UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

PSYCHOLOGY IN ACTION

Key Information

Module code
ISSU0014

Taught during
Session One: Monday 1 July - Friday 19 July 2019

Module workload
45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours

Module leader
Dr Daniel C. Richardson

Department
Psychology & Language Sciences, Faculty of Brain Sciences

Credit
15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US

Level
Level 1, first year Undergraduate

Pre-requisites
Standard entry requirements

Assessment
Regular short responses to class discussion questions (30%)
Written project work (30%)
Multiple choice exam (40%)

Module Overview
Our aim is to develop students’ psychological literacy through the cycle of enquiry and evidence. Students will be introduced to key conceptual issues, methodological approaches and significant findings in scientific psychology, their historical background, and the kinds of empirical evidence on which these findings are based. We will take simple questions, and cut across traditional disciplines looking for answers.

- Week One - The science of mind and behaviour; methodological and conceptual issues; experimental design
- Week Two - Perceptual processes; visual attention; cognition; learning and memory; neuroscience methods
- Week Three - Human development, the interplay of nature and nurture; genes and personality; social and emotional development; clinical disorders

Module Aims
Our aim is to develop students’ psychological literacy through the cycle of enquiry and evidence. In lectures, students will be introduced to key conceptual issues, methodological approaches and significant findings in scientific psychology, their historical background, and the kinds of empirical evidence on which these findings are based. In afternoon workshops, students will be encouraged to think critically and evaluate their own behaviour through in-lecture experiments. A scientific approach will be developed through an appreciation of how empirical data can be used to test competing theories. We will take simple questions, and cut across...
traditional disciplines looking for answers. For example, asking the question, ‘why do we see ghosts?’ will integrate ideas from visual perception, cognition, emotion, cross cultural differences, and neuroscience. We will address several such questions during the lecture sessions, and in their workshop sessions students will develop their own research question to address. With support from the staff and group members they will investigate the different ways that they can answer their question. Individually, they will then complete a written project.

Teaching Methods
The classes will consist of lectures in the morning session, workshops in the afternoon, and activities after class that students complete online and in groups.

The lectures will be both traditional format and ‘flipped’ lectures, in which students will study material prior to the class. They will also include in-lecture experiments, data collection and analysis, so that students are encouraged to think critically and evaluate their own behaviour.

In afternoon workshops, students will break into discussion / work groups and follow up on the issues raised in lectures. They will complete activities individually and in small groups such as designing experiments, collecting data, researching papers online, brainstorming different approaches, and analysing results. They will give presentations to the rest of the class discussing their work. Experiencing this cycle of enquiry and evidence will give students the psychological literacy to integrate knowledge across psychology and apply it to the world around them.

On the class website students will post questions, comments and discussion topics. We will use this material to evaluate, monitor and enhance their understanding of the course material.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Understand key conceptual issues in psychology
- Be aware of the history of ideas in understanding the mind
- Appreciate a range of modern methods in scientific psychology
- Think critically about how psychological issues are portrayed in the media
- Develop their own research project in which they raise a question, and should how the empirical techniques of psychology can be used to address it. Experiencing this cycle of enquiry and evidence will give students the psychological literacy to integrate knowledge across psychology and apply it to the world around them.

Assessment Methods

- Regular short responses to class discussion questions (30%)
- Written project work (30%)
- Multiple choice exam (40%)

Key Texts

Further reading will be suggested the module progresses.

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.