

ISN603 Clinical Health Psychology

Unit Description

Clinical Health Psychology The field of health psychology encompasses the application of psychological theories to the study of the maintenance and promotion of health, the prevention of illness, and the dysfunction and rehabilitation of those already disabled. This unit will examine, in depth, the range of psychosocial factors that influence people's physical health behaviour, their susceptibility and reactions to illness states, and responses to medical treatment. This unit is designed to provide the knowledge and skills students will need to evaluate the effects of psychological variables on physical health and illness behaviour, the prevention of illness, and adjustment to illness and dysfunction. It will also increase awareness of the roles being played by psychologists in health care delivery.

Required Textbooks and Readings

Caltabiano, M. L., Sarafino, E. P., & Byrne, D. (2008). Health psychology: Biopsychosocial interactions (2nd ed.). Milton, Qld: John Wiley & Sons.

Caltabiano, M. L., & Ricciardelli, L. A. (Eds.). (2013). Applied topics in health psychology. West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

**Textbooks may be subject to change prior to the start of semester.*

Administrative Details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Core or Elective	Level	Unit Coordinator	Other Teaching Staff
Master of Psychology (Clinical)	One semester	Core	Sixth year, Semester 1	Dr Sue Burney	

Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Learning outcomes for Unit	Assessment tasks		
	Type	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)
Describe the historical basis of the biomedical and biopsychosocial theoretical models of health care and identify the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.	Client report and treatment plan	Year 1, semester 2, week 9	70%
Appraise behaviour patterns in patients experiencing illness and hospitalisation and identify appropriate interventions.	Written assignment – see above		
Identify the major models of health protective behaviour and relate them to clinical populations.	Class attendance and participation in practical activities	Year 1, throughout semester 2	30%

Delivery mode

Face to face on site.

Full-time or Part-time study

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Successful completion of year 5 units.

Other Resources and Requirements

None.

Unit weighting as a percentage of the year

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
10	200

Student workload

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
1 x 2 hour lecture (includes 1 hour of practical activities)	6	8

**Unit outlines may be subject to change. The most up-to-date outlines will be provided to students once the semester commences.*