

C8105: Psychology 1A Class Handbook 2023-24

Site: myplace.strath.ac.uk

Class: C8105: Psychology 1A

Book: C8105: Psychology 1A Class Handbook 2023-24

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1. Class Handbook

Class handbook

1.1. Welcome to Psychology

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Psychology at the University of Strathclyde. Psychology is a course offered within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences by the School of Psychological Sciences and Health. The school is housed on the fifth and sixth floor of the Graham Hills building in the John Anderson campus. The general office is on the sixth floor, located in room 6.76 of the Graham Hills building, and its telephone number is 0141-552 4400 extension 2700 (direct line 0141-548-2700). If you need to contact the general office you should use the following email address: **hass-courses-psh@strath.ac.uk**.

Important Class Announcements

Please be aware that important announcements will be made by email, through posts on Myplace and during lectures. Students are responsible for checking their university email account and Myplace regularly. Students should also check their account in Pegasus (<http://pegasus.strath.ac.uk>) for University announcements.

1.2. Points of contact

When studying first year Psychology there are several significant points of contact you should be aware of.

If you have a general question regarding C8105, please post it on the Forum. If you email the class leader and your question is a general question you will be asked to post it in the forum and an answer will be given there.

The First Year Tutor

Each year of the BA Psychology degree has a Year Tutor, who is the person you must contact in the following situations:

- If you are unable to submit your coursework on time
- If you are falling behind due to personal difficulties or illness etc.
- Matters relating to progression into second year
- Any other matter if in doubt

In first year Psychology, the Year Tutor is **Dr Hazel Anderson**, who can be contacted by:

Email, at hazel.anderson@strath.ac.uk

To note, you should only contact Dr Anderson directly by email if it is a personal matter. If you have a general question about the class then these questions should be posted in the Discussion Forum which can be found on the C8105 Psychology 1A Myplace page. If you email Dr Anderson and your question is a generic question you will be asked to post it in the forum and an answer will be given there.

The class leader

Additionally, each class (such as C8105) has a class leader, who is the person you should contact if you have a question relating to that class, for example if you have a question about the class tests, or other such issue. The class leader this semester for C8105 is also **Dr Hazel Anderson**.

Lecturers

Enquiries about lecture content should also be posted in the Discussion Forum.

The lecturers who teach on this class are:

- Dr Allan McGroarty (a.mcgroarty@strath.ac.uk)
- Dr Steve Kelly (steve.kelly@strath.ac.uk)
- Dr Kellyanne Findlay (kellyanne.findlay@strath.ac.uk)
- Dr Stephen Butler (stephen.butler@strath.ac.uk)
- Dr Victor Shiramizu (victor.shiramizu@strath.ac.uk)
- Dr Timothy Eschle (timothy.eschle@strath.ac.uk)
- Dr Kieran O'Shea (kieran.oshea@strath.ac.uk). Note, Dr O'Shea deals with tutorials only.

IT Technical Enquiries.

Questions relating to technical difficulties (such as problems with installing SPSS) should be sent to Strathclyde IT support (help@strath.ac.uk).

SONA Enquiries.

There is information regarding SONA on the Myplace page Psychology: Research Participation/SONA/Qualtrics/E-Prime/Ethics. If you do not have SONA log in details, please contact Dr David Robertson (hass-psy-participantpool@strath.ac.uk).

Administrative Enquiries.

If you have a question about administrative matters (e.g. problems with submitting work), please direct your inquiry to the Course Support Team for the School of Psychological Sciences and Health (hass-courses-psh@strath.ac.uk).

Library Resources.

For questions related to difficulties accessing library resources (e.g. books/journals), please contact the library (<https://helpdesk.strath.ac.uk/support/home>).

Improving Academic Performance.

For queries about how to improve your academic performance (e.g. understanding or addressing feedback, improving academic writing, preparing for exams), please contact Study Skills (email: studyskills@strath.ac.uk; or book an appointment here: <https://studentsupport.strath.ac.uk/studyskills/>).

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/strathlife/academicsupport/>

Strath Union

Strath Union, the Strathclyde student union, has a lot of useful information or links, including for advice regarding topics such as housing, health and wellbeing, or money.

<https://www.strathunion.com/>

Other contacts

Other contacts, as required, can be found on our webpage: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/psychologicalscienceshealth/psychology/>.

1.3. Class Discussion Forum

What is the 'Class Discussion Forum' on the class Myplace page?

This is a general discussion forum on the C8105 Myplace page. Use of the forum is encouraged as it allows the whole class – students and staff – to stay in touch with each other. If you have a general question about the class you should be posting it in this forum not emailing the class leader. Messages posted in this area can be seen by the whole class and the teaching staff. You can use this board for general discussions and queries about the class. Use it to ask, and answer if you can, questions of interest to the whole class. You are also welcome to use this area for general chat. There is only one rule for use of this system – don't post anything which might offend someone in any capacity.

