

Available Honours Psychology Modules: 2024

The list below is the current Psychology modules on the **BSocSci Honours (Psychology)** programme. In order to take any of these modules, students need to apply and be selected into the honours programme.

Selected students must register for the three **core modules** and choose four of the **elective modules** to pass the programme with 120 credits.

Core Modules

SLK 751: Theories and Paradigms **15 Credits**

Core Module - Compulsory

In this module five dominant paradigms in psychology; (neo) behaviouristic, (neuro) cognitivist, psycho-analytic, humanist and ecosystemic, and typical theories emanating from these paradigms, are discussed. The philosophical underpinnings of these paradigms and theories are explored, specifically with reference to modernism and postmodernism. Emphasis is then placed on the praxis of quantitative and qualitative theory-building against the background of the five dominant paradigms.

Presented in Semester 1 for 14 weeks, one lecture per week for 2-hours

SLK 761: Research Report **30 Credits**

Core Module - Compulsory

The research report constitutes an integrated assessment of all learning offered for this learning programme. Students will be required to write a research report on an approved topic in the specific context selected, including and complying with all requirements set by the module coordinator.

Presented in Semester 1 & 2 for 14 weeks - the format will be discussed with students during the first lecture

SLK 764: Research Methodology **15 Credits**

Core Module - Compulsory

The focus is on knowledge and skills necessary to understand the empirical research process as applied in psychology. The following aspects are included: theoretical and epistemological assumptions in psychological research, problem and hypothesis formulation, basics of measurement, control in research, threats to validity, and research designs. The module also incorporates statistical methods applicable in research as well as skills necessary to analyse qualitative data all of which are aimed at providing students with greater skills within the realm of research.

Presented in Semester 1 for 14 weeks, one lecture per week for 2-hours

SLK 753: Community Psychology **15 Credits**

Elective Module

The focus is on the nature of community psychology, theoretical approaches, community settings, consultation, interventions and the design and management of effective programmes. It includes the planning, coordination and facilitation of workshops. The practical component is based on community interventions. The module consists of two components: a theoretical part to develop a frame of reference to use in thinking about community processes and practical experience to address community issues. Focus will be on needs assessment, design, implementation and evaluation of interventions, basic counselling and group facilitation skills.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, one lecture per week for 2-hours

SLK 755: Psychological Assessment **15 Credits**

Elective Module

This is a theoretical module that deals with the process of assessment of human behaviour within various contexts. It does not include professional training to become a psychometrist. It does include topics such as the multi-dimensional nature, purpose, and characteristics of assessment; critical issues in psychological assessment within the South African context; the reasons for statutory control of psychological assessment and the ethics of assessment; the appropriate use of different kinds of psychometric and assessment methods and instruments; and the process of integration of assessment results and report writing.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, one lecture per week for 2-hours

SLK 756: Psychopathology **15 Credits**

Elective Module

This module deals with abnormal behaviour and symptomatology related to various mental disorders, including intra-psycho, interpersonal and socio-cultural dysfunctions and pathology. The DSM-5-TR classification system as well as a multi-dimensional perspective is discussed critically with regard to specific disorders.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, one lecture per week for 2-hours

SLK 760: Neuropsychology **15 Credits**

Elective Module

This module examines brain-behaviour relationships with the aim of understanding the components of complex psychological processes. The primary features of cerebral dysfunction in neurological disorders, traumatic brain injury and executive functioning will be addressed. Various neuropsychological assessment techniques will also be introduced.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, one lecture per week for 2-hours

SLK 766: Therapeutic Psychology **15 Credits**

Elective Module

This module introduces students to various postmodern approaches and ethical issues. In addition, upon completion of the module, students should have acquired an in-depth knowledge of a specific therapeutic approach of their choice and demonstrate these approaches can be used to intervene at the, individual, family and community level.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, one lecture per week for 2-hours

SLK 768: Capita Selecta (Health Psychology) **15 Credits**

Elective Module

Students are exposed to a contemporary topic in Psychology not covered elsewhere in the curriculum, such as positive psychology, sports psychology, health psychology or evolutionary psychology, for example. From 2022 to 2024, Health Psychology formed part of the Capita Selecta module.

Health Psychology is the study of the psychological and behavioural processes in health, illness, and healthcare. It is concerned with understanding how psychological, behavioural, and socio-cultural factors contribute to physical health and illness. Health Psychologists can improve and promote health by working directly with individual patients or indirectly in large-scale public health programs by means of conducting health-related research. The Health Psychology module aims to present a critical, exploratory, trans-disciplinary, and participatory approach to health psychology. The module exposes students to various theories and critical perspectives within and beyond the discipline of Health Psychology. The module integrates traditional, critical, and positive approaches to Health and Health Psychology, with an emphasis on both global and South African contexts. The module is designed and well-suited for students wanting to pursue further postgraduate education and training in Clinical, Counselling, or Research Psychology by providing them with the foundational knowledge and skills of Health Psychology.

Presented in Semester 1 for 14 weeks, one lecture per week for 2-hours

Elective Modules