### School of Psychology University of East London

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**MSc Psychology (Conversion) Pre-Term 1 READING LIST 2020/21**

The MSc Psychology covers a broad range of topics that have been laid out by the British Psychological Society (BPS) to allow students to attain the Graduate Basis of Registration (GBC). One portion of the programme covers training in research methods and conducting your independent research project while the remainder covers a set of core areas. These are:

* Cognitive Psychology (module code PY7157) – what are the basic mental functions such as memory, language & visual recognition and how do they work?
* Psychobiology (PY7157) – what is the interplay between neurobiology, neurochemistry and human behaviour?
* Individual Differences (PY7159) – what makes one person different from another in terms of their behaviour?
* Developmental Psychology (PY7157) – how do humans develop physically, mentally and socially during childhood and adolescence?
* Social Psychology (PY7159) – how are human behaviour and experience affected by social context such as in groups and relationships?
* Origins and Concepts in Psychology (PY7159) ‐ how have psychological explanations changed over time and what are the key debates?
* Applied Research methods (PY7158) – questionnaire analysis and qualitative techniques
* Experimental Research methods (PY7156) – experimental design and quantitative analysis of experimental data

In Term 1 (Sept 2020), if you are a full‐time student, you will be studying Perspectives in Psychology (PY7157, day time; 1-4pm) and Experimental Research Methods (PY7156, evening; 6-9pm). You will choose to study one of these if part‐time (either afternoon or evening module).

The MSc is a demanding programme and there is a good chance you already have a pretty busy life outside of university. Therefore, it is imperative that you approach your studies effectively so that you can get the most out of the teaching and assessment that the MSc entails. To this end, you might find the following text invaluable:

Penn, P. (2019). *The Psychology of Effective Studying: How to Succeed in Your Degree*. Routledge.

Written by one of our own staff on the MSc team, this book is an entertaining, practical and evidence-based guide to how psychological research can help you become a more effective learner.

When you start a module, you will have a module handbook available, which will give you the breakdown of lectures along with an accompanied reading list (all documents are available on our virtual learning environment, Moodle, access will be explained in Induction). Before that, if you would like to prepare yourself for some of the debates you will be encountering, you could look at some background reading. There is no ‘set list’ for this as each lecturer will take a specific stance when they teach you—therefore you should not think of general reading as a kind of ‘syllabus’ that you must understand but instead to think of it as giving you a sense of the general areas. To get a *basic* idea of the above areas, you can look at general introductory textbooks. Any fairly recent degree level text would do, but currently on our BSc programme we recommend ONE of the following:

**Martin GN, Carlson NR & Buskist W (2013) *Psychology*, 5th Edition. Allyn & Bacon** (this is a ‘Europeanised’ version of a well established US text)

### Banyard, P., Davies, M.N.O., Norman, C., & Winder, B. (2010). Essential Psychology. Sage

### Both are generic introductions to the whole of psychology and cover areas beyond your course of study but it may give you an overall feel for the area.

It is possible to find second hand copies of most books (especially earlier editions) by looking at online websites such as:

[http://www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk/) or [www.abebooks.co.uk](http://www.abebooks.co.uk/) or [www.alibris.co.uk](http://www.alibris.co.uk/) or  [http://www.waterstonesmarketplace.com](http://www.waterstonesmarketplace.com/)

If you want to read beyond these introductory levels, the lecturers who run the module have suggested some non‐compulsory further reading that you could do over the summer. In most cases, the material suggested is simply a higher‐level introduction to the area.

### PRE‐READING SUGGESTIONS FOR Term 1:

**PY 7157 Perspectives in Psychology Academic year 2019/20**

#### Cognitive Psychology – CORE text will be

Braisby, N.R. & Gellatly, A.R.H. (Eds.) (2012) *Cognitive Psychology 2nd Edition*, London, Oxford University Press

Eysenck & Keane (2015) Cognitive Psychology: A Student’s Handbook (or 2010 edition). Psychology Press, Hove, UK

Also recommended:

Gazzaniga, M.S., Ivry, R.B. & Mangun, G. R. (2008) Cognitive Neuroscience: the biology of the mind (3rd edition) Norton U.S.

Sternberg, R. (2011). Cognitive Psychology. Wadsworth

#### Psychobiology – CORE text will be:

Chandler, C. (2015) Psychobiology. Wiley

Other degree level Psychbio (or Biopsych!) texts are suitable, including those by Toates, F., Pinel and Carlson (his Physiology of Behavior, which is a much more ‘in depth’ text), but Chandler’s is currently the only BPS recommended textbook. You should also note that once you are enrolled at UEL, Toates text is currently free to access as an online e‐book.

**NOTE**: As mentioned above, you don’t necessarily have to read the textbooks recommended in the module guides over the summer before the term starts. If you prefer you can read something “lighter” to get interested into the topics.