1.4. Studying first year Psychology

Psychology is a diverse and fascinating subject, and the first Psychology class, C8105, is designed to reflect this. The C8105 class is intended as a stimulating introduction to the subject of Psychology. The class aims to introduce students to findings, theories, and debates in general contemporary psychology in key areas of the subject.

C8105 runs in six modules:

- Conceptual and Historical Issues
- Learning Theory
- Personality
- Sensation and Perception
- Biological Psychology
- Psychological Disorders

C8105 is complemented by a second class, C8106, which runs in the second semester. If you plan to continue on to second year Psychology you should take C8105 in the first semester and C8106 in the second semester. **Students applying to take second year Psychology are required to take both classes.**

How many credits do I earn for this class?

This class (C8105) is worth 20 credits. Please note that this class runs for the full duration of the first semester.

Are there any Prerequisites to the class?

No, there are none. Subject to the approval of their advisers, the class may be taken by students in any faculty.

Learning Outcomes of C8105

Students should develop knowledge and learning strategies on how to write an essay in psychology, literature searching, referencing and plagiarism. These are skills that are required of you as you progress throughout your first academic year and beyond. Students will also acquire a basic understanding of the breadth of study in psychology. They should also begin to understand the importance of taking a critical approach to research findings and theory in the subject such that they become aware of the need to read around each piece of evidence with which they are presented, seeking alternative explanations of the significance of psychological phenomena. On completing the class, students should appreciate the usefulness of presenting balanced arguments on a range of psychological research questions, arguments which are supported or questioned, as appropriate, by evidence from a variety of sources.

How the class fits with other Psychology classes

C8105 Psychology provides students who plan to continue with the subject an introduction to a number of specific areas of study within psychology which are dealt with in more depth in the second, third, and fourth years of the BA Psychology course.

1.5. C8105 Syllabus

Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology: Dr Allan McGroarty

The historical origins of psychology in philosophy and the scientific revolution of the 17th century. The philosophy of Descartes. The emergence of the scientific method and its impact on early psychological thinking. First attempts to establish psychology as an independent discipline. The impact of physiology. Introspectionism versus behaviourism and the rise of psychology as "the science of behaviour".

Psychology of Learning: Dr Steve Kelly

Classical conditioning - Pavlov. General principles. The application of Pavlovian principles. Operant conditioning - Skinner's Radical Behaviourism. Schedules of reinforcement. Discriminative stimuli. Applications of operant conditioning. Constraints on operant conditioning. Usefulness and limitations of all models of conditioning as accounts of human behaviour and cognition.

Personality: Dr Allan McGroarty

What is personality psychology? Personality as a psychological concept. Links with physical, biological characteristics of the person. Theories of personality – psychodynamic, humanistic, types and traits, social-cognitive. Evaluation and scientific usefulness of personality theories.

Sensation and Perception: Dr Kellyanne Findlay

This module will introduce students to concepts in sensory systems and processes and concepts in perception.

Psychological Disorders: Dr Stephen Butler

This module will introduce students to psychological disorders, including the symptoms of disorders such as mood disorders and schizophrenia, and theory relating to how they may develop.

Biological Psychology : Dr Victor Shiramizu and Dr Timothy Eschle

Students will be introduced to the foundational content of biological psychology. This will include the coverage of the rudimentary anatomy and physiology of the brain and how biological factors, such as genetics and hormones, contribute to our understanding of a range of complex human behaviour.

1.6. Lectures.

How are lectures delivered?

The class is delivered primarily by means of **live lecture sessions on campus**. Lecture sessions occur on the day, time, and location stated on the timetable. Some of the lecture sessions are supplemented by pre-recorded videos so please make sure you take note from the timetable which lectures are live or pre-recorded and live. **Lecture sessions conducted on campus will not be recorded**, therefore there will not be recordings shared on Myplace after lecture sessions have occurred. Attendance at lectures is required.

There is an introductory lecture and the remaining lectures are psychology based.

Note, though this is the plan at the time of writing, Covid has created a changeable teaching situation. Should teaching format change, students will be informed.

Engaging with the lectures

It is very important that you keep up to date and engage with the lectures. Experience shows that students who engage with lectures and materials regularly perform much better on coursework and examinations than those who do not.

All students are reminded that holidays should be taken during the University holiday periods – you should not take time off during the teaching semesters. When you registered, you agreed to comply with University statutes and regulations. For those that this applies to, you have also made a contract with SAAS and your fees are paid on the understanding that you will comply with University regulations.

What if I miss a lecture?

Students who miss a lecture can catch up independently by doing the reading for the lecture. Lecturers generally share lecture slides for their lecture. These can be used, along with the recommended reading stated by the lecturer (see lecture slides or the reading list link on the C8105 Myplace page). Lectures are not recorded, so videos will not be available.

