PHIL1060 - Introduction to Philosophy of Psychology
Course Outline

Course Coordinator: Dr Colin Wilks
Room: MC107 McMullin Building
Ph: 49215192
Email: Colin.Wilks@newcastle.edu.au

Semester: Semester 2 - 2008
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture/Tutorial

Brief Course Description
This course introduces students to the philosophical issues that arise from the theory and practice of Psychology. It has been specifically designed to meet the requirements of the Bachelor of Psychology degree. Topics covered will include the scope of psychology's subject matter, the biology versus culture debate, the mind/body problem, the nature and function of worldviews, scientific method, science and pseudo-science, schools of psychological thought, and professional ethics.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for 13 Weeks
Tutorial for 1 Hour per Week for 13 Weeks
Tutorials will commence in week 2.

Course Objectives
On completion of this course students will be able to:
(1) Demonstrate an understanding of the basic philosophical issues within Psychology.
(2) Demonstrate an understanding of the issues arising from (i) the diversity of psychology's subject matter, and from (ii) psychological research and practice in general.
(3) Demonstrate an understanding of (i) professional ethics, (ii) where and why professional ethics apply in the professional practice of psychology, and (iii) how general professional ethical principles are applied to particular situational cases.
(4) Demonstrate an understanding of the 'big picture' framework from which the various schools of psychological theory and practice have emerged.

Course Content
Content will be organised around the following topics:
(1) Basic problems in Philosophy of Psychology (e.g. the biology/culture debate, the mind/body problem, worldviews, determinism, rationalism, reduction).
(2) Philosophical bases of classical schools of Psychology (e.g. behaviourism, functionalism, psychoanalysis, cognitivism).

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2008

CTS Download Date: 24 June 2008
(3) Philosophy of scientific method (including deductive and inductive reasoning, empiricism, falsification, Kuhn, science and pseudo-science)

(4) Professionalism and Professional ethics.

Although the topics explored are philosophical in nature, the focus is on how decisions made at the philosophical level shape the theory and practice of Psychology.

### Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Items</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Essay 1 (1500 words)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Essay 2 (1500 words)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination: Take Home</td>
<td>Take Home Examination (2000 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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### Assumed Knowledge

Qualification for entry to Bachelor of Psychology or other relevant degrees.

### Callaghan Campus Timetable

**PHIL1060: INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science

Semester 2 – 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>And Tutorial</th>
<th>Time</th>
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### Ourimbah Timetable

**PHIL1060: INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science

Semester 2 – 2008

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<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
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<td>Or</td>
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<td>O_CS2.18</td>
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### Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include (i) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without acknowledgment; (ii) using another’s ideas without due acknowledgment; (iii) working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but to data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs. Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty. For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html)

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may:

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

### Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.
Marks and Grades Released During Term

All marks and grades released during the term, are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School on the recommendation of the School Assessment body.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by due date, as advised in Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised. Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you. Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- Requests for Special Consideration must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- Requests for Rescheduling Exams must be received no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. In the first instance, students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

Changing your Enrolment

The census date below is the last date to withdraw without academic penalty. For onshore students, withdrawal on or before the census date means no financial penalty.

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2008

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade. Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to Self Service: https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

Faculty Information

Faculty of Education and Arts: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. The four Student Hubs are located at:

Callaghan campus: Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building or Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

City Precinct: City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

Ourimbah campus: Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building
Contact details

Callahan, City and Port Macquarie: Phone: 02 4921 5000, Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

Ourimbah: Phone: 02 4348 4030, Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

The Dean of Students
Resolution Precinct: Phone: 02 4921 5806, Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Phone: 02 4348 4123, Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS
The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with disabilities or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which may impact on your studies, please discuss your needs with your lecturer or course coordinator. Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

Online Tutorial Registration:
Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Important Additional Information
Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

• Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
• Online copy submission to Turnitin
• Penalties for Late Assignments
• Special Circumstances
• Return of Assignments
• Essential Online Information for Students
Purpose of Course

This course introduces students to some of the philosophical issues arising from the theory and practice of psychology but focuses in particular on the issue of the extent to which psychology can be considered ‘a science’ as opposed to ‘an art’.

Broadly speaking, psychology is considered ‘a science’ to the extent it theories and methods are consistent with the theories and methods of the paradigmatic sciences (physics and chemistry) and ‘an art’ to the extent its theories and practices are not consistent with the theories and methods of the paradigmatic sciences. But, in order to determine the extent to which its theories and practices are consistent with the theories and practices of the paradigmatic sciences, we first need to determine what the theories and practices of the paradigmatic sciences are, and what it is about their theories and practices that renders them paradigmatically scientific.

