



**Dublin City University**

**Open Education Unit**

**National Institute for Digital Learning**

## **Bachelor of Arts in Humanities (Psychology Major)**

### **Programme Regulations 2014-2015**

#### **1. Programme-specific rules and requirements<sup>1</sup>**

##### *Assessment of Each Module*

The granting of a degree or diploma will depend on the successful completion of the required number of modules. The award of a degree is based on twelve modules. The award of a Diploma is based on eight modules and is only given to those who are exiting the programme at this point. The assessment of performance for each module (with the exception of PY110, PY200, PY220 and PY320) will be a combination of two components as follows:

- Continuous assessment based on submitted assignments.
- An examination after completing the course of study for the particular module.

The apportionment of marks for all modules between continuous assessment and examination is 50:50, with the exception of with the exception of PY110, PY200, PY220 and PY320, which are 100% continuous assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> As this is an online distance education programme, students require a high degree of specification on programme regulations and procedures (as they do not have access to many of the informal channels available to full-time on-campus students). Therefore, in common with all other Open Education programmes, students are provided with a detailed Course Handbook which contains the programme's regulations and procedures.

### ***Assignments***

A non-submitted assignment is credited with a mark of zero. Students can only submit an assignment once and are not allowed to re-submit assignments in order to achieve a higher grade.

Students who do not submit assignment work are deemed to have made an attempt at that assignment unless granted a postponement on foot of prior notified cogent reasons, or subsequent notification of extenuating circumstances\*.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

- If a student postpones an assignment they must contact the Humanities Programme Team in order to establish what continuous assessment work will need to be completed, as it may differ from the original assignment.
- The deadline for submitting postponed continuous assessment work is approximately four weeks after the release of student results, following the Summer Progression and Awards. This date typically falls in late July, and this may impact on the amount of postponed continuous assessment work that it is feasible for a student to complete. Some postponements may require the approval of the Progression and Awards Board.
- Some forms of continuous assessment cannot be postponed, even for Category 1 modules, for example online activities that occur during specific times of the academic year, where students work in groups (discussions, debates, peer review, group project work etc.). This type of continuous assessment cannot be postponed as its essential element, communication/collaboration/producing work with others, cannot be simulated outside of the original designated time-frame as there are no other students with whom to work at a later stage in the academic year.
- In PY320 the only assessment that can be postponed is the research project. The research project can only be postponed where a student has: received ethical approval for their project; completed data-collection; and has received sufficient guidance from their supervisor such that they can complete the project without further supervisor support. This facility to postpone the research project is in place so that students who are significantly affected by extenuating circumstances at the latter stages of their project can gain access to further time to complete their research project.

All assignment marks are provisional until confirmed by the Progression and Awards Board (Examinations Board).

### ***Examinations***

Students must sit an examination for each module studied with the exception of with the exception of PY110, PY200, PY220 and PY320 (All examinations on the programme consist of one three-hour paper.)

The format of the examination paper for each module will normally follow the format of the previous year's examination in that module. Format refers to the number of questions on the examination paper; the number of questions to be answered; the number of sections (if any), etc. If there is a change in format, students are informed in advance. (Past examination papers for each module are available via Moodle.)

Students who are absent from an examination are deemed to have made an attempt at that examination unless granted a deferral/postponement on foot of prior notified cogent reasons, or subsequent notification of extenuating circumstances.

Students are not allowed to re-sit examinations or repeat assignment work in a module that has already been passed in order to achieve a higher grade.

### ***Module Mark***

The required pass mark for all modules is 40% of the maximum marks available.

The module mark will be calculated in accordance with the assessment breakdown outlined above i.e. the apportionment of marks for all modules between continuous assessment and examination is 50:50, with the exception of with the exception of PY110, PY200, PY220 and PY320, which are 100% continuous assessment. Students do not have to pass individual components of assessment (continuous assessment or examination) within a module.

After the end-of-term diet of examinations (in May 2015), the module marks for each student for each module are reviewed by the summer Progression and Awards Board (to be held in June 2015). In the event that a student fails a module following the Summer PAB, the policy governing resits is that this programme's modules that have examinations are Category 1 and have resit opportunities for the continuous assessment and examination (where the module has an examination) elements\*.

**\*PLEASE NOTE**

- If a student fails a Category 1 module at the summer PAB they must contact the Humanities Programme Team in order to establish what resit continuous assessment is available.
- The time period between the release of student results and the deadline for submitting resit continuous assessment work is approximately four weeks and this may impact on the amount of resit continuous assessment work that it is feasible for a student to complete.
- Some forms of continuous assessment do not have resits, even for Category 1 modules, for example online activities that occur during specific times of the academic year, where students work in groups (discussions, debates, peer review, group project work etc.). This type of continuous assessment does not have a resit component as its essential element, communication/collaboration/producing work with others, cannot be simulated during the resit period as there are no other students with whom to work.
- In PY320 no resit is available for the research project, or the assessments that are part of the preparation of the research project, as it is not feasible for a student to produce a resit research project.

If a student fails a module following the autumn Progression and Awards Board, then the full module (continuous assessment and examination) must be repeated in the following academic year, i.e. component marks from previous attempts cannot be carried forward to the following academic year. The full module fee must be paid when repeating the full module.

A student can repeat a module only once i.e. if a student does not successfully complete a module in one academic year then he or she must successfully complete the module within the next academic year.