Lecture etiquette.

Students are expected to attend their lectures and to listen quietly while the lecturer is speaking - talking during lectures is highly distracting for both students and the staff member giving the lecture. Students should not be watching videos/ viewing social media content. It is expected that students will not be photographing/ video recording other students or staff - students are provided with lecture slides and required reading. In addition students take notes during lectures - the ability to summarise verbally shared information efficiently is a skill important to many jobs and one that is developed during University. If a lecture is missed, notes can be taken based on the reading for that lecture.

1.7. Tutorials

Overview of C8105 Psychology 1a Tutorials.

During the tutorials, you will have the opportunity to interact with other students and ask the tutorial instructor questions. **Tutorials are for students on C8105 only.** C8107 students (those on the BSc Speech and Language Pathology degree) are welcome to form their own study groups.

Week structure.

Students on Psychology 1A will take part in four tutorials. Depending on the assigned tutorial group, this will occur in weeks 3, 5, 8, 10 or weeks 4, 6, 9, 11. The structure and content of tutorials will vary. Some focus more on a particular skill (such as problem-solving or essay writing) whereas some are linked to particular topics (such as sensation and perception).

Tutorial topics.

Term Week 3/4 – Essay Writing Skills

Term Week 5/6 – Interpreting Results

Term Week 8/9 – Sensation and Perception

Term Week 10/11 – Psychological Disorders

When are tutorials?

Students sign up for a set of tutorials themselves through the Psychology 1A Myplace page. A variety of tutorial times will be provided and a *maximum of 30 students* can sign up for a particular tutorial group. Students sign up for one tutorial group only and you will be able to do this from *Monday 18th September, 9am*. Students who don't sign up for a tutorial group themselves by the deadline (Thursday 21st September, 5pm) will be allocated a tutorial group and informed the following week of which group they are in.

Can I swap classes?

There is a large number of students on this course, so we are relying on students to check their availability and choose a time they can attend when they sign up. It is not possible to change tutorial time unless it is essential. If you do need to swap tutorial time, please contact Dr Kieran O'Shea (kieran.oshea@strath.ac.uk). Students have to attend tutorials for the group they signed up to, they can't attend a session for another tutorial group.

Are tutorials credit bearing?

Tutorials don't contribute towards credits for Psychology 1A. They are formative activities designed to develop skills relevant to the course, and broaden your knowledge and understanding of topics in a particular area.

Where do tutorials happen?

All tutorials will be delivered on-campus. Information regarding dates, times and room numbers will be on Myplace so please review them before making a decision about which tutorial group to sign up for. Be aware, that the tutorials for some groups might occur in different locations on different weeks so please double-check the timetable before attending.

University map: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/maps>

How to interpret room name codes -

GH681 would be Graham Hills Building, 6th Floor, Room number 81.

Homework and preparation.

You will be set homework for the tutorials – please do this before attending. We also request that you take materials with you to help complete tasks during tutorials.

Tutorial 1 homework and preparation.

- Watch and read the materials provided in the "Essay Writing Skills Resources" tab on the C8105 Myplace page.
- Read the Tutorial 1 - Task 1 abstracts sheet.
- Take your notes on Study Skills.

- Take paper and pen/ pencil.

Tutorial 2 homework and preparation.

- Watch the Interpreting Results video.
- Take your notes on Interpreting Results.
- Take paper and pen/ pencil.

Tutorial 3 homework and preparation.

- Read Chapter 5 of Psychological Sciences (Phelps et al., 2022).
- Take the Psychological Science textbook with you if you have it.
- Take your notes on Sensation and Perception.
- Take paper and pen/pencil.

Tutorial 4 homework and preparation.

- Read Chapter 14 of Psychological Sciences (Phelps et al., 2022).
- Take the Psychological Science textbook with you if you have it.
- Take your notes on Psychological Disorders.
- Take paper and pen/ pencil.

I can't attend a tutorial- what should I do?

If a student misses a tutorial class for any reason they can get caught up by working through the tutorial materials independently in their own time.

If you are missing a tutorial session due to an extenuating circumstance (eg., illness), it is recommended to update your personal circumstances information on Pegasus when you have time (including emailing evidence to personal-circumstances@strath.ac.uk if you have it). If you miss a tutorial for a general reason (such as sleeping in or missing the bus) that shouldn't be input to Pegasus. Students don't usually need to contact staff regarding missed tutorials or lectures (Pegasus is where that information is recorded by the student themselves if it was due to personal circumstances). If you require support or going to be missing multiple classes then please do contact the Class Leader (Dr Hazel Anderson).

Can I access materials for missed tutorials?

If a tutorial isn't attended for any reason, students can still work through the tutorial materials. PowerPoints used during tutorials will be available on Myplace after all tutorial groups have completed that particular tutorial. Students can work through the materials themselves. A forum dedicated to peer discussion related to that tutorial topic will also be available. Alternatively, the Peer Networking forum can be used for students to organise their own network to work through materials with other students online.

