



# Course Outline

PSYC1022

Psychology of Addiction

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T1, 2021

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## 1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor & Lecturer	Dr. Helena Pacitti	<a href="mailto:h.pacitti@unsw.edu.au">h.pacitti@unsw.edu.au</a>	Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm via Moodle discussion forum or email.  Available for consultation online via Moodle Chat 4-5pm each Thursday or meeting (via MS Teams).	Forum/ Email

## 2. Course information

<b>Units of credit:</b>	6
<b>Pre-requisite(s):</b>	None
<b>Teaching times and locations:</b>	Online via Moodle (see: <a href="#">PSYC1022 Timetable</a> ).

### 2.1 Course summary

This course deals with transdisciplinary issues pertinent to the understanding and treatment of drug addiction. Topics include: historic origins of drugs; manufacture, global distribution and black market economics; epidemiology of population uptake; biomedical harms; neuropharmacological actions; effects on learning, motivation, cognition and behaviour; psychiatric comorbidity; individual differences in vulnerability; brain mechanisms of reward and impaired cognitive control; treatment by behavioural interventions and pharmacotherapy; prevention by education; prohibition by criminal justice; and the role of scientific evidence in government policy. The course will provide a broad understanding of drug use and the systems in place to counteract it.

### 2.2 Course aims

The overall aim of this course is to enable students to develop an introductory understanding of biological, psychological and social factors involved in drug addiction through the investigation of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends, with an emphasis on knowledge of research methods in this field.

## **2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)**

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major transdisciplinary concepts, theories, research findings, and trends in the field of drug addiction.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of and ability to evaluate psychological research methods used in the field of drug addiction and interpret numerical data in relation to theoretical issues.
3. Demonstrate and apply critical thinking skills in order to use empirical evidence from psychological science to understand physiological, behavioural, cognitive, and social factors involved in drug addiction.
4. Demonstrate effective written communication skills for the purpose of informing and arguing.



## 3. Strategies and approaches to learning

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### 3.1 Learning and teaching activities

**Lectures:** the lecture content of this course is presented entirely online via the [Moodle](#) eLearning website. The format of the lectures involves PowerPoint slides with accompanying audio. In addition,







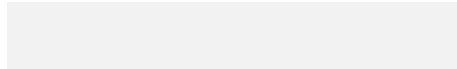


## 5. Assessment

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### 5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.



**with the exception of SRL 4 (multiple-choice questions) whereby instructions are released Monday in Week 6 and must be completed by Sunday of Week 9.** Each SRL activity is worth 2%, so students may earn a total of 10% of their final grade by completing them by the due dates (see above table).  
*Note, due to the participatory nature of the SRL*





## 8. Administrative matters

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The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

## 9. Additional support for students

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- The Current Students Gateway: