

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHOLOGY (PCPsych)**

*(See also General Regulations)*

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### **Admissions requirements**

**PS1** To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) be a holder of a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University, or of another qualification of equivalent standard from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
  - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if shortlisted.
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### **Award of certificate**

**PS2** To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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### **Length of curriculum**

**PS3** The curriculum shall extend over one academic year full-time or two academic years part-time, and shall include an examination held at the end of each semester.

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### **Completion of curriculum**

**PS4** To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall

- (a) follow instruction in the syllabuses prescribed for core and elective courses with the approval of the Programme Director;
  - (b) complete satisfactorily all written assignments, and participate in such practical exercises in the laboratory and in the field as may be organized as part of the curriculum;
  - (c) satisfy the examiners in all courses in any prescribed form of examination; and
  - (d) submit a thesis or an independent research project of a standard acceptable to the examiners on a topic chosen in consultation with the Head of the Department, the thesis or the independent research project to be submitted by June 30 following the candidate's last examination. The thesis or the independent research project shall be treated for all purposes as the equivalent of one examination paper.
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### **Examinations**

**PS5**

- (a) An assessment of the candidate's coursework during the year, including completion of written assignments and participation in field-work or laboratory work, as the case may be, shall be taken into account in determining the candidate's result in each course.
- (b) The examiners may at their discretion prescribe one or more oral examinations for any candidate.

**PS6** A candidate who is unable because of illness to be present for any paper or papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present himself for examination in the paper or papers at a subsequent examination.

**PS7**

- (a) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in one or more papers at his first attempt may be required either to repeat the curriculum in whole or in part and to present himself for re-examination in the paper or papers in a subsequent examination or to present himself for re-examination in the paper or papers in a subsequent examination without repeating the curriculum or may be required to discontinue his studies.
- (b) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in one or more papers at his second attempt shall be deemed to have failed the whole examination and be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

**PS8** A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the postgraduate certificate requirements and are to be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' certificates.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHOLOGY (PcpSYCH)**

1. The selection of courses and special topics in psychology available in a particular year is subject to the approval of the Programme Director. A candidate must complete 8 courses as listed below and 2 6-credit Psychology courses from the following course list. All courses listed in the curriculum are 6 credits courses, except PSYC3005 (12 credits) and PSYC3009 (12 credits).

PSYC0001 Research methods in psychology  
PSYC0007 Cognitive psychology *or* PSYC0051 Perception  
PSYC0009 Life-span developmental psychology  
PSYC0019 Psychology of personality  
PSYC0020 Fundamentals of social psychology  
PSYC0022 Biological psychology  
PSYC0035 Introduction to educational psychology *or* PSYC0062 Introduction to psychopathology  
PSYC3005 Thesis in psychology *or* PSYC3009 Independent study in psychology

2. In addition to class sessions, each course may include a practical element on which a candidate may expect to spend about two hours per week.
3. Full-time candidates are required to read ten courses with five to be taken in each semester. Candidates doing part-time mode are required to read ten courses with five courses to be taken in each academic year. Slight variations from this pattern are permitted subject to the permission of the Programme Director.
4. Assessment will be based on coursework (50%) and a final examination (50%) with passing mark of 50% for all courses unless otherwise specified.

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Course list:

### **PSYC0001      Research methods in psychology (6 credits)**

This course adopts a practical approach to teaching the analytical aspects of research techniques in psychology. It is designed to provide students with the basic background in research design and data analysis. The logic of statistical inference and scientific explanation, the merits and limitations of quantitative approaches to the study of psychological phenomena, and research ethics will all be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0002      Psychological testing and measurement (6 credits)**

This course surveys the major concepts and techniques in the field of psychometrics, and provides students with some hands-on experience with commonly used tests. Topics covered include: the context of testing and measurement; the testing process; test standardization; reliability and validity; intelligence and its appraisal; personality assessment; special domain testing; occupational applications; large-scale measurements; ethics and prospects.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0005      Introduction to counselling and therapeutic psychology (6 credits)**

This course provides a theoretical foundation for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of counselling or to explore their potential for professional training in mental health. Some experiential

learning will be used, including major approaches; skills and practice; ethics and the limitations of counseling working with various clinical and non-clinical populations; cultural values and socio-political contexts; outcome and process research. Students with knowledge of personality and abnormal psychology preferred.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0007      Cognitive psychology (6 credits)**