I have a question about the tutorials?

Only personal questions should be sent via email to Dr Kieran O'Shea (kieran.oshea@strath.ac.uk) or the member of staff running your group's tutorials. All general questions should be posted on the Psychology 1A Class Discussion Forum. Please read the answers to already posted questions on the Forum before posting your own to see if it has already been answered.

I'm on C8107 and would like to work with other students.

The tutorial sessions are for the C8105 students. C8107 students are welcome to use the Peer Networking Forum to form networks to work with other students in person or online. Tutorial materials are available on Myplace after all groups have completed that tutorial and can also be used by C8107 students.

Is attendance monitored?

Attendance will be monitored and recorded using a unique QR code for each tutorial. It is highly advised to attend classes as these will allow students to discuss topics with their peers, develop skills and consolidate learning.

1.8. Class timetable

The lecture timetable can be found on the C8105 Myplace page.

Details about C8105 tutorials for the different tutorial groups can be found via the Excel file in the Tutorial Information toggle.

It is very important that you adhere to the timetable so please follow this and if you have any questions about the timetable please post your question in the discussion forum and the class leader will respond. It is also important that you understand the timetable and the difference between lecture sessions that have pre-recorded material or not.

If the timetable just states "**Lecture**", then the lecture is delivered on the day and time shown on the timetable below. Synchronous lectures allow opportunity to engage in live lectures with the lecturer.

If the timetable states "**Lecture pre-recorded**" then the lecture session is delivered on the day and time shown on the timetable. For these lecture sessions, the live content is not the lecture itself and is instead an associated activity (such as a live quiz) used to consolidate your knowledge and understanding.

Any changes to the timetable will be communicated to students via Myplace/email so please make sure you are checking your email account regularly.

1.9. Attendance monitoring.

How is attendance recorded?

Attendance is being recorded during lectures and tutorials using a QR code system. Students are to scan the code during the lecture/ tutorial to self-record their attendance. If you cannot get the system to work, please write your name in capitals on a piece of paper, along with your email address, and hand it to the lecturer before you leave.

Attendance will not be recorded after the lecture/ tutorial- you need to sign in during the class.

What happens if I miss a class?

If you are missing a class due to an extenuating circumstance (eg., illness), it is recommended to update your personal circumstances information on Pegasus when you have time (including emailing evidence to personal-circumstances@strath.ac.uk if you have it). If you miss a class for a general reason (such as sleeping in or missing the bus) that isn't input to Pegasus. Student's don't usually need to contact staff regarding missed classes (Pegasus is where that information is recorded by the student themselves if it was due to personal circumstances). If you require support or going to be missing multiple classes then please do contact the Class Leader (Dr Hazel Anderson).

If you are going to miss a lot of classes (such as due to an extended period of serious illness), it is recommended to contact the BA Psychology tutor for your year and/ or the class leader. For C8105, that person would be Dr Hazel Anderson.

1.10. Online student office hours

Online student office hours with Dr Hazel Anderson (who is both the C8105 Class Leader and 1st year BA Psychology tutor) will be available for students. **They are not compulsory** but please do join the class leader if you would like to chat informally or have a question about the class. You can also talk to Dr Hazel Anderson in her capacity as year tutor during these office hours. The office hours operate on a waiting room one-in-one-out system, the class leader will speak to students individually and privately.

The dates and times for these sessions can be found in the Office Hours toggle on the C8105 Myplace page.

1.11. Class textbooks

Phelps, E. A., Berkman, E. T., Gazzaniga, M. S. (2022). *Psychological Science* (7th edition). New York, Norton.

We recommend that you buy your own copy of the current (7th edition) version of the book.

We have received two discount codes for the textbook that are listed below. Please note - these are offers from an external company and we can't guarantee that each of them work. If one doesn't work, I'd recommend trying another.

Offer 1.

Offer: 30% off print and 15% off Ebooks on Norton website

Website: wwnorton.co.uk

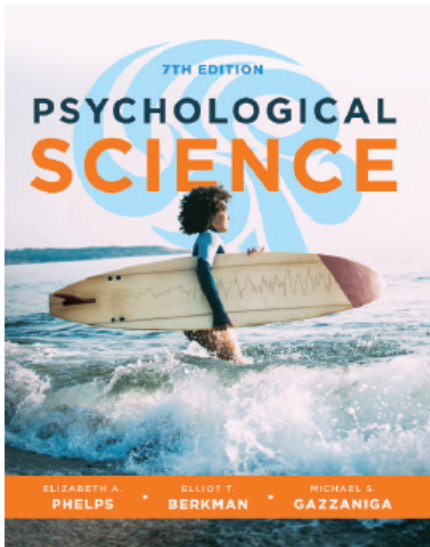
Print discount code: 30OFF

Ebook discount code: WN973

End date for offer: 31st October 2023

Offer 2.

