UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

Module Descriptor

Module Details	
Module Title	Brain and Behaviour
Module Code	PSY4009-B
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 4

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Laboratories	8
Lectures	22
Directed Study	170

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims

This module will introduce the major psychological theories and concepts that explain how we become thinking individuals. You will explore the basic organisation of the nervous system from neuronal cells to global anatomy, and the physiology of the human sensory system including vision, olfaction, gustation and tactile perception. You will also learn about the neuropsychology of learning and memory, including attention, eyewitness testimony, and theories of forgetting. We will also explore how we understand spoken and written language, and psychological theories of personality.

Outline Syllabus

Types of learning and memory systems: How we perceive and attend to information, and categorise it to aid learning. Short-term, long-term, and working memory. Theories of forgetting and eye witness testimony. Cognition in the real world. Understanding language; comprehension and reading. Basic anatomy and physiology of the central and peripheral nervous system. The physiology of the human sensory system. The scientific bases of personality development. Neuropsychological and cognitive research techniques.

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
01	Describe the major psychological theories of learning and memory comprehension in humans;
02	Describe the physiology of the human nervous and sensory systems;
03	Describe the main functions of language comprehension;
04	Describe the major scientific theories of personality development and individual difference;
05	Follow standard protocols to carry out a simple experiment on cognitive processes with human subjects;
06	Collect and analyse basic experimental data;
07	Write a simple research article and accurately summarise results.
08	Demonstrate ICT skills to prepare written reports;
09	Seek out web-based information.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Lectures will be used to: introduce anatomical structures and organisation of systems within the brain; explain theories of learning and memory; language comprehension, and personality (LO 1 to 4). Practical sessions will be used to explore simple physiological, learning, memory, and individual difference concepts, allowing you to test theories and ideas on each other (LO 1 to 7). From these you will have an opportunity to prepare a research article on an experimental assessment of a learning concept (LO 5 to 9).

Summative assessment comprises:
(i) A 1,500 word lab report, written up after taking part in an experiment in labs on recall vs recognition. Students are required to write an abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion about this.
(ii) A 1 hour 30 min closed book unseen exam, covering content from all lectures (and associated reading). This exam consists of 30 MCQs and 4 short answer questions (of which the student has to complete two).

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Written assignment	50%
Summative	Online MCQ Examination	Unseen closed-book examination: 30 multiple choice questions and answer 2 of 4 short answer questions (1.5hrs)	50%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:
This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

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