This course covers how humans learn to deal with information from the environment. Topics include various aspects of perception, memory, concept structure and learning, and thinking. Students will be involved in conducting experiments on cognitive functioning as part of the coursework.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0008      Advanced cognitive psychology (6 credits)**

This course covers some of the more recent developments in cognitive psychology. Students will learn about current issues in cognitive psychology by reading research articles. Topics may include consciousness, mental representations of objects/faces/letters, language, memory and decision making, as well as other topics reflecting the interests of the teacher. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC0001 and either PSYC0007 or PSYC0051

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### **PSYC0009      Life-span developmental psychology (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to developmental psychology from a life-span perspective. The topics include: basic concepts and theories of human development; research methodology and issues in the study of developmental change; biological, environmental and social influences on development; processes of physical development over the life-span; attachment and emotional development; development of perception, language, cognition and morality; development of personality and social relationships.

Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

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### **PSYC0010      History and issues in psychology (6 credits)**

This course provides an in-depth study of psychology within an historically- and issue-based framework. Beginning with the philosophical and physiological forerunners to how the modern discipline became an experimental, scientific project, it will move on to examine some of the debates in the West in the first half of the twentieth century which either forestalled or encouraged the use of mental concepts and the (re)emergence of cognitive psychology.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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### **PSYC0016      The psychology of stress and health (6 credits)**

This course adopts a biopsychosocial approach in exploring current issues and research on stress and health. Special emphasis is placed on the Hong Kong situation. Topics covered include: concepts of stress; the roles of cognition, personality and physiology in the stress response; social stressors; coping, stress management and health promotion; concepts of health and wellness; cultural implications. Students in this course shall undertake independent research projects.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**PSYC0019      Psychology of personality (6 credits)**

This course will critically examine a number of theories of personality as exemplified in the lives of some of the significant figures in the field. The relationship of specific theories to practical applications, personality assessment and psychotherapeutic techniques may be included. The major aims of the course are to provide a survey of the breadth and complexity of this field and to provide a perspective from which to examine assumptions about human nature and the evaluation of behaviour.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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**PSYC0020      Fundamentals of social psychology (6 credits)**

This course gives an overview of the field which studies the behaviour of individuals in social contexts. It covers social perception, social cognition, social motivation, attitudes and attitude change, relationship between attitude and behaviour, aggression, helping, interpersonal attraction, social influence on individual behaviour and group dynamics. The impact of Chinese culture on various social behaviours will form part of the discussion.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0022      Biological psychology (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to biological aspects of behaviour. The topics include: biological bases of behaviour, development, learning, memory, and abnormal psychology; the nervous system; processes of brain maturation; psychophysiology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0032      Engineering psychology (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to an emerging field within Engineering Psychology – interaction design – that considers different aspects of human biology and behavior and takes a user-centered approach in the practice of designing interactive digital products, environments, systems, and services. Skills learned in this course include (1) user-centered and goal-directed design techniques, (2) practical and scientific principles behind the design of interactive systems, (3) quantitative and qualitative analysis of interaction designs, (4) visual design as it pertains to user interaction (e.g., visibility, grouping, iconography), and (5) design communication and teamwork.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0035      Introduction to educational psychology (6 credits)**

This course focuses on how psychological theories are applied to learning, teaching, and facilitation of human growth. The topics include major developmental theories and their application to learning and instruction, learning theories from both behavioral and cognitive traditions, effective teaching methods and practices, learners' individual and group differences, achievement motivation, and assessment. Students will be involved in learning activities that require self-reflection and integration of daily life experience.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0036      Special topics in psychology (6 credits)**

This course provides an opportunity to study in some depth an area of psychology of interest to students and a staff member alike. Individual topics may have special requirements for eligibility. Students

taking this course may select one topic from a list of topics to be announced in the semester immediately prior to that in which they are taken.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0038      Psychology of language and bilingualism (6 credits)**

A study of the processes involved in language comprehension and production, including the acquisition of native as well as second languages, the cognitive bases of language learning and use, the psychology of reading and reading disabilities, the comparison of psychological aspects of the Chinese language and other languages, cognitive functions of the bilingual, the bilingual brain, psychological factors in second language learning.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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### **PSYC0051      Perception (6 credits)**