Online from the [John Smith Online Book Shop](#) or by visiting the John Smith's Bookshop, details of which are on the attached flyer below.



GAZZANIGA- PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

RRP £49.99

OFFER PRICE (Offer QR code below with free UK postage for students).
£47.99

tinyurl.com/strathfirstsemester



Online InQuisitive Resource

InQuizitive is an online learning tool which contains various question types and specific feedback. Questions include topics delivered in C8105

Psychology 1A and can be used for consolidation of knowledge.

For this class the Student Set: 761720

<https://digital.wwnorton.com/psychsci7>

Students often ask about other textbooks: There are no fast answers to these questions. We recommend one textbook (the one above), a good book that can be bought from the university bookshop, is up to date and gives you access to electronic resources that will develop your knowledge and understanding of Psychology. If you use another textbook then you may experience some or all of the following:

- You are using a textbook that is not as up to date
- You are using a textbook that does not cover the topics your lecturers are covering in the same way, or in the same level of detail as the recommended text
- You will not be able to follow page or chapter numbers provided as references
- The book may not be very good
- The book may be written in a language you cannot read, or be unrelated to the class content

There are other decent introductory texts out there, but using them may cause you difficulties as outlined above. Please don't ask us to comment on the worthiness of a particular text, as we don't have an encyclopaedic knowledge of each textbook. **My advice would be to purchase the recommended text.** Note: we will be using the Gazzaniga textbook in the Semester 2 class, C8106 also.

Brysbaert, M. & Rastle, K. (2020). *Historical and Conceptual Issues in Psychology* (3rd edition). Harlow, Pearson Education.

This textbook contains supporting material for the Conceptual and Historical Issues lectures in the C8105 Psychology class. The book can be borrowed from the university library and it is available as an electronic resource. Students who wish to continue studying Psychology beyond 1st year may wish to purchase the Brysbaert and Rastle text, but this is not a requirement.

1.12. Assessment

The class is assessed by a combination of:

- Essay writing skills quiz - 10%
- Coursework essay - 35%
- Class test - 55%

Total = 100%.

Students will be given no mark for each piece of assessment they do not complete.

(1) Essay Writing Skills Quiz

There is one essay writing skills quiz and this be held in Week 5 of the semester on Wednesday 18th October. The test is worth 10% of the overall mark for C8105 and will comprise of approximately 20 questions on literature searching, essay writing skills, referencing and plagiarism. Each of these skills are important skills to have and will be of benefit to you when preparing for and completing assessments. The test will be run online. The quiz will be available from Wednesday 18th October at 10am until Thursday 19th October at 10am but when you start the test you will have 25 minutes to complete it.

(2) Coursework Essay

You will be invited to write and submit one essay for the deadline of Week 8, Wednesday 8th November at 1pm. This will contribute 35% of the overall mark for the class. Details of the essay will be released to the class roughly 4 weeks before the deadline. Before starting your essay, we recommend that you implement your knowledge that you have gained from taking part in the tutorials and read closely "Writing Psychology Essays - A Student Guide". This is a helpful resource and can be found on the C8105 Myplace class page.

Submitting your essay

Students are responsible for submitting their own essay properly and on time. Essays are submitted electronically i.e. you will upload your essay document to Myplace. Once submitted, your essay will be checked using plagiarism detection software. Please make sure you attach the assessment cover page (found on the C8105 Myplace page) to your essay before submitting it. You will have to add some details including your student registration number, and it contains a declaration that you are aware of what plagiarism is and that you declare your coursework as your own. Please add the wordcount (excluding reference section) to the cover page.

Difficulties with essay submission

Students who have serious, genuine and unexpected difficulties in submitting the essay on time may be granted a brief extension to the essay deadline. For further information on classwork extensions, please consult the **BA Psychology Course Handbook**. You can find the Course Handbook on the [Psychology-Info](#) page on Myplace.

The University operates a late submission policy for classwork submitted late. If an essay is submitted late, this will result in a reduction of the essay mark. For more information on the University's late submission policy, see this webpage: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/sees/studentpolicies/policies/assessmentfeedbackandexternalexaminers/policyandprocedureforlatesubmissionofcoursework/>

Marking procedure.

In the BA Psychology Course, students' classwork is marked anonymously wherever possible. For this reason, we ask you to include your student registration number rather than your name on your essay document. You will find detailed submission guidelines on Myplace. Marked classwork is returned via Myplace and we aim to do this within approximately 15 working days (ie., approximately 3 weeks) following the deadline. If there are changes to the marks release date (such as due to unmanageable numbers of extension requests or staff illness) this will be conveyed to students via class notice.

(3) Class Test

There is one class test, and this will be held during the formal assessment period in December 2023 online. The test is worth 55% of the overall mark for C8105. The class test will be based on all the material covered during the semester (Weeks 1 - 11). Further details of the class test will be shared later in the semester.

