



PSYCHOLOGY 1A (C8105)

HANDBOOK

2014-2015

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, this document should be treated as a guide only and should be read in conjunction with the University regulations, which take precedence.

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Important class announcements

Please be aware that important announcements will be made by email, through posts on MyPlace and in lectures. It is your responsibility to check your university email account and MyPlace regularly. You should also check your account in Pegasus (<http://pegasus.strath.ac.uk>) for University announcements.

Welcome to the study of 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).

Studying first year psychology: First semester

Psychology is a diverse and fascinating subject, and the first Psychology module, called by the friendly name of 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 some key findings, theories, and debates in general contemporary psychology in key areas of the subject. In addition the class provides students who opt to continue with Psychology with an introduction to a number of specific areas of study within psychology, which are dealt with in more depth in second, third, and fourth year classes.

C8105 runs in six modules:

- Conceptual and Historical Issues
- Learning Theory
- Personality
- Biological Psychology
- Sensation and Perception
- Research Methods and Statistics

In addition, the class has a single lecture examining the case of Psychopathy.

C8105 is complemented by a second module, 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.**

Looking ahead: Second semester

C8106, the second Psychology module runs in the second semester. C8106 is designed to introduce students to additional topics within the subject. The C8106 class, which follows from

the C8105 class, is a continuation of the introduction began in C8105 to the subject of Psychology. The class, in keeping with the aims of the preceding C8105, aims to introduce students to more key findings, theories, and debates in general contemporary psychology.

The C8106 class runs in five modules:

- Developmental Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Research Methods and Statistics

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.

Learning Outcomes of C8105

Students should 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 is the class taught?

The class is delivered by means of lectures and computer based lab work. In the class there are:

23 lectures

Time and Place of Lectures: **Mondays** and **Fridays** at **2pm-3pm**, and **Mondays** at **4pm-5pm** in **K325** in the **John Anderson building**. Please consult the class timetable for further information.

4 computer based labs: Norton Psychology Labs (ZAPS)

4 modules in the C8105 Psychology 1A class have an online lab associated with them. These labs are known as ZAPS and are designed for you to experience psychological phenomena and classic psychological experiments in an interactive, online environment. When you buy the Gleitman textbook from the University bookshop, you will be given a free ZAPS Registration code. Once you have registered on the Norton Psychology Labs website, you will have access to all 56 ZAPS. You may complete as many of these as you wish, but you are required to complete the following 4 ZAPS in this class:

C8105 Class Module	Norton Psychology Lab (ZAP)	Completion dates
Learning	Concept Formation	by the end of week 3
Personality	Big Five	by the end of week 6
Biological	Synaptic Transmission	by the end of week 9
Sensation and Perception	Lateral Inhibition	by the end of week 12

To keep up with the class, it is strongly recommended that you complete each ZAP during the allotted period as indicated in the timetable. The class timetable indicates when you should have completed each of the above 4 labs.

IMPORTANT: Before completing any of the ZAPS, you must ensure that you have correctly registered:

- (i) your full name
- (ii) the Class ID which is **AQ6GLV8Z**
- (iii) your student registration number, e.g. 201412345, please make sure you use this one and NOT the longer library number

You must register this information at the **About Me** page on the ZAPS website. Don't forget to save your changes. **It is important that you register this information before completing any of the ZAPS so that your participation can be monitored by the class leader.** The Class ID (shown above) is vital, so do not leave this out. Unless we have a record that you have undertaken the ZAPS, you will not be eligible for lab test marks.

NB: If you do not register properly, your ZAPS activity will not be invisible to staff and you will lose marks.

Each ZAP is presented in four sections: Introduction, Activity, Theory and Further Information. It is recommended that you take your time to read the instructions carefully and take notes to help your understanding. You should be able to complete each ZAP comfortably within a one hour period.

Assessment: how is the class assessed?

