

Course title	Developmental Psychopathology			
Course code	PSY3601			
Course type	Elective			
Level	Bachelors			
Year / Semester	Year 3/ 6 th Semester			
Teacher's name	Dr Annita Venturis			
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	3hrs	Laboratories / week -
Course purpose and objectives	<p>This course introduces students to aspects of developmental psychopathology, examining the origins and progression of psychological disorders across childhood and adolescence. Students will explore how genetic, neurobiological, psychological, and environmental factors interact over time to influence mental health. The course emphasises early risk identification, the importance of developmental context, and implications for prevention and intervention.</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. Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts and theoretical models in developmental psychopathology 2. Critically evaluate the genetic, neurobiological, psychological, and environmental factors that contribute to the onset and progression of childhood and adolescent mental disorders. <p>Competencies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Identify and appraise the symptomatology and developmental features of common mental health disorders in childhood and adolescence. 4. Apply principles of early risk identification and assessment to educational and clinical case examples. 5. Evaluate preventive and early intervention approaches within developmental, cultural, and ethical contexts. 			

	<p>Transferable Skills</p> <p>6. Communicate psychological concepts and case information clearly, demonstrating cultural awareness and ethical reasoning.</p>		
<p>Prerequisites</p>	<p>PSY1101 Foundations of brain social psychology and individual differences, PSY1205 foundations of cognitive and developmental psychology, PSY2301 biological basis of behaviour, PSY2302 Development across the lifespan</p>	<p>Required</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>Course content</p>	<p>Indicative Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to developmental psychopathology: risk, resilience, and trajectories • Genetic and neurobiological underpinnings of childhood mental health • Attachment, trauma, and the impact of early experiences • Common disorders in childhood and adolescence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., ADHD, ASD) ○ Anxiety, depression, and mood disorders ○ Conduct and behavioural disorders • Interaction of family, school, and social environment • Early identification and risk assessment in educational and clinical settings • Preventive approaches and early interventions • Cultural, ethical, and inclusion considerations in child mental health • Implications for education, social care, and youth mental health policy 		
<p>Teaching methodology</p>	<p>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</p>		
<p>Bibliography</p>	<p>Core Text:</p> <p>Nicholls, C. J. (2018). <i>Neurodevelopmental disorders in children and adolescents: A guide to evaluation and treatment</i> (1st ed.). Routledge.</p> <p>Further reading:</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>		



Assessment RETHINK	Attendance and participation	10%
	Case Formulation and Intervention Plan (2000 words)	45%
	Final Exam	45%
Language	English	