The test is designed primarily to encourage reading of background material, a habit essential to success at university whichever course a student pursues in subsequent years. Class tests are tests primarily of reading and demonstrating breadth of knowledge. Students should expect to be assessed on the **whole** of the recommended reading corresponding to each module and not just on those sections which overlap with material covered in lectures. In addition, some material covered in lectures but not in the textbook may appear in the test.

Students will receive normative feedback on the class test.

The C8105 Psychology class test should be treated exactly the same as examinations. You will class notice when the information is available on Myplace about the exact date and time of the class test.

1.13. Submitting files for assessments.

File types.

Please submit files as .pdf if at all possible as this protects against any formatting changes that could occur. Acceptable file types are .pdf, .doc, .docx, .odt and .wps.

Note: We can only mark what we see, not what you intended us to see. Files submitted in any format other than PDF are at risk of formatting changes.

Please remember to include the word count and cover page in submitted files (the word count can be written on the cover page).

Time management.

It is advised to submit the essay at least an hour before the deadline, in case technical difficulties occur. Students have weeks to complete and submit the essay, which is plenty of time to absorb most issues that may be encountered during the essay writing and submission process. It is the student's responsibility to manage their time during the writing process, to submit essays in time, and to make sure that they have submitted the correct file.

Submission process.

- Students are responsible for their own work. By uploading a file, the student confirms the statement "This assignment is my own work, except where I have properly cited the work of other people".
- Once the deadline passes, any file which has been uploaded will proceed to marking. Whatever is uploaded is the final document to be marked.
- Late penalties for late uploads applies.

Submission technical difficulties.

It can take time for Turnitin to provide similarity reports – staff cannot speed up that process. If there are problems generally with submitting your file, please make sure you have followed the advice regarding file types above. If you are still having difficulties, please contact a member of the General Office for the School of Psychological Sciences and Health for administrative assistance (email: hass-courses-psh@strath.ac.uk).

1.14. Pass mark and main/ resit assessments.

Pass mark.

The pass mark for the whole class, which is calculated on the basis of all the components of the class (i.e. the coursework essay writing skills quiz, the essay and the class test) is 40% or above.

Resits.

Should your **final overall mark**, based on all components, fall below 40% then you will have an opportunity to “resit” the component(s) that has brought your mark down to a fail level and then have a second overall resit mark returned. Students required to take any resit option may have a fail mark registered for their first sitting of C8105 and subsequently a second resit mark entered on their Pegasus record. Please note that this is a Faculty wide policy. For students who require it, there will be an opportunity to resit failed components during the 2023 resit formal assessment period (the resit period is usually late July to mid August). Resit dates and information are usually shared with students in late June/ early July.

Does having to resit one of the components mean I have a fail returned for the first attempt at C8105 and a resit mark subsequently returned?

The university will deal with cases where, for example, a student missed the first sitting of a class test due to an illness covered by a **medical certificate** provided by a doctor, or another serious reason, on an individual case by case basis. In such cases, students must record their **personal circumstances** on Pegasus and submit appropriate documentation (e.g. medical certificate, death certificate) to Student Business (email evidence to personal-circumstances@strath.ac.uk). There are also options, e.g., requesting extensions for coursework if you have good grounds for doing so (for the first/main sitting of coursework). Students who miss a class test or fail to undertake any classwork prescribed without good reason and evidence will have no mark registered for the work.

1.15. Referencing

What about references, what are they, should they be included in my essay? Will they be included in the word limit for my essay?

We covered referencing within the study skills sessions, but just to recap references are lists of the papers, books and other published and unpublished materials which the writer(s) has (have) read in order to support the presented piece of work. The Gazzaniga textbook's reference section starts at the back of the book, for example. Reference lists will not be included in word limits for essays. However, author citations in the text will be. For example, the sentence

"In contrast, habitual use of cocaine in large quantities can lead to paranoia, psychotic behaviour, and violence (Ottieger, et al., 1992)."

You will see here that the author has **cited** Ottieger and colleagues as the researchers whose work is being reported here. These words would be included in the word limit.

However, references at the end of the essay, like you see at the end of your textbook, or at the end of a scientific paper, do not contribute to the word count. Material in the body of the answer will be counted in the word limit, but references, provided at the end of the essay, like these below, will not be included in the word count:

References

Manahilov, V., Findlay, K., & Simpson, W.A. (2004). Factors limiting suprathreshold vision measured by a flash-sound simultaneity paradigm. *Vision Research*, 44, 2577-2585.

Obonsawin, M., Smallwood, J. & Heim, D. (2003). Task unrelated thought: the role of distributed processing. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 12, 169-189.

The above is an example of what is known as an APA style of referencing. You will learn more about referencing during the tutorials.