The class is assessed by a combination of:

- 2 class tests
- 4 lab tests to be completed after each ZAP lab
- 1 essay

Class tests

There are 2 class tests, each held during a lecture slot, with one in week 6 and the other in week 12. Each test is worth 33% of the overall mark for C8105 and consists of approximately 36-40 multiple choice questions. Class Test 1 will be based on material discussed during weeks 1-6, whilst Class Test 2 will be based on material covered in weeks 7-12.

The C8105 Psychology class tests should be treated exactly the same as examinations. The dates of class tests are fixed. You will be informed by email and via an announcement on MyPlace where the class tests are to be held. **Students who miss a class test, without good reason, will receive a mark of zero.**

Lab tests

Each of the 4 Zaps labs has an online multiple choice test associated with it, each worth 2% of your overall mark. Therefore, 8% of the final mark you obtain from C8105 is determined by performance on the online lab tests. Each test will usually comprise 5 or 6 questions relating to material covered in the lab and, in some cases, associated reading from the Gleitman textbook.

Students should complete each ZAP **before** taking the associated test. **Only students who complete the ZAPS will be eligible to gain marks from the lab tests.**

The lab tests will be made available on **MyPlace** at the appropriate times during the teaching semester.

Note: You can preview the lab tests without submitting any answers. However, once you have submitted your answers, the test will close and will no longer be accessible. The lab tests are not timed so you are advised to take your time with the tests.

The online lab tests will close at 2pm on Friday of week 12, semester 1.

Essay

You will be invited to write and submit one essay which will contribute up to 26% of the overall mark for the class. Details of the essay will be released to the class in week 2 via email and an announcement on MyPlace. Before starting your essay, we recommend that you 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.

In the BA Psychology Course, students' classwork is marked anonymously wherever possible. For this reason, we ask you to include your student number rather than your name on your essay document. You will find detailed submission guidelines on MyPlace closer to the submission deadline. Marked classwork is returned via MyPlace and we aim to do this 3 weeks following the deadline. Grievances regarding marks awarded should be taken to the C8105

class leader, Dr Allan McGroarty. **Students should be aware that if work is remarked, marks can go down as well as up.**

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 (of up to two weeks). 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 deadline for submission of the essay is strict. **Essays submitted late will receive a mark of zero.** Please note that this is a Faculty-wide policy. It is important to be clear on what constitutes a “late” submission: classwork is considered late if it is submitted any time after the deadline, e.g. 5 minutes, or 30 seconds, or 2 seconds after the deadline. Our strong advice is to be sensible by not leaving essay submission until the last minute.

Please also be aware that computer problems are not accepted as an excuse for late submission of classwork. These include dodgy internet connections and cans of beer pouring into the keyboard.

Breakdown of weightings of assessments to final mark for C8105:

	Contribution to final grade
Multiple choice Class Test 1	33%
Multiple choice Class Test 2	33%
Lab 1 MCQ test	2%
Lab 2 MCQ test	2%
Lab 3 MCQ test	2%
Lab 4 MCQ test	2%
Essay	26%
TOTAL	100%

What is the pass mark for C8105?

The pass mark for the whole class, which is calculated on the basis of all the components of the class outlined above is 40%. However, should your **final overall mark**, based on all components, fall below 40% then you will have an opportunity to “resit” the component 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. **Marks for**

resit components will achieve a maximum of only 40%. Please note that this is a Faculty-wide policy. There will be an opportunity to resit the class tests in January 2015.

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?

We 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. Other **serious reasons** for missing a class test or failing to provide classwork will be considered by a meeting of the BA Psychology Academic Affairs Committee following a submission of **extenuating circumstances** by the student. There are also options, as outlined above for requesting extensions if you have good grounds for doing so. Students who miss a class test or fail to undertake any classwork prescribed without good reason will have a zero mark registered for the work.

