

# BSc (Hons) Psychology – SH341

## 1. Objective

At the University of Mauritius, we offer you a degree that provides a thorough grounding in the theories and methods of psychology. In the first two years, you will be introduced to the main areas of Psychology: Developmental Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Biological Bases of Behaviour and Social Psychology. In your final year, you will study more specialised topics in Psychology and will have to submit a dissertation based on an original piece of research. The latter is aimed to help you develop your research skills and apply the theories and methods learnt to specific social contexts.

The programme is designed to:

- Provide in-depth knowledge of Psychology as a science that students understand from a theoretical and applied perspective.
- Develop your analytical and critical skills
- Give a broad general education that is appreciated by employers in a number of professions requiring social analysis in a changing society, both in the public and private sector.
- be the first step to further studies at post graduate level and beyond either locally or abroad.

## 2. General Entry Requirements

In accordance with the University General Entry Requirements for admission to undergraduate Programmes.

## 3. Programme Requirements

Credits in English and Mathematics at GCE 'O' Level and Any 2 'A' Levels

## 4. Programme Duration

	Normal (Years)	Maximum (Years)
Degree:	3	5

## 5. Minimum Credits Required for the Award of the Degree: 102

Breakdown as follows:

		Credits from			
Core	Elective	Dissertation	Placement	Gems	IT module
75	6	10	2	6	3

## 6. Credits per year (subject to regulation 4 above)

Minimum 18 Credits  
Maximum 48 credits

## **7. Assessment**

### **Continuous and Written Assessment of Modules**

Each module can either be taught in one semester only(semester module) or throughout the two semesters(yearly module).

Each module will be assessed over 100 marks with details as follows (unless otherwise specified):

Assessment will be based on a written examination of 2 to 3-hour duration (normally a paper of 2 hour duration for modules carrying less or equal to three credits, and 3 hour paper for modules carrying six credits) and on continuous assessment done during the semester or year.

The continuous assessment will count for 20- 30% of the overall percentage mark of the module, unless otherwise specified in the programme structure and at least two (2) assignments /tests per module.

## **8. Submission Deadline for Dissertation**

**Final copy:** To be submitted on the last working day of March of the academic year.

## 9. List of Modules

CODE	Module Name	Hrs/ Wk L + P	Credits
<b>CORE</b>			
PSYC 1003Y(1)	Cognitive Psychology	3 + 0	6
PSYC 1004Y(1)	Developmental Psychology	3 + 0	6
PSYC 1007Y(1)	Biological Bases of Behaviour	3 + 0	6
PSYC 1102(1)	Approaches to Psychology <sup>1</sup>	3+ 0	3
PSYC 1009Y(1)	Introduction to Counselling	1½+0	3
STAT 1101(1)	Statistics for Social Science <sup>1</sup>	3 + 0	3
CSE 1010e	Introduction to Information Technology <sup>2</sup>	O.E	3
PSYC 2001Y(3)R	Research Methods	3 + 0	6
PSYC 2002Y(3)	Social Psychology	3 + 0	6
PSYC 2003Y(3)	Personality Theories	1½+ 0	3
PSYC 2007Y(3)	Advanced Counselling	1½+0	3
PSYC 2004Y(3)	Industrial/Organisational Psychology	3 + 0	6
PSYC 2108(3)	Psychological Testing	3 + 0	3
STAT 2201(3)	Inferential Statistics in Psychology <sup>2</sup>	3 + 0	3
PSYC 3001Y(5)	Educational Psychology	3 + 0	6
PSYC 3006Y(5)	Clinical Psychology	3 + 0	6
PSYC 2106(3)	Advanced Developmental Psychology <sup>1</sup>	3 + 0	3
PSYC 3008Y(5)	Advanced Social Psychology	1½+0	3
PSYC 3000(5)	Dissertation	-	10
<b>ELECTIVES</b>			
SCPL 1101(1)	Social Problems and Social Policy	3 + 0	3
SOCI1105(1)	Introduction to Sociology	3 + 0	3
SWRK 1101(1)	Human behaviour and the social environment <sup>1</sup>	3 + 0	3
SOCI 1101(1)	Understanding Society <sup>1</sup>	DE	3
COMS 1010(1)	Communication Skills	DE	3
PSYC 2109(3)	Health Psychology	3 + 0	3
PSYC 2110(3)	Contemporary Issues and Psychology	3 + 0	3
LAWS 4103(3)	Criminology	3 + 0	3
GEM			6
<b>PLACEMENT</b>			
WBL 1000(1)	ENGAGING IN WORK-BASED LEARNING IN THE PRACTICE SETTING	6 WEEKS	2