What is a good source of evidence for coursework?

The strongest source of evidence is peer reviewed journal articles- using these, and especially using some relevant articles that were found independently, is the strongest option. Textbooks are good, but these are usually secondary sources of evidence and therefore not as strong as peer reviewed journal articles. Students often use textbooks a lot for evidence in first year. As you progress through the course, it is expected that students will move from textbooks to using peer reviewed journal articles for their evidence.

Avoid Wikipedia and websites like Simply Psychology...

In the past, some students have sought for wisdom within Wikipedia and the website Simply Psychology and have got themselves into difficulties. In a nutshell, don't use them for writing academic assessments. Wikipedia can be a handy tool for quickly getting up to speed with something you don't know, but the main problem with it is that anyone can post content on it. Therefore, depending on the level of monitoring/popularity of a topic, inaccurate information can be written there.

There is probably a lot of decent stuff on Wikipedia, put up by decent, and in many cases distinguished people. But it should be treated with caution due to the point above. If a Wikipedia entry seems to be saying something that appears to be in direct contravention of your textbook then I would strongly suggest you trust your textbook. If you want a rule of thumb to apply, then only fully trust material that comes from academic web sources, such as those that end in ".ac.uk" or ".edu". Even then, as you go through your academic career you will start to develop the skill of critical thinking, of weighing up the evidence of even the most distinguished researchers, rather than blindly accepting it as fact.

1.16. Research participation

First Year Research Experience

Note: **If you are planning to go on and take C8106 in the second semester, the following section is relevant.** If you do not plan to take C8106 in the second semester, the research participation option does not apply to you.

To provide you with opportunities to become more practically involved in psychological research, psychology has established the **First Year Participant Pool**. All First Year students taking part in C8106, or both C8105 and C8106 are invited to participate in **psychological research studies** designed by staff or senior students.

Part of learning about research methods is to act as a research participant yourself. By taking part in psychological research studies, you will gain first hand experience of how questions about psychological processes are measured. You will learn about the variety of techniques and instruments that psychologists use.

Psychology is a research-based science

There are lots of things that we might wish to study, but deciding on the most rigorous scientific procedure is rarely straightforward. As you will find during your work as a psychology student, psychologists employ many different research methods. In later years, you will be conducting research studies of your own, and it is crucial to be able to know how to run a successful, rigorously designed investigation. In addition to the learning benefits, **you can gain marks by participating**. The important take home message is that you can earn 6% of the marks for the second semester C8106 class by taking part in research. You can start to **bank these marks** during the first semester, and they will count towards your mark in C8106 in the second semester.

Studies that are advertised in the course as 'eligible to contribute to the C8106 First Year Research Experience' will earn you marks that contribute to C8106 in the second semester. The number of marks available varies according to how many credits worth of studies you participate in, but all students who participate satisfactorily in **six credits worth of studies** will be credited with 6% of their marks towards C8106.

What kinds of studies will I take part in?

The range is very wide, reflecting the diverse interests of staff and advanced students in psychology. You might be asked to take part in a study on memory processes, or to complete attitudinal measures. Your visual perception might be tested or you could be involved in a laboratory study of how teams work. Perhaps you will be a juror in a mock trial, or you could cooperate to complete a puzzle with someone you meet only via a chat room. You might join in a discussion or you might be asked to monitor your moods. One further benefit of taking part is that you may well find that some of the studies influence your own future research. If you find a particular study interesting, perhaps you could be working on a similar project in a couple of years' time. The researcher will provide you with information regarding the background and meaning of their study after you take part, as part of your learning experience.

What if I don't want to take part in a particular study?

No problem. You will be free to choose which studies you participate in.

Sounds interesting: but what if I want to take part in more than six credits of studies?

That's fine. Researchers are always glad to see participants, and you are very welcome to sign up for additional studies if you wish. This does provide a good means of learning more about psychology and how it is done. However, this would be voluntary additional participation, and we are not able to give you additional marks. 6% is the maximum.

How and when can we get involved?

Researchers will advertise their studies on an online platform called SONA (click on the SONA image below) and sometimes on physical noticeboards on campus. Once you have logged in to the SONA system, you will be able to participate in studies.

Please read the SONA Participant Guide for guidance on how to use our new online research participation system, you will be e-mailed your log in details early in Semester 1. The deadline for gaining your research participation credits is in week 11 of Semester 2.

Once you have participated in a study, the researcher will grant you research participation credits via the online SONA platform.

How many marks are available for participation?

For each research credit study completed, student participants will earn 1% towards their final mark in C8106. Thus, students participating in three credits worth of studies will earn a total of 3%, students participating in four credits worth of studies will earn a total of 4%, and so on.

What if I'd prefer not to take part in any studies at all?

