Advanced Social Psychology

Module title			
Advanced Social Psychology			
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	**Module number / reference**	**ECTS Value**	**Duration**
8		**5**	**12 weeks**
Parent programme(s). Principal programme title, and embedded(s) if relevant		**Stage of parent programme**	**Semester No.**
BA (Honours) in Psychology		**2**	**1**

Teaching and Learning modes	Proportion (% of Total Directed Learning)
Classroom / Face to Face	**22.4%**
Workplace	
Online	
Other (Identify)	**77.6% (directed and self-directed learning)**

Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)
Successful completion of Stage 1 of the programme or equivalent is required for entry onto Stage 2.

Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	40
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week	2.3
Pre-requisite module title(s) (if any)	
Co-requisite module title(s) (if any)	
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No

Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)
Lecture hall, Library, IT Resources

Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.		
Role e.g. Tutor, Mentor etc.	**Qualifications & experience required:**	**# of Staff with this profile (WTEs)**
Lecturer	Minimum level 9 qualification in Psychology with teaching and/or research competence in the area	100%

Analysis of required learning effort										
						Hours of Learner effort				
Classroom and demonstrations		Mentoring and small-group tutoring		Other (specify)		Directed e-learning	Independent learning	Other (specify)	Work-based learning	Total effort
Hours	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours	Minimum ratio teacher / learner					

24	1:10	4	1:10			5	92			125

Allocation of Marks					
	Continuous Assessment	Supervised Project	Proctored Practical Exam.	Proctored Written Exam	Total
Percentage Contribution	100%				**100%**

Rationale for Inclusion of the Module in the Programme and its Contribution to the Overall IPLOs	The rationale for including *Advanced Social Psychology* is to build on the learner's knowledge of *Social Psychology* from stage 1. This will be achieved through introducing the learners to more contemporary research and advancing their knowledge by teaching them the skills to evaluate social psychology research and theories. The module will provide an examination of the most cutting-edge research being conducted by social psychologists that relates to how people function in social contexts. The key topics that will be covered by the module include the social self, attribution processes, social structures, social reasoning, stereotypes and prejudice, cultural evolution, interpersonal attraction and the limits of adaption.
Module Aims and Objectives	The aim of this core module is to provide the learner with a more specialised and contemporary understanding of social psychology. The learner will develop the skills necessary to evaluate a piece of social psychology research and to assess the strengths and weaknesses of social psychology theories. These skills will enable the learner to evaluate contemporary research being conducted by social psychologists in the areas that will be covered in the module (i.e. cultural evolution, social self, social structures, social reasoning, limits of adaption).
Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, learners should be able to: 1. Describe the historical foundations and key thinkers of social psychology. (MIPLO 1, 4) 2. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate critically a piece of social psychology research (MIPLO 4, 6, 7) 3. Critically analyse social psychology theories by examining their strengths and weaknesses. (MIPLO 1, 4, 7) 4. Demonstrate an understanding of more contemporary theories, concepts and definitions being used by social psychologists today. (MIPLO 1, 5, 7) 5. Describe and discuss how social psychology theories can be applied to contemporary issues. (MIPLO 1, 5, 7)
Information Provided to Learners about the Module	College Prospectus specifies module name, stage and ECTS. College website and programme handbook to contain (in addition to above) short description of module content, module learning outcomes, prerequisite modules, and assessment mechanisms. Module Moodle Page to contain (in addition to above) schedule of classes and topics, detailed assessment information with titles and submission dates, full bibliography and list of learning resources.

Module Content, Organisation and Structure	Over the course of 12 weeks, the learner will cover topics such as: **Introduction to Advanced Social Psychology** • Brief history of social psychology • The key thinkers in social psychology • Future directions for social psychology **Research in Advanced Social Psychology** • Evaluating research methods • Interpreting findings • Ethical issues in conducting research • New Research Methods: Internet mediated research **Established Theories in Social Psychology** • History of theorising • How to evaluate theories (Strengths and Weaknesses) • Applying evaluation criteria to sample theories **The Social Self** • Social psychological perspective on mental health **Attribution Processes** • Causes of attributions • Consequences of attributions **Social Structures** • Class • Education • Mobility • Culture **Stereotypes and Prejudice** • Stereotypes causes and reduction • Stereotypes accuracy and perseverance • The origins and consequences of prejudice **Social Reasoning** • Social reasoning processes • Motivated social cognition **Cultural evolution** • Cultural evolutionary theory • Implicit vs. explicit processes **Interpersonal attraction** • Attraction • Feminism and the gender debate • Close relationships
Module Teaching and Learning (including formative assessment) Strategy	This module will be delivered in a two-hour lecture format across twelve weeks and four one-hour tutorials delivered across eight weeks. The rationale for this teaching mode rests in the amount of information to be covered in this timeframe.

	Moodle will be used each week to upload relevant articles, required reading and in some instances, links to essential viewing.
Work-Based Learning and Practice-Placement	N/A
E-Learning	Learners will use a discussion board type format to discuss a selection of contemporary journal articles that provide conflicting findings on an advanced social psychology topic. The discussion board will be monitored and contributed to weekly by the lecturer to ensure appropriate engagement and learning.
Specifications for Module Staffing Requirements	Staff: Learner ratio is typical of the overall programme approach with a maximum of 40 learners, but where there are cross-programme modules, the maximum staff: learner ratio may vary between 50 and an upper limit of 120. The maximum tutor: learner ratio is 1:20 Staffing requirements: 1 lecturer with teaching and/or research competence in the relevant area.
Module Summative Assessment Strategy	This module will be assessed by one essay (80%) and one discussion board (20%), touching on all five MIMLOs. **Essay (80%)** The essay will require learners to choose a topic they are interested in within advanced social psychology and to evaluate critically the most current research/findings related to the topic. The essay requirements: Times New Roman Font 12 Line-spacing 1.5 Word Count: 2,000-2,500 Soft-copy submission through Turnitin Criteria used for marking: structure, content, grammar, spelling and referencing. This assessment addresses MIMLOs 1-5. **Contributing to a Moodle Discussion Board (20%)** Evaluate the theories and findings presented in the journal articles (10%) Which journal articles provide the strongest evidence and why? (5%) What future research could be conducted to explore this topic further? (5%) This assessment addresses MIMLOs 2-5.
Sample Assessment Materials	N/A
Reading Lists and Other Information Resources	**Essential Reading:** Branscombe, N. R. and Baron, R. A. (2019). *Social psychology* (14th ed.). Harlow: Pearson.

	Hewstone, M. (2016). *An introduction to social psychology* (6th ed.). London: Blackwell Publishing. Hogg, M. and Vaughan, G. (2017). *Social psychology* (8th ed.). London: Pearson. **Other Reading:** Journal articles as posted on Moodle by the Lecturer from journals such as: *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* *Social Psychology* *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* *European Journal of Social Psychology* *Social Psychology Quarterly* *Social Psychological and Personality Science* *Basic and Applied Social Psychology.* **Recommended Viewing:** TED Talks-Various Social Psychologists
Module Physical Resource Requirements	Lecture hall Internet Projector Speakers WIFI