An introduction to sensation and perception, with an emphasis on the psychology of seeing. Specific topics include the following examination of the functional properties of sensory systems (e.g., auditory system, color vision, vestibular system, touch, and kinaesthesia); phenomenology of sensation and perception; psychophysical limits of perceptual systems; goals of sensory coding; structure and evolution of sensory systems; theories of perception. Perceptual experiments will be conducted by students in laboratory classes.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0052      Advanced social psychology (6 credits)**

This advanced laboratory course is designed for students interested in learning how to conduct studies in social psychology. Students will develop skills in critically evaluating current theoretical controversies and methodological paradigms. Special attention is given to theoretical, methodological, and measurement issues such as critical thinking in social psychology, social research design, proposal writing, and research ethics. This course is conducted in a seminar format with the expectation that students will participate actively and on occasion help lead a discussion. Some combination of readings, written assignments, and oral presentation is required. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC0001 and either PSYC0019 or PSYC0020

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### **PSYC0053      Advanced research in industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)**

This research-based course focuses on specific topics in industrial/organizational psychology that are pertinent to the latest economic development in Hong Kong and in the Greater China Region. Psychometric assessment of various job attitudes, aptitudes, and work-related personality will be one such topic. Students will develop their knowledge and hands-on skills in selected areas covered in the introductory course on Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC0001 and PSYC0063

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### **PSYC0054      Human neuropsychology (6 credits)**

This course introduces the basic principles of *Neuropsychology*. These include: (1) brain-behavior connections via reviewing (1.1) the neuro-anatomical and neuropsychological mechanisms underlying

some cognitive processes and (1.2) how brain functions are dysregulated in some common brain disorders, (2) the research methods employed to understand brain-behavior relationships. Students will participate in an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC0001 and PSYC0022

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### **PSYC0059      Current issues in applied developmental psychology (6 credits)**

This course will explore applications of developmental psychology to issues pertaining to improving the well-being of children and their families. Topics include: The quality of child care, patterns and ranges of normal child behaviors, child-rearing practices, developmentally challenged children, legal, and public-policy issues.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **PSYC0060      Research and quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)**

This course is designed to extend students' quantitative and research skills so that they are prepared to conduct their own independent empirical research. It will build on what students already learned in PSYC1004 to cover more advanced quantitative methods commonly used in Psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisite: PSYC0001

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### **PSYC0061      Advanced issues in perception (6 credits)**

This advanced lab course explores findings from both recent and classical research on human perceptual systems. Specific attention will be given to - though not limited to - computational models, psychophysical findings, neurobiological findings. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC0001 and PSYC0051

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### **PSYC0062      Introduction to psychopathology (6 credits)**

This course will provide a broad exposure to both theory and practice in clinical psychology. It is a foundation course in mental health, counselling and other psychological services. Also it will provide the information and understanding required to make informed decisions about how to cope with the many social problems connected with mental disorders. A wide array of types of mental disorders will be examined. Important themes will be emphasized such as the continuum in behaviour from mental health to mental illness, the diathesis-stress and nature-nurture models and epidemiology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0063      Industrial/organizational psychology (6 credits)**

This course surveys the complex relationships that exist between people, their social environment, and their work. Topics may include job analysis, personnel selection, personnel training, performance management, vocational guidance, work motivation, job satisfaction, leadership, group relations, conflicts, organization design, occupational stress, and errors.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

#### **PSYC0064      Advanced developmental Psychology (6 credits)**

This course will introduce you to recent and classical research findings and methods in developmental psychology. It will provide hands-on experience with the research process by having you design and implement your own independent empirical research project. It will focus on key issues facing researchers, such as problems of observing and interpreting, generating testable questions, validity, research design and measurement. Students will each do an independent empirical research project. Priority will be given to UG students majoring in psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC0001 and PSYC0009

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#### **PSYC0065      Health psychology (6 credits)**

This course acquaints students with the realm of health psychology. Students will gain (a) an understanding of the ways psychosocial factors influence health concerns and healthcare utilization, and (b) familiarity with basic concepts that guide