Class textbooks

Gleitman, H., Gross, J. & Reisberg, D. (2011). *Psychology* (8th edition - international student edition). New York, Norton. (ISBN 978-0-393-11682-3)

Students often ask about other textbooks: are they all suitable, how about this one my pal gave me, etc etc? There are no fast answers to these questions. We recommend one textbook (the one above), a good book that is reasonably priced, has an interesting cover, can be bought from the university bookshop in a very good deal bundled with the Zaps Norton Psychology Labs package, and is up to date. If you use another textbook then you may experience some or all of the following:

- You do not have the ZAPS Norton Psychology Labs package
- 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 about Harry Potter

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. **Get the recommended text - you need the ZAPS package that comes with it so purchase it from the university bookshop.** Note: we will be using the Gleitman textbook in the semester 2 class C8106.

Walker, I. (2010). *Research Methods and Statistics*. Hampshire, Palgrave MacMillan. (ISBN 978-0-230-24988-2)

This book supports the material taught in the Research Methods and Statistics module of the C8105 Psychology class. The university bookshop is offering the Walker textbook at a considerably reduced price. Note: we will be using the Walker text in the semester 2 class C8106.

Brybaert, M. & Rastle, K. (2009). *Historical and Conceptual Issues in Psychology*. Harlow, Pearson Education. (ISBN 978-0-273-71818-5)

This textbook contains supporting material for the Conceptual and Historical Issues lectures in the C8105 Psychology class. The book can be accessed electronically via the university library website. Students who wish to continue studying psychology beyond 1st year may wish to purchase the Brybaert and Rastle text, but this is not a requirement.

Lilienfeld, S.O., Lynn, S.J., Ruscio, J. & Beyerstein, B.L. (2010). *50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology*. Chichester, Wiley-Blackwell. (ISBN 9781405131124)

This book supports some material covered in the Research Methods and Statistics module in the C8105 Psychology class. You can access this book electronically via the university library website. Students intending to study psychology beyond 1st year may wish to purchase the 50 Great Myths text, but this is not a requirement.

Points of contact

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

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 Allan McGroarty**, who can be contacted as follows:

- By email, at a.mcgroarty@strath.ac.uk
- By telephone at 548 2582
- In his office (Graham Hills building, room 579) – please feel free to arrange an appointment

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 a specific class, for example if you need advice about accessing labs, or a question about the exam, or other such issue. **Conveniently the class leader this semester for C8105 is also Dr Allan McGroarty.**

Your lecturing team

Enquiries about lecture content should be addressed to the lecturer concerned (their contact details are below, or ask them after the lecture- they really love the attention).

Dr Allan McGroarty	Email: a.mcgroarty@strath.ac.uk
Dr Jo Saunders	Email: j.saunders@strath.ac.uk
Professor Jimmie Thomson	Email: j.a.thomson@strath.ac.uk
Dr Steve Kelly	Email: steve.kelly@strath.ac.uk
Dr Mark Obonsawin	Email: m.c.obonsawin@strath.ac.uk
Dr Kellyanne Findlay	Email: kellyanne.findlay@strath.ac.uk

Other contacts

Other contacts, as required, can be found on our school webpages:
<http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofpsychologicalscienceshealth/>

C8105 Syllabus

Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology: Professor Jimmie Thomson

The historical origins of psychology in philosophy and the scientific revolution of the 17th century. Rationalism versus empiricism and the philosophy of Descartes, Locke and Hume. 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”.

Email: j.a.thomson@strath.ac.uk

Research Methods and Statistics: Dr Jo Saunders

Should you eat 5 or 10 pieces of fruit and veg a day? Does cholesterol lowering butter really work? Are anti-depressants more than just placebo effects? Do personality tests in magazines really tell you who you are? The media overload us with the latest headline grabbing research everyday but how do you know that the research is any good? These lectures will provide a very gentle introduction to some basics about research methods and statistics that everyone should be aware of and will allow you to judge the latest research findings for yourself. No formulas were harmed in the production of these lectures....

Email: j.saunders@strath.ac.uk

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.

Email: steve.kelly@strath.ac.uk

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.

Email: a.mcgroarty@strath.ac.uk

Psychopathy (single lecture): Dr Steve Kelly

A single lecture demonstrating how learning theory and neuroscientific techniques can help explain the complex behavioural problem of psychopathy.