That is entirely your prerogative. We think this is a valuable part of your studies with us but you are free to make your own decisions, without prejudice. If you do not wish to take part but do still wish to gain the 6% of marks towards C8106, then you can elect to undertake an alternative assessment, consisting of writing a short essay. Information on the research alternative essay is shared in Semester 2 on the C8106 Psychology 1B

Myplace page.

An important issue to bear in mind

Please do complete studies if you have signed up to do them otherwise you will not get the credit for them. It can be extremely frustrating for a stressed final year student who is trying to complete their dissertation.

If you have queries relating to research participation or the online SONA platform, please contact Dr David Robertson at this email address: hass-psy-participantpool@strath.ac.uk

1.17. The InQuisitive resource

When you buy the Gazzaniga textbook it will include a free registration code that will allow you to access resources otherwise known as InQuisitive which is an online tool providing questions for you to test your knowledge and understanding. The sections offered in InQuisitive correspond with the topics you receive in C8105 Psychology 1a.

Completion of InQuisitive will not earn you any marks, it is available for you to complete as formative activities and designed for you to answer questions on the topics you have learned about in class to consolidate and further develop your knowledge and understanding of Psychology.

Once you have registered, you will have access to InQuisitive.

Registering for InQuisitive

When you register online, you will be asked to provide your name, and email address. **It is important that you provide your UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE EMAIL ADDRESS at this stage.** When registering, please take care to **type your Strathclyde email address correctly.**

Note: your University of Strathclyde email address contains your name, e.g. jack.bloggs.2018@uni.strath.ac.uk. You should use that address rather than the alias of your address, e.g. hgd01345@uni.strath.ac.uk. Please ensure that all aspects of your email address are included, students sometimes do not add the year, or the '@' or full stops in their email address and this can lead to problems identifying what you have completed.

Adding Yourself to a Student Set

So that the class leader can monitor use of InQuisitive, you must add yourself to the Student Set for the 1st year Psychology classes. The first time you access InQuisitive, you will be prompted to insert a 6-digit Student Set ID number. The Student Set ID number for C8105 is:

761720

Note: If you do not add yourself to the class Student Set, your InQuisitive activity will **not** be visible to the class leader.

1.18. Student Voice

It is important that students have the opportunity to provide feedback to the class leader and year tutor about their learning, teaching and assessment experience. There are a few ways in which this can be done.

Module Evaluation

At the end of the semester (Week 11) you will receive an email from the Module Evaluation team asking you to complete an evaluation of C8105 Psychology 1a. Please do ensure that you take the time to complete this as staff can only seek to implement improvements if they are brought to our attention. To note however, some requested changes cannot be made and if this is the case a reason why will be provided to students. With your feedback, try to be constructive and if there is a particular element that you're enjoying then note that down too.

Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC)

The SSLC provides an opportunity for student voice to be expressed. SSLC, as the names suggests, is comprised of staff and students and they meet throughout the semester to discuss teaching, learning and assessment amongst other outcomes. The student representatives for each year group attend SSLC meetings, for C8105 Psychology 1a and so they act as a go to person for student wishing to provide feedback. For first year Psychology, we are looking for four reps who will be trained by the Strathclyde Union. If you are interested contact the class leader.

1.19. Feedback formats

Students receive feedback in a variety of formats for this class including:

- Individual feedback for the coursework essay (for main sitting).
- Answers to questions asked for the class, such as on the Class Discussion forum or in office hours.
- Information sent via Class Notice.
- Feedforward information - examples include advice for approaching an assessment or FAQ information.
- Answers to questions raised at Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings by student representatives (the feedback from these is provided through a "You said we did" document after each meeting).

1.20. Support and useful contacts

Important Policies and Procedures

[Personal Circumstances and Academic Appeals Procedure](#)

[Policy and Procedure for Late Submission on Coursework](#)

[Policy and Procedure on Extensions to Coursework Submissions](#)

Support

Study Skills Service

Phone: 0141 548 4064/4062

Email: studyskills@strath.ac.uk

Level 6,

Livingstone Tower,

26 Richmond Street,

G1 1XH

For more information visit the [Study Skills](#) page.

International Student Support

Phone: 0141 548 4273

Email: infoandadvice@strath.ac.uk

For more information visit the [international students support team](#).

Disability and Wellbeing Service (including Student Counselling Service and Student Health)

Phone: 0141 548 3402

Email: disability-wellbeing@strath.ac.uk

Disability & Wellbeing Service

Room 4.36, Level 4,

Graham Hills Building

50 George Street

Glasgow

G1 1QE

Strathclyde Students' Union's The Advice Hub

Phone: 0141 567 5040

Email: strathunion.advice@strath.ac.uk

For location see the [Advice Hub](#).

1.21. Available software

The University provides access to software for students. Types of software include SPSS, a stats software package you will need later on in your degree if you continue with psychology, and Endnote, which is a useful referencing tool, but you will find the full list of available software by clicking on the following link: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/it/use/softwareandhardware/>.