### (Light reading):

Cognitive Psychology: Styles, E. (2005)**.** Attention, Perception and Memory: An Integrated Introduction. Psychology Press

Psychobiology: Kringelbach, M.L. (2008). The Pleasure Center. Oxford. (There is little ‘light’ reading in the world of psychobiology, but this survey of the links between neurochemistry and experience is an interesting read and will be of relevance to some of the taught material)

**Developmental Psychology**

Gillibrand, R., Lam, V., and O’Donnell, V. L. (2011). *Developmental psychology*. Harlow: Pearson. (The 2nd author is one of the lecturers teaching this module)

Smith, P. A., Cowie, H., and Blades, M. (2011). *Understanding children’s development*. Oxford: Blackwell. (new edition out in August; older eds fine)

Intro and theoretical chapters in either book give different perspectives on this sub-discipline. Other Developmental textbooks are fine as well for pre-reading

**PY 7156 Experimental Research Methods Academic year 2019/20**

**PRE-COURSE READING**

The Experimental Research Methods module is designed to fulfil the British Psychological Society’s (BPS) *Requirements for Research Skills* and to equip you with the skills necessary to complete your MSc research project later on. The module includes quantitative approaches to research, the qualitative approach will be studied in Term 2.

Those who have never studied research methods in their degree or career may *initially* find the statistical content of the module challenging and so we would encourage you to keep up to date with the module reading and resources given to you.

To those of you who have had some other training in research methods: we still recommend the materials as both a refresher and a guide to basic *psychological* research methods.

We realise that some students may not be able to access hardcopies of the books, hence we are also offering some alternatives such as reading from websites. Please note that depending on your own background, you may find some materials harder than others, so we are not expecting you to understand *everything* before you arrive—but the more you can understand the better it will be easing you into this quite pacey module. Also, do not worry about any “SPSS” instructions or printouts in the reading materials – you will be taught those on the module.

The web-based materials also indicated below will kick-start you into concepts of research design and statistics, but we would like if you can to try to read the book chapters prior to starting this MSc module. You may find some chapters harder than others and need to spend more time on those. This is normal, but do not dwell on the areas you find difficult for too long, we will be able to support you in your understanding once you start the programme.

**Reading:**

The ‘core’ text recommended for this module is:

**Dancey, C. P. and Reidy, J. (2017 OR 2014). *Statistics without maths for psychology* (6th OR 7th ed.). Harlow: Prentice Hall.** [older editions also suffice.]

The lecturers that teach research methods involving statistics will recommend reading from chapters in this book through the module. It is important that you try to get a copy. As noted above, do not worry about the “SPSS” instructions, or outputs, as you will be introduced to these in class. Focus on gaining an understanding of concepts introduced.

Students might already have other books which cover the same material, and may prefer a different style. This is fine (see the Guide below to check on the relevant materials). Other texts students have also found useful include:

Coolican, H. (2009). *Research methods and statistics in psychology*. London: Hodder Ed.

Gavin, H. (2008). *Understanding research methods and statistics in psychology*. London: Sage. (sample chapter: <http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/17503_03_Gavin_Ch_03.pdf>)

Greene, J. & D’Oliveira (1999). *Learning to use statistical tests in Psychology*. Oxford: Open University Press.

(More advanced texts can be provided later for students who have a research methods/statistics background already).

**Guide:** Each section below guides you to the relevant chapters in the core text by Dancey and Reidy and links to online resources on the particular topic.

1. **Various research methodologies used by psychologists; Chapter 1 Variables & design**

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/language.php> (from ‘language’ to ‘types of data’)

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/desintro.php> (from ‘intro to design’ to ‘quasi-…’)

1. **Basic concepts in psychological research: Continue Chapter 1**
2. **Types of variable:** <http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/intro.html> (look at ‘variables’)
3. **Populations and Samples** (same as above: click ‘inferential statistics’ then click the terms)
4. **Levels of Measurement:** <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/measlevl.php>
5. **Using numbers to describe behaviour: Chapters 3 Descriptive… to 4 on distributions**
   1. **Distribution of data:** <http://cnx.org/content/m10868/latest/>
   2. **Measures of central tendency:** <http://cnx.org/content/m10942/latest/>

<http://cnx.org/content/m11011/latest/>

* 1. **Dispersion:** <http://www.techbookreport.com/tutorials/stddev-30-secs.html>

1. **Hypothesis testing: Chapter 5 Hypothesis testing & statistical significance**
   1. **Types of hypothesis:** <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/hypothes.php>
   2. **Testing hypotheses:** <http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/logic_hypothesis.html> (from ‘ruling out chance’ go as far as you can comprehend)
2. **Statistical tests and inferential statistics, Chapters 6-7\* Dancey & Reidy**
   1. **Testing for the relationship (correlations) between two variables (chp. 6):** <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/statcorr.php>
   2. **Testing for differences (t-test) between two conditions (chp. 7):** <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/statinf.php> (inferential statistics to t-test)

The statsoft on-line textbook provides an excellent **summary** of the topics covered above (<http://www.statsoft.com/textbook/elementary-concepts-in-statistics/>)

In the UK the Psychology discipline is monitored by the **BPS**, which is presently consulting its members for revisions, but you can find the current documents on ethics (esp. CEC and CHRE) for reference: <https://beta.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/code-ethics-and-conduct-consultation-new-code>

**Self-assessment**

You may attempt those **MCQs after the book chapters**. Below are supplementary test-banks:

Generic/theoretical:<http://www.uk.sagepub.com/gavin/Downloads/mcq/Ch01MCQCG/mcq_01.htm>

Ethics: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/gavin/Downloads/mcq/Ch02MCQCG/mcq_02.htm>

Variables/design: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/gavin/Downloads/mcq/Ch03MCQCG/mcq_03.htm>

Data & distribution: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/gavin/Downloads/mcq/Ch04MCQCG/mcq_04.htm>

Inferential stats: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/gavin/Downloads/mcq/Ch05MCQCG/mcq_05.htm>