

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Ethics and Conceptual Issues in Psychology</b>				
<b>Course code</b>	<b>PSY1102</b>				
<b>Course type</b>	Compulsory				
<b>Level</b>	Bachelors				
<b>Year / Semester</b>	Year1/ 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester				
<b>Teacher's name</b>	Professor Timothy Skinner				
<b>ECTS</b>	6	<b>Lectures / week</b>	3hrs	<b>Laboratories / week</b>	-
<b>Course purpose and objectives</b>	<p>This course explores the ethical, philosophical, and conceptual foundations of psychology as both a scientific discipline and a professional practice. Students will examine key ethical principles and codes of conduct that inform psychological research and applied practice, as well as the historical development of psychological thought. The course encourages critical reflection on the nature of psychological knowledge, the role of values in research and theory, and the responsibilities of psychologists to individuals, communities, and society. Topics include debates on the nature of science, objectivity, reductionism, cultural bias, and the application of ethical guidelines in real-world research and practice scenarios.</p>				
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>On successful completion of the course and with further independent study, students will be able to:</p> <p><b>Knowledge and Understanding</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the historical and philosophical foundations of psychology as a scientific and applied discipline.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate understanding of key ethical frameworks and professional codes of conduct relevant to psychological research and practice.</li> </ol> <p><b>Competencies</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Demonstrate understanding of psychological theories and practices in light of philosophical and ethical considerations.</li> <li>4. Reflect on the conceptual assumptions underlying different approaches within psychology.</li> </ol> <p><b>Transferable Skills</b></p>				

	5. Communicate psychological and ethical concepts clearly in written form, using appropriate academic conventions.		
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None	<b>Required</b>	
<b>Course content</b>	<p>Indicative Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical Foundations such as : Structuralism, functionalism, behaviourism, psychoanalysis, humanism, cognitive revolution</li> <li>• Philosophical Issues: Psychology as a science, reductionism vs. holism, mind-body problem, objectivity and subjectivity</li> <li>• Ethical Principles: BPS and APA ethical codes, informed consent, confidentiality, risk and harm, ethical review processes</li> <li>• Contemporary Issues: Cultural bias, diversity and inclusion, power dynamics in research, ethical dilemmas in practice</li> <li>• Conceptual Debates: Free will vs. determinism, nature vs. nurture, the role of values in psychological science</li> <li>• The scientist-practitioner model: origins of the scientist-practitioner approach, integration or research and professional practice.</li> </ul>		
<b>Teaching methodology</b>	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		
<b>Bibliography</b>	<p><b>Core Text:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brysbaert, M., &amp; Rastle, K. (2021). <i>Historical and conceptual issues in psychology</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson.</li> <li>• American Psychological Association. (2017). <i>Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct</i> [Available online]</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Psychological Society. (2021). <i>Code of Ethics and Conduct</i>. [Available online]</li> <li>• Martin, G. N., &amp; Carlson, N. R. (2025). <i>Psychology</i> (7th ed.). Pearson.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further reading:</b></p> <p>A reading list will accompany each lecture, highlighting relevant articles accessible through the library, as well as open-access and e-learning resources.</p>		
<b>Assessment</b>	Attendance and participation	132	10%

	Essay Assessment (1000 words) <span style="float: right;">45%</span> Final Exam 45%
<b>Language</b>	English