Email: steve.kelly@strath.ac.uk

Biological Psychology: Dr Marc Obonsawin

Hearts, brains and minds. Evidence that the brain is the organ of behaviour. Genes and the environment. How the brain works: neurons and neurotransmitters.

Email: m.c.obonsawin@strath.ac.uk

Sensation and Perception: Dr Kellyanne Findlay

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

Email: kellyanne.findlay@strath.ac.uk

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?

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 Gleitman textbook's reference section starts on page R1 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. Pick up your textbook, ponder on what the North Americans have done to not be allowed to buy it, and turn to page 209. Look at the second paragraph under the heading 'Selection'. You will find the following:

"For humans, eye movement is the major means of orienting. Peripheral vision informs us that something's going on, say, in the upper-left section of our field of vision. But our peripheral acuity isn't good enough to tell us precisely what it is. To find out, we move our eyes so that the area where the activity is taking place falls into the visual field of the fovea (Rayner, Smith, Malcolm, & Henderson, 2009)."

You will see here that the author has **cited** Rayner and colleagues as the researchers whose work is being reported here. These words would be included in the word limit. So, when you report:

'it was demonstrated by Reznor & Freese (2007) that a very loud...'

...all the words count to 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 count in the word limit. 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

Annett, M. (1970). A classification of hand preference by association analysis. *British Journal of Psychology*, 61, 303–321.

Benson, P. L., & Perrett, D. I. (1991). Synthesising continuous tone caricatures. *Image Vision Computing*, 9, 123–129.

Benson, P. J., & Perrett, D. I. (1993). Extracting prototypical facial images from exemplars. *Perception*, 22, 257–262.

Burt, D. M., & Perrett, D. I. (1995). Perception of age in adult Caucasian male faces: Computer graphic manipulation of shape and colour information. *Proceedings of The Royal Society of London B*, 259, 137–143.

Burt, D. M., & Perrett, D. I. (1997). Perceptual asymmetries in judgements of facial attractiveness, age, gender, speech and expression. *Neuropsychologia*, 35, 685–693.

David, A. S. (1993). Spatial and selective attention in the cerebral hemispheres in depression, mania, and schizophrenia. *Brain and Cognition*, 23, 166–180.

The above is an example of what is known as an APA style of referencing. For more information on these matters see the document called **‘further guidance on citing work and providing references’** available in the essay section of the class MyPlace site.

The publications you should list are those that have been mentioned in your essay, not those which have been read for background but not subsequently reported. In the body of your answer you should, when mentioning a particular piece of research, adopt the style used in the textbook and mentioned the specific researchers, as outlined above in the Rayner research example. Note that the year in brackets indicates when the researcher published the report/book you are referring to.

Other important information

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.

What is the ‘Class Discussion Board’ link on the main class MyPlace page?

This is a general discussion board on the C8105 MyPlace site. Use of this board is entirely optional. It allows the whole class – students and staff – to stay in touch with each other outside lecture time. Messages posted in this area can be seen by the whole class and the course lecturers. You can use this board for general discussions and queries about the course. 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 anybody. Yes, this does include swears, bad poetry and overindulgence in 1337.

Attendance at lectures

Although we do not take attendance registers at first year lectures, attendance at lectures is also required and fully expected. Experience shows that students who attend lectures regularly perform much better in examinations than those who don't. Reading lecture notes on MyPlace is not a substitute for attendance, and your marks are likely to suffer if you don't come to your lectures.

All students are reminded that holidays should be taken during the University vacation periods – you should not take time off during the teaching semesters. When you registered, you agreed to comply with University statutes and regulations. Regulation 15.1.12 requires you to attend classes. You have also made a contract with SAAS and your fees are paid on the understanding that you will comply with University regulations. If you take a holiday during semester, you will be marked absent from any classes or tests you may be scheduled to do. Students who show poor attendance may also be required to explain their absences to the Year Tutor or Course co-ordinator and further disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with Faculty regulations.

C8106 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 undertake up to two hours of psychological research, acting as participants in 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 studies run by psychology, 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. But how do we do research?

