2#subjects)