## 10. Programme Plan

<b>YEAR 1</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Hrs/ Wk L + P</b>	<b>Credits</b>	
<b>CORE</b>				
PSYC 1003Y(1)	Cognitive Psychology	3 + 0	6	
PSYC 1004Y(1)	Developmental Psychology	3 + 0	6	
PSYC 1007Y(1)	Biological Bases of Behaviour	3 + 0	6	
PSYC 1102(1)	Approaches to Psychology <sup>1</sup>	3+ 0	3	
PSYC 1009Y(1)	Introduction to Counselling	11/2 +0	3	
STAT 1101(1)	Statistics for Social Science <sup>1</sup>	3 + 0	3	
CSE 1010e	Introduction to Information Technology <sup>2</sup>	OE	3	
WBL 1000(1)	Engaging in Work-Based Learning in the Practice Setting	6 weeks	2	
GEM			6	
<b>ELECTIVES (SELECT ANY ONE)</b>				
SCPL 1101(1)	Social problems and Social policy	3 +0	3	
SOCI 1105(1)	Introduction to Sociology	3 + 0	3	
SWRK 1101(1)	Human behaviour and the social environment <sup>1</sup>	3+ 0	3	
SOCI 1101(1)	Understanding Society <sup>1</sup>	DE	3	
COMS 1010(1)	Communication Skills	DE	3	
<b>YEAR 2</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Hrs/ Wk</b>	<b>Credits</b>	
<b>CORE :</b>				
PSYC 2001Y(3)R	Research Methods	3 + 0	6	
PSYC 2002Y(3)	Social Psychology	3 + 0	6	
PSYC 2003Y(3)	Theories of Personality	1½ + 0	3	
PSYC 2007Y(3)	Advanced Counselling	1½ +0	3	
PSYC 2108(3)	Psychological Testing <sup>1</sup>	3 + 0	3	
PSYC 2004Y(3)	Industrial/Organisational Psychology	3 +0	6	
STAT 2201(3)	Inferential Statistics in Psychology <sup>2</sup>	3 +0	3	
<b>ELECTIVES (SELECT ANY ONE)</b>				
PSYC 2109(3)	Health Psychology <sup>1</sup>	3 + 0	3	
PSYC 2110(3)	Contemporary Issues and the field of Psychology	3 + 0	3	
LAWS4103(3)	Criminology	3 +0	3	
<b>YEAR 3</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Hrs/ Wk</b>	<b>Credits</b>	
<b>CORE :</b>				
PSYC 3001Y(5)	Educational Psychology	3 + 0	6	
PSYC 3006Y(5)	Clinical Psychology <sup>1</sup>	3 + 0	6	
PSYC 2106(3)	Advanced Developmental Psychology	3 + 0	3	
PSYC 3008Y(5)	Advanced Social Psychology	1½ +0	3	
PSYC 3000(5)	Dissertation	-	10	

**Note:**

(1) <sup>1</sup> - to be run in semester I and examined in semester 1

(2) <sup>2</sup> - to be run in semester 2 and examined in semester 2

(3) An elective will only be offered subject to availability of resources and critical mass. The Department reserves the right to offer additional electives.

## **11. Outline Syllabus**

### **PSYC 1003Y(1) - COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY**

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology, Cognitive neuroscience, attention and consciousness, perception, memory models and research methods, memory processes, knowledge representation (images, propositions), knowledge representation and organization, language, problem solving and creativity, decision making and reasoning, human and artificial intelligence.

### **PSYC 1004Y(1) - DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

This module introduces the students to key theories of development and critical issues in human development. It takes a life-span perspective on development looking at the cognitive, emotional and social changes that take place in infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. Developmental milestones that are related to each specific period of development will be considered such as language acquisition, cognitive skills, identity formation and the concept of 'mid-life crisis'.

