Course title	**Foundations of Brain, Social Psychology and Individual Differences**				
Course code	**PSY1101**				
Course type	Compulsory				
Level	Bachelors				
Year / Semester	Year 1 / semester 1				
Teacher's name	Dr Katerina Georgalla/ Dr Maxime Cousineau-Perusse				
ECTS	6	**Lectures / week**	3hrs	**Laboratories / week**	-
Course purpose and objectives	This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of biological psychology, social psychology, and the study of individual differences. Students will explore how brain structures and functions relate to behaviour, how individuals are influenced by social contexts, group dynamics, and cultural environments and how psychological traits differ across individuals. The course provides the groundwork for understanding later, more specialised topics in neuroscience and neuropsychology, social psychology, personality, intelligence, and psychometrics.				
Learning outcomes	On successful completion of the course and with further independent study, students will be able to: **Knowledge and Understanding** 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scope and nature of biological psychology, social psychology, and the study of individual differences. 2. Demonstrate knowledge of key theories, concepts, and empirical findings across a range of topics within these three areas. **Competencies** 3. Identify and apply a broad range of core concepts and principles relevant to biological, social, and differential psychology. 4. Evaluate and interpret key ideas and research evidence presented in the course, showing the ability to apply foundational psychological theories and concepts as analytical frameworks. **Transferable Skills** 5. Locate, access, and synthesise information from appropriate academic sources, including textbooks and peer-reviewed articles.				

	6. Communicate basic psychological ideas effectively in written form, demonstrating understanding of academic conventions, appropriate use of English, and correct application of APA citation and referencing style.		
Prerequisites	None	**Required**	
Course content	**Indicative Content** • **Biological Foundations**: Neurons and neurotransmission, brain anatomy, brain basis of behaviour • **Social Psychology:** Conformity, obedience, and group dynamics; Prejudice, Social identity • **Individual Differences**: Intelligence, personality theories (trait, psychodynamic, humanistic), introduction to psychometrics		
Teaching methodology	Teaching will consist of lectures, in-class discussions, case studies and quizzes designed to assess understanding and provide opportunities for formative feedback. Teaching will be supported by online materials and additional readings		
Bibliography	**Core Text:** • Martin, G. N., & Carlson, N. R. (2025). *Psychology* (7th ed.). Pearson. **Recommended:** • Pinel, J. P. J., & Barnes, S. J. (2021). *Biopsychology* (11th ed., Global ed.). Pearson. • Hogg, M. A., & Vaughan, G. M. (2024). *Social psychology* (9th ed.). Pearson. • Maltby, J., Day, L., & Macaskill, A. (2023). *Personality, individual differences and intelligence* (5th ed.). Pearson. **Further reading:** A reading list will accompany each lecture, highlighting relevant articles accessible through the library, as well as open-access and e-learning resources.		
Assessment	Attendance and participation 10% Case Study Assessment (1000 words; Psychobiology and social) 45% Final Exam (ID) 45%		
Language	English		