- To understand mental processes, is it sufficient to sit in an armchair and think about our own thoughts?
- To investigate the influence of political propaganda, is it more informative to administer a questionnaire or to run an experiment?
- To explain human mating behaviour, would it be helpful to conduct a few observations of people on Sauchiehall Street on Friday night? (n.b. please do not do this)

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.

Experiments 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 studies you participate in, but all students who complete two hours of participation satisfactorily 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. Notices of current studies will be posted on MyPlace.

Sounds interesting: but what if I want to take part in more than two hours' worth of studies?

That's fine. Researchers are always glad to see participants, and you are very welcome to sign up for other 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 MyPlace, and on posters in Psychology

- Their ads will tell you how to sign up
- Take careful note of location and time
- Turn up at the agreed time
- The researcher will explain how the study runs
- Participate in the study for ½ or 1 hour, as agreed with the researcher

Important: once you have participated in a study, ask the researcher to sign your **Record of Research Participation**. This acts as proof that you participated in a research study. Later, you will hand this document in to the Psychology General Office so that research participation credits can be awarded to you. You are advised to keep a copy of this document for your own records.

How many marks are available for participation?

Each study will provide marks for ½ or 1 hours participation. You will receive a 1½ percent for each 30 mins of participation toward your final class mark in C8106 (the second semester class). Essentially a 30 minute study will earn you 1½%, whilst a study that takes you an hour will earn you 3% towards your final mark in C8106.

Examples:

Student	Time spent	Percent towards mark in C8106
Benny	30 minutes	1 ½ %
Björn	1 hour	3 %
Frida	1 hour and 30 minutes	4 ½ %
Agnetha	2 hours	6 %

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 research training exercise, consisting of writing a short essay on a topic to be announced.

If I earn less than the full 6%, can I make up the shortfall to guarantee the award of 6%?

Yes. Irrespective of the number of marks you have earned, you can make up any remaining marks towards the full 6% possible by writing the short essay mentioned above.

An important issue to bear in mind

Please do turn up for appointments once you make them. To fail to do so is just rude, and can be extremely frustrating for a stressed final year student who is trying to complete their dissertation. If something comes up and you cannot make the appointment please let the researcher know in advance so they can make alternative arrangements.

Another important issue to bear in mind

Strathclyde is a large research University, and a lot of research is going on. You may see advertisements calling for participants to take part in research from lots of departments. However, you can only earn marks towards your C8106 class from taking part in research which has been approved by us here in Psychology as being **part of the First Year Research Experience**. All such advertisements will clearly state that the study is '**eligible to contribute to**

the C8106 First Year Research Experience'. The advert will also tell you the kind of thing you will be asked to do, how long it will take and how many marks it will earn.

The practical upshot of this is that you can only earn marks towards C8106 for taking part in research which explicitly states in the advertisement the research is 'eligible to contribute to the First Year Research Experience'. If it does not say this on the advertisement, then it will not lead to any marks being awarded for participation. Be aware that there may even be advertisements from psychology looking for participants which do not lead to marks being awarded. So remember you can only get marks for taking part in research which explicitly states in the advertisement that first year Psychology students can obtain course credits. So if you are looking to get marks, look at the advertisements placed in the relevant MyPlace folder.

On Wikipedia...

In the past many students have sought for wisdom within Wikipedia. Sometimes they have got themselves into difficulties. 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 stuff on it. Therefore, depending on the level of monitoring/popularity of a topic, utter tosh can potentially be written and left there.

i.e.

Hippocampus:

"A small region of the brain, composed of trifle, which was used by our ancestors to detect the presence of elephants in the vicinity. Currently researchers believe it is now used primarily for listening to wallpaper..."

There is probably a lot of decent stuff on wiki, put up by decent, and in many cases distinguished people. But wiki should be treated with caution due to the point above. When I use wiki, I tend to use it to get a basic gist of something before moving on. I am not saying don't use wiki ever. What I would say though is that you should use it with caution, and use it to supplement material from more reliable sources, such as your textbook. If it 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 are suffering from textbooklessness then visit the library. 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.