

# Psychology of City Life

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Module Code	5PSYC001X
Module Level	5
Length	Session Two, Three Weeks
Site	Central London
Host Course	London International Summer Programme
Pre-Requisite	None
Assessment	Group research presentation (40%) and a 2,400 word essay (60%).

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**Special features:** The module includes a half-day field trip to the Museum of London, Barbican.

## Summary of module content

This module aims to provide students with the opportunity to engage with a range of topics and issues in psychology that relate to growing up and living in or visiting a large global city such as London, England. It will bring together research and theory from a number of areas of psychology including social psychology, health psychology, cognitive psychology and forensic psychology. Topics include: Stress & Wellbeing; Crime & Aggression; Loneliness, Pro-social Behaviour and Resilience. Lectures will discuss recent research and seminars will provide students with practical activities, visualisation through documentaries and guided discussions related to each topic.

## Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the Psychology of City Life module students will be able to demonstrate that they can:

- Describe, evaluate and discuss psychological theory and approaches to a range of issues raised by living in a global city. GA1, GA4
- Demonstrate skills in researching, summarising and reviewing relevant literature, and to employ an appropriate style for academic writing. GA1, GA2
- Research and summarise a relevant area of psychological literature as a group task and to present findings to their peers. GA1 GA2

Graduate Attributes these learning outcomes contribute to:

GA1 Critical and creative thinkers

GA2 Literate and effective communicator

GA3 Entrepreneurial

GA4 Global in outlook and engaged in communities

GA5 Social, ethically and environmentally aware

## Indicative syllabus content

Assuming no prior knowledge of psychology, the module introduces students to the nature of psychology as it applies to growing up and living in a large global, city environment such as London. The module embraces different areas of psychology such as health psychology, cognitive psychology and forensic psychology. The module discusses key psychological theories and concepts to the understanding of real-world social issues of City Life. Specific coverage includes:

- Child poverty and inequality in a city environment
- Effects of poverty on the Brain
- The Stress Response;
- City living and Mental Health
- Well-being & Life satisfaction
- The city and loneliness
- Resilience – the science of coping in a city.

In addition, the module provides students with the set of skills necessary to produce a coherent research led academic piece of written work directed towards resolving the issue posed in the assessment question. Through which they can demonstrate their understanding of major theories, research and issues. Along with a critical awareness of the strengths and limitations of psychological theory.

## Teaching and learning methods

Over a three week block during the summer, teaching will be through a combination of lectures and seminars. With 2-hour lectures being the main vehicle of delivery for the key theories and concepts of the subject matter covered in the module. Lectures are supplemented by 2-hour seminars, which incorporate the knowledge base from the lecture programme and consist of group discussions, guided group work activities and films. The seminar activities have been designed to build on the material presented in the lectures.

Activity type	Category	Student learning and teaching hours*
Lecture	Scheduled	24
Seminar	Scheduled	20
Tutorial	Scheduled	
Project supervisor	Scheduled	
Demonstration	Scheduled	
Practical Classes and workshops	Scheduled	
Supervised time in studio/workshop	Scheduled	

Fieldwork	Scheduled	4
External visits	Scheduled	
Work based learning	Scheduled	
<b>Total Scheduled</b>		48
Placement	Placement	
Independent study	Independent	152
<b>Total student learning and teaching hours</b>		200

\*the hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

### **Assessment rationale**

The module is assessed by one group presentation which includes an individual summary from each group member (40%) and a 2,400 word essay (60%).

The presentation assesses the ability of the students to work collaboratively to research and summarise a relevant area of psychological literature as a group task and to present findings to their peers at an appropriate level. The summary allows each student to demonstrate their individual contribution to the development of the group presentation.

The essay will allow students to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a specific topic from the module using academic information via books, journals, the internet and other sources; critically evaluate that information and show their ability to communicate that knowledge in a precise and coherent manner.

### **Assessment criteria**

Groups will be required to produce a presentation from a selection of topics related to the lectures. Half of the marks will be allocated on the basis of individual contribution to the presentation (summary) and half on the basis of the overall quality of the presentation.

In the presentation assessment students are expected to:

- Summarise key points of the research and communicate these to their peers
- Demonstrate critical awareness of the strengths and limitations of methodology
- Demonstrate understanding of how this research fits within a broader psychological context.
- Demonstrate effective presentation skills and use of AV aids.
- Provide evidence of their own contribution towards the group presentation

In the essay students are expected to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key concepts, historical perspectives, theories and debates relevant to understanding the psychology of city life.
- Produce a clearly structured and coherent argument directed towards the essay title.

### Assessment methods and weightings

Assessment name	Weighting %	Qualifying mark %	Qualifying set	Assessment type (e.g. essay, presentation, open exam or closed exam)
Group research presentation	40	30		Oral Presentation using AV aids & 500 word written summary.
Coursework	60	30		2,400 word Essay

### Synoptic assessment

#### Sources

#### Essential reading list

Psychology of City Life Reading List - A basic psychology textbook would be useful, we recommend either:

Carlson, N.R., Heth, D.S., Miller Jr. H.L., Donahoe, J.W., Buskist, W. & Martin, G. N. (2006). *Psychology – The Science of Behaviour* (European Adaptation), Pearson Education Ltd: England.

OR

Eysenck, M. (2008). *Fundamentals of Psychology*. Psychology Press: England

#### Additional Reading:

Augoustinos, M. & Reynolds, K. (eds.) (2001). *Understanding Prejudice, Racism and Social Conflict*. London: Sage.

Cooper, C. L. (Ed) (2005). *Handbook of Stress Medicine and Health, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* London, UK: CRC Press.

Fischer, P., Greitemeyer, T., Pollozek, F. & Frey, D. (2006). The unresponsive bystander: Are bystanders more responsive in dangerous emergencies? *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 36, 267-278

Griffin, J. (2010) *The Lonely Society*, Mental Health Foundation Report available at:  
<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/loneliness-and-mental-health/>

Heinrich, L.M. & Gullone, E. (2006). The clinical significance of loneliness: A literature review, *Clinical Psychology Review* 26, 695-718

Kaptein, A. & Weinman, J. (Eds) (2004). *Health Psychology*. Oxford, BPS Blackwell.

Marc J. Schabracq, Jacques A.M. Winnubst & Cary L. Cooper. (eds) (2003) *The Handbook of Work and Health Psychology* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). Chichester: Wiley.

Schabracq, M. J., Winnubst, J. A.M. & Cooper, C.L. (2003). *The Handbook of Work and Health Psychology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chichester, UK: Wiley.

Selye, H. (1976). *The Stress of Life*. New York, USA: McGraw-Hill.

Taylor, S.E. (2009). *Health Psychology*. London, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. UK: McGraw-Hill.

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