### ***Award***

The Bachelor of Arts in Humanities (Psychology Major) degree will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed twelve modules (180 ECTS credits). The classification of the award will be based on post-foundation module marks obtained at the first attempt, based on the following weighting:

- One third from the average of the six intermediate level module marks

- Two thirds from the average of the three advanced level module marks

The weighted average of the module marks obtained at the first attempt in post-foundation modules is known as the precision mark.

The degree may be awarded with the following classifications:

- First Class Honours
- Second Class Honours - Grade 1
- Second Class Honours - Grade 2
- Third Class Honours

### ***Exit Award***

Students may exit the programme with a Diploma after successful completion of eight modules (120 ECTS credits), of which at least six must be psychology modules.

## **2. Progression**

- Students on the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Humanities (Psychology Major) have a maximum registration period of eight years.
- Maximum number of modules you can register for in one academic year is four. However, please note that, due to the other registration rules (no. 3, 4 5, 6 and 7), there are a limited number of possible module combinations where four modules can be taken at one time. Also, please note that, in a student's first year, they can take a maximum of the three foundation level modules.
- Please note that you can only register for an intermediate module in Psychology if you have successfully passed PY100: Psychology Foundation module and PY110: Exploring Psychological Research e.g. to register for PY200: Social and Organisational Psychology you must have successfully completed PY100: Psychology Foundation and PY110: Exploring Psychological Research (or have been granted an exemption from these modules).
  - Transfer students (coming from the Bachelor of Arts [Hons] in Humanities) may take PY110: Exploring Psychological Research in combination with other Psychology modules at intermediate and advanced level. However, for these students PY110: Exploring



Psychological Research is (still) a pre-requisite for PY220: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods.

- Please note that you can only register for an intermediate module in Sociology if you have successfully passed Soc1: Sociology Foundation module e.g. to register for Soc3A: Power, Social Order, Crime, Deviance, Work and Employment you must have successfully completed Soc1: Sociology Foundation (or have been granted an exemption from the Soc1: Sociology Foundation module).
- The following combinations of modules **cannot** be selected, in the same academic year, in order to facilitate timetabling of tutorials and examinations:
  - PY200: Social and Organisational Psychology and PY230: Cognitive Psychology and Biopsychology
  - PY210: Developmental and Educational Psychology and PY300: Individual Differences
  - PY210: Developmental and Educational Psychology and PY310: Abnormal and Counselling Psychology
- In order to register for PY320: Advanced Research Methods and Project you must have successfully completed PY220: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods and (or have been granted an exemption from the PY220: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods module).
- PY320: Advanced Research Methods and Project must be taken in a student's final year of registration on the programme.
- PY320: Advanced Research Methods and Project - Please note that this is an advanced module that involves the completion of an independent research project. This type of module requires a high level of commitment and therefore students should carefully consider their individual circumstances before registering for this module along with other modules. Many students find it desirable to take this type of module on its own, or with one other module (the feasibility of taking this module in combination with other modules will, of course, depend on the capability of the student and the amount of time the student



can dedicate to their studies). Please note that a student's PY320 project proposal must be approved by the tutor/supervisor in order for that student to progress with the module. Where a student's proposal is not approved a student cannot then proceed with the module. Also please note that the completion of an independent Psychology research project involves the successful application for ethical approval of the project. If this approval is not granted a student cannot proceed with the module.

- PY110 and PY220 involve a mandatory introduction day (typically in Oct) and a 2.5 day mandatory research school (typically in Jan). PY320 involves a mandatory workshop (typically in Oct).

### **3. Compensation**

There is no compensation for Psychology Major modules.

### **4. Technology Requirements**

Students must have regular access to a good quality Computer (loaded with Microsoft Office) and a good quality broadband Internet connection. The web browser a student uses must be able to play Macromedia Flash, Shockwave, Java and the Adobe Acrobat PDF file reader. In order to facilitate online communication in live, virtual classrooms students should have a high quality headset/microphone (built in microphones and speakers in laptops are not sufficient) and a webcam is also desirable. It is expected that students will have a computer competency level equivalent to the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) (<http://www.ecdl.com/>). Students must be familiar with using email, browsing the Internet, and using the Microsoft word processing package. The Humanities Programme Team cannot take responsibility for whether, or to what extent, a particular learning material is accessible on a particular device in a particular instance. In particular the Humanities Programme Team cannot take responsibility for learning material hosted by a third party, for example a video hosted on an external website. Students with Apple-Mac computers may encounter specific issues as learning materials and software are typically designed on/for the Windows operating system. Where students are provided with software, for example SPSS, it will be for Windows Computers. Apple-Mac versions of software will not be provided.

## **5. Mathematics Recommendation**

Please note that the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Humanities (Psychology Major) programme involves a number of modules that focus on Psychology research methods, which require a competence in mathematics roughly equivalent to pass Leaving Certificate level. While a Leaving Certificate mathematics qualification is not mandatory, students without recent exposure to mathematics should consider updating their skills by enrolling in a Leaving Certificate mathematics course or by studying Leaving Certificate mathematics textbooks.

Because of the way the programme is structured, you do not have to defer commencement of the programme while you develop your competence in mathematics. You could update your skills in parallel with other modules not requiring competence in this area specifically PY100: Psychology Foundation and Soc1: Sociology Foundation.