

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	METHODS AND PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL INQUIRY		
MODULE CODE	PS1010 (L4)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF SCIENCES		

MODULE AIMS

The module is designed to provide students with the research skills and professional skills that are essential to understanding the core areas of psychology.

This module aims to:

- Provide a historical perspective of psychology.
- Explore the methods of inquiry used by psychologists.
- Introduce students to statistics and statistical computer packages.
- Introduce students to the process of formulating a research question such that it is amenable to scientific investigation and analysis.

MODULE CONTENT

Indicative syllabus content:

The broad spectrum of the subject matter of psychology will be placed within an historical context, with an emphasis on the importance of scientific inquiry. The idea of a range of methods of inquiry will be introduced, with the inclusion of single-subject analysis and observational techniques as well as group comparisons. Theoretical and practical considerations will be considered, using the 'scientist-practitioner' debate as a focus. A number of statistical procedures, both parametric and non-parametric, will be considered in detail and the rationale for the use of such tests will be discussed.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. Undertake a range of methods of scientific practice and inquiry.
2. Analyse and interpret the results of appropriate statistical techniques commonly used in empirical investigation within the discipline of Psychology, in order to draw valid conclusions.
3. Write up a full report a quantitative research study in an appropriate scientific style.

TEACHING METHODS

The module is taught via a weekly lecture, practical / SPSS classes and interactive seminars and workshops. Interactive learning activities will also be incorporated within lecture delivery. Students will be exposed to a range of material covering research methods, statistics, the history of psychology, and personal skills and career development. Students will complete 3 lab reports weighted to reflect the progression of knowledge and lab writing skill development.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an MCQ examination and a written report.