### **PSYC 1007Y(1) - BIOLOGICAL BASES OF BEHAVIOUR**

This module will introduce you to the field of Psychology as the scientific study of human behaviour. It will start with historical roots and then explore the biological concepts behind human behaviour and specific body functions. This module will look at the role of genetic influences in the evolution of psychology, Research Methods, Nervous System, Sensori-motor system, Visual System, Motivation and emotions, Eating, drinking and sex, Sleep, Intelligence, Neuroplasticity and Lateralisation and language.

### **PSYC 1102(1) - APPROACHES TO PSYCHOLOGY**

This module considers the main theoretical orientations that underlie the study of Psychology. It aims to critically consider the Psychodynamic, Behaviouristic, Cognitive, Humanistic and Biological Perspectives on key issues in Psychology. A historical perspective on how the theories evolved will be taken. The module engages the student to discuss the validity of each theory as an explanatory framework to human behaviour.

### **PSYC 1009Y(1) - INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELLING**

This module aims to develop an understanding of the key psychological perspectives and theories in counselling. It helps participants to reflect on the nature of counselling and engages them to discuss the relevant skills in practice.

### **STAT 1101(1) - STATISTICS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE**

Research and Statistics, variables, data collection, organization and presentation of data, measures of location/central tendency, measures of variability, time series analysis, probability, correlation and regression.

### **SCPL 1101(1) - SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL POLICY**

This module is designed to introduce social policy from a social problem perspective. In other words, its main focus is on social policy- as a societal response to social problems. Some key areas to be covered are: Construction of social; Gender-based and Interpersonal Violence; Social exclusion and well-being; Sex, sexuality and Discrimination; Alcohol and Drug; Adolescent and Suicide; Housing and Homelessness; Mental Health Services; Prison management and Prisoner's welfare.

### **SOCI 1105(1)- Introduction to Sociology**

Understanding of patterns of human behaviour and changes in our society. Forms of social structure- groups, organizations, communities, social categories(such as class, sex, age, or race), and various social institutions such as kinship, economic, political, or religious-which affect human attitudes, marriage, population, social stratification and schooling.

### **CSE 1010e - INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The World of Computers; Main components of the computer; The evolution of computers; Input and output devices; Secondary Storage; Programming, Systems Software; Application software; Systems analysis and design; Communications and connectivity; The internet; Information technology and society.

**SOCI 1101(1) - UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY**

Introduction to the course; Sociological perspectives; Culture; Socialisation; Social Interaction in Everyday Life; Sex and Gender; Population; Ageing and medicine; education; family, and stratification system.

**SWRK 1101(1) - HUMAN BEHAVIOUR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**

The Course will focus on creating understanding of the social environment as the context for understanding human action and interaction as individuals, groups and communities. The three key theoretical frameworks analysed will be the ecosystem perspective; holistic biosocial perspective; developmental perspective.

**COMS 1010(1) - COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

Writing skills, non-verbal communication, modes of speech delivery and presentation aids, speeches, perception and listening skills, business and technical writing.

**STAT 2201(3) - INFERENTIAL STATISTICS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

Introduction to inferential statistics, Parametric Tests, Hypothesis Testing, Interval estimation, Analysis of Variance, Correlation, probability and probability distribution, Regression and Chi-Square.

**PSYC 2001Y(3)R - RESEARCH METHODS**

Introduction to scientific method, ethical issues, observation, survey research, unobtrusive measures of behaviour, independent group designs, repeated measures design, complex designs, single case, quasi-experimental designs, data analysis, describing and confirming what data tells us, qualitative research methods, focus group discussions, ethnographic and action research, communication in research.

**PSYC 2002Y(3) - SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Introduction to Social Psychology, methodology, social cognition, social perception, attitudes, social identity, prejudice and discrimination, interpersonal attraction, social influence, prosocial behaviour, aggression, group processes, applications of social psychology.

**PSYC 2003Y (3) - THEORIES OF PERSONALITY**

This module introduces students to the study of individual differences in personality. This will be looked at from the psychoanalytic, trait, humanistic, behaviourist and social cognitive perspectives.

