

Psychology (OASP)

The course provides a sound introduction to psychology and covers a wide variety of topics – many of which would be encountered at university. Students will be encouraged to think critically about theories and research, and to use what they have learnt to form recommended pre-summer readings and personal experience.

Please note that this course outline covers a four-week programme. Students staying for two weeks will cover only a selection of the topics within each module.

How Psychologists Research: Students will discover what psychologists do, how they do it, and why. Research design, participant selection, developing hypotheses and ethical issues will be discussed. Students will also encounter different types of data and learn about validity.

Cognitive Psychology: Cognitive psychology focus on several different mental processes. Students will learn about how they behave, how they form memories and how they learn.

Social Psychology: Classic and contemporary social research will be discussed as part of this module. Emotions, morality, influence and conformity will be among some of the topics covered.

Developmental Psychology: In this module we will discuss how cognitive processes develop from birth to adulthood. Focus will be on two key topics: (1) Observational learning of aggression and (2) moral judgement.

Physiological Psychology: Physiological Psychology addresses the relationship between the physiological functioning of the human brain and our behaviour. Among other topics, students will research sleep, as well as, functions of specific brain regions.

Recommended pre-summer reading

There is no need to buy any books in advance, all reading will be online or in hand-outs. I have listed some web references below, as well as some popular science books which you may find interesting.

Web references:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFV71QPvX2I>

http://www.ted.com/talks/ben_ambridge_10_myths_about_psychology_debunked

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/cognitive.html>

Popular science/psychology books (not essential reading, just for interest!):

- The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales - Oliver Sacks (stories about patients with neurological disorders)
- Thinking Fast and Slow –Daniel Kahneman (human judgement and decision making)
- Synaptic Self: How Our Brains Become Who We Are- Joseph LeDoux (biology of emotions)
- Self Comes To Mind: Constructing the Conscious Brain- Antonio Demasio (insights into consciousness in the brain)