

Course title	Independent Research Project				
Course code	PSY4001				
Course type	Compulsory				
Level	Bachelors				
Year / Semester	Year 4 /Semester 7 & 8				
Teacher's name	Dr Eugenia Christoforou				
ECTS	24	Lectures / week	-	Laboratories / week	-
Course purpose and objectives	<p>The Independent Research Project is the culmination of the undergraduate psychology degree, giving students the opportunity to design, conduct, analyse, and report on an original empirical study in an area of their choice within psychology. Under the guidance of a supervisor, students will independently manage a research project relating to their concentration, from identifying a question and conducting a literature review, through ethical approval, data collection, analysis, and final report writing. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of psychological theory, research design, data analysis, and academic communication. This course develops advanced research, critical thinking, and project management skills, and prepares students for postgraduate study or employment in research-informed fields.</p>				
Learning outcomes	<p>On successful completion of the course and with further independent study, students will be able to:</p> <p>Knowledge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate a clear and focused research question grounded in psychological literature 2. Demonstrate appropriate selection and application of research methods and analytical techniques <p>Competencies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Critically evaluate existing literature and identify gaps or limitations 4. Formulate an original research question, hypothesis, or conceptual model derived from existing literature. 5. Interpret research findings in relation to theory, prior evidence, and methodological constraints <p>Transferable Skills</p>				

	<p>6. Conduct research ethically and independently, demonstrating time management and problem-solving</p> <p>7. Produce a structured, APA-style research report that synthesises findings into a coherent argument.</p>		
<p>Prerequisites</p>	<p>PSY1103 Quantitative Research methods; PSY1207 Qualitative research methods; PSY2003 Research methods in psychology II PSY1105 Statistics in Psychology I; PSY2305 Statistics in Psychology II</p>	<p>Required</p>	
<p>Course content</p>	<p>Indicative Content</p> <p>This course provides students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge of psychological theory and research methods through the completion of an independent empirical project. Each student will be assigned a supervisor who will provide individual guidance throughout the research process, with up to 20 hours of one-to-one supervision over the duration of the course. Students will develop a research question, review relevant literature, design an appropriate methodology, seek ethical approval, collect and analyse data, and interpret their findings in relation to existing research. In addition to supervision, the course offers a series of workshops covering key skills such as building online surveys, sourcing academic resources, and applying quantitative and qualitative research methods. This structure supports the development of critical thinking, ethical awareness, data analysis, and academic writing.</p>		
<p>Teaching methodology</p>	<p>Learning and Teaching Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Supervision meetings throughout the year (20 hours) • Workshops and Support Sessions (20 hours): Dissertation writing, ethics, analysis refreshers • Independent Study: Literature review, data collection, analysis, and writing 		
<p>Bibliography</p>	<p>Core Text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coolican, H. (2024). <i>Research methods and statistics in psychology</i> (8th ed.). Routledge. • Howitt, D., & Cramer, D. (2017). <i>Introduction to SPSS in psychology</i> (7th ed.). Pearson. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howitt, D. (2025). Introduction to qualitative research methods in psychology (5th ed.). Pearson. <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Psychological Society. (2021). <i>Code of Ethics and Conduct</i>. [Available online] • American Psychological Association. (2017). <i>Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct</i> [Available online] 						
Assessment	<table> <tr> <td>Project proposal (semester 7)</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Up to 9000 word dissertation (semester 8)</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dissertation Presentation (Semester 8)</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </table>	Project proposal (semester 7)	10%	Up to 9000 word dissertation (semester 8)	80%	Dissertation Presentation (Semester 8)	10%
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Language	English						