**PSYC 2007Y(3) - ADVANCED COUNSELLING**

This course is meant to increase students' knowledge and skills within the counselling realm while working with clients who deal with a variety of issues commonly encountered in today's contemporary society such as suicide, rape, substance abuse, teenage sexuality, homosexuality, violence, child abuse, teenage depression etc. Special attention will be given to incorporating various theoretical orientations, counselling interventions, and unique approaches while working with diverse and at risk population.

**PSYC 2004Y(3) - INDUSTRIAL/ ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

This module aims to provide an understanding of people's behaviour at work from aspects of the individual, to groups, and finally to the organizational level. It also attempts to solve problems of human behaviour at work with focus on the practical and the applied rather than the scientific ideal. We will begin with the foundations of individual behaviour at work such as personality characteristics, cognitive processes, work-related attitudes, motivation and then proceed with group processes such as the nature of groups, leadership, communication, conflict. We will also look at the implications and management of stress at work and how to design effective work organizations. Finally, we will attempt to define ways of establishing an effective workforce.

**PSYC 2108(3) - PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING**

Introduction to psychological testing and assessment, historical and ethical perspectives, norms and basic statistics for testing, reliability, validity, correlation, writing and evaluating test items, Constructing, administering and using survey data, Interviewing techniques, Applications of tests in different setting: Using tests in educational settings, and Using tests in clinical and counselling settings.

**PSYC 2109(3) - HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY**

This module introduces you to Health psychology. The concept of health and illness will be discussed. Defining health, stress and coping, risky and addictive behaviours and health-related behaviour and health promotion will be the focus of this module. The main topics to be discussed are stress and coping skills and stress related illnesses, Health related behaviour (aging and health, chronic illnesses, death and grief), health promotion (health promotion and prevention of diseases, tobacco and alcohol).

**PSYC 2110(3) - CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

This module will look at the following issues- Work family conflict, acculturation, gays and lesbians psychology, AIDS/HIV, gerontology and ethics in the workplace.

**LAWS 4103- CRIMINOLOGY**

Introduction to Criminology, the definition of criminology, the historical background, the key issues in Criminology, measuring crime, the extent of crime, sources of crime information, research methods in Criminology, Psychological theories of crime, nature v/s nurture debate, feminist perspective and criminology, victimology, theories of criminology, the classical school, positivism, anomie and strain theory, labelling theory, control theory

**PSYC 2106(3) - ADVANCED DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

This module will built on the module of Developmental Psychology and will consider specialized topics in developmental psychology such as the development of the national and ethnic identities in children, children and prejudice, children and the media, further language development in children, children's drawing, adolescence and intimacy, body image in adolescence, and the concept of generativity.

**PSYC 3008Y(5) ADVANCED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

This module will built upon the social psychology module and will expand on current topics of interest in social psychology, specifically: concept of self and identity, the social psychology of intergroup relations, and cultural diversity.

**PSYC 3001Y(5) - EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

This module aims to develop an understanding of selected issues in the psychology of education: theories of learning; learners in their contexts: importance of social interaction, metacognition, individuality in learning: intelligence, learning styles and creativity; the child-school interface: teacher expectations, pupils friendships and sex differences in achievement; and special educational needs.

**PSYC 3006Y(5) - CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

This module introduces the student to the field of clinical psychology. It will look at historical and current paradigms in psychopathology and therapy, classification, diagnosis and assessment. Psychological disorders will be considered in terms of their characteristics, prevalence, aetiology and therapy. The following topics will be covered in this module- Introduction to Clinical Psychology, Classification of disorders, Psychotherapy, Substance-related disorders, Mood disorders, Suicide, Personality disorders, Schizophrenia, Gender Identity disorders, Disorders of Childhood, Developmental disorders and Mental retardation.

**PSYC 3000(5) - DISSERTATION**

At the end of the third year of the programme, the students will be required to submit a project dissertation. The title of the dissertation has to be approved by the Psychology Unit and a project supervisor identified by the Programme Co-ordinator. The final copy should be submitted by the last working day of March and the dissertation length should be in the range of 8000–12000 words.

*April 2010*