On the basis of these initial determinations, we proceed to (i) distinguish those aspects of psychological theory and practice which are more properly considered ‘science’ from those which are more properly considered art; (ii) identify the limitations of psychological science; (iii) distinguish between pseudo-psychological science and psychological art, and (iv) explore the domain of human thinking and behaviour over which psychological art has (for the time being at least) exclusive jurisdiction.

The course includes an examination of the professional ethics which apply (or should apply) in the fields of psychological research and clinical psychological practice, and the foundations upon which these professional ethics are founded.

Consultation

Lecturers-tutors in this course will be available for consultation at the following times:

Dr Colin Wilks: Thursday. 12.00 – 1.00
Room MC107
Or by mail at: Colin.Wilks@newcastle.edu.au

Dr. Robert Farrell: By appointment
Room MC108a
Or by mail at: Robert.Farrell@newcastle.edu.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Word Length</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Essay 1</td>
<td>1200-1500</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Friday September 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Essay 2</td>
<td>1200-1500</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Friday October 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Take Home Exam</td>
<td>2000-2500</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Examination Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Essay Questions**

**Essay 1**

The first essay covers the course content for weeks 2-6.

Question:

What features of scientific process are exemplified in the *Ulcer Wars* case study? Compare the *Ulcer Wars* and ape-language case studies: how and why do they differ?

**Essay 2**

The second essay covers the course content for weeks 7-10.

Question:

Part A: To what extent are computer analogies helpful in understanding the relationship between the human brain and the mind (400-600 words).

Part B: How does a human’s worldview differ from a chimpanzee’s ‘worldview’, and how does your worldview inform your attitude to experimenting on chimpanzee’s for psychological purposes (600 -1100 words).

**Take Home Exam**

The Take-Home Examination covers the course content for weeks 2-3 and 11-13 and will be posted on Blackboard during the examination period at a time to be determined. From the point at which it is posted, students will have one week in which to complete and return it. Further details will be made available later in the semester.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Introductory Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 28</td>
<td><strong>Reading</strong>: Hergenhahn, B. R. “Introduction” to <em>An Introduction to the History of Psychology</em></td>
<td>Part A: Science: the scientific (hard-soft) spectrum; spectrums within spectrums. Part B: What is science?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>Science – the hard-soft spectrum Psychology and Science <strong>Reading</strong>: Gardener, H., ‘Scientific Psychology: Should We Bury or Praise it?’</td>
<td>Empiricism and observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 18</td>
<td>Science and Pseudo-Science <strong>Reading</strong>: Popper, K. “Science: Conjectures and Refutations”. Giere, R. Understanding Scientific Reasoning Ch’s 2</td>
<td>Paradigms and pluralism Screening: <em>Ulcer Wars</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>Discussion of first essay Question</td>
<td>Part A: what is science? Part B: Science: the scientific (hard-soft) spectrum; spectrums within spectrums; reductionism and emergence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>Psychology as science <strong>Reading</strong>: Pinker, S., ‘Silly Putty’ and ‘The Last Wall to Fall’ (Chs. 2 and 3 of <em>The Blank Slate</em>)</td>
<td>Psychology as Science: hard-soft psychology; hardware-software analogies Essay 1 Due 5th September</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading/Screening</td>
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<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>The Mind-Brain-Body problem hardware-software analogies</td>
<td>The mind-brain-body problem: the metaphysical spectrum; views of the world and worldviews.</td>
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<td>Reading: As for Week 7.</td>
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<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>Views of world and worldviews</td>
<td>Worldviews: facts, values, beliefs and ideals.</td>
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<td>Reading: Schumacker, J. F., “The Problem of Reality” (Ch 1 of The Corruption of Reality)</td>
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<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>Worldviews: facts, values, beliefs and ideals.</td>
<td>Closed and open worldviews and their psycho-dynamics; the scientific worldview and problems of ‘modernity’.</td>
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<td>Discussion of Second Essay question.</td>
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<td><strong>Mid-Semester Recess: Monday 29 September – Friday 10 October</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Essay 2 Due 3rd October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>Closed and open worldviews and their psychodynamics; the scientific worldview and problems of ‘modernity’.</td>
<td>Paradigms, Worldviews, Theories of Ethics.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Reading: To be announced</td>
<td>Cognitive Behavioural Therapy</td>
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<td><strong>Screening: Gay Muslims</strong></td>
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<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Paradigms, Worldviews, Theories of Ethics.</td>
<td>Professional Codes of Ethics</td>
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<td>Cognitive Behavioural Therapy: Science or Art</td>
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<td>Discussion of <em>Gay Muslims</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Codes of Ethics</td>
<td>Course Synthesis</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Reading: O’Donohue, W. and Mangold, R. &quot;A Critical Examination of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct&quot;</td>
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<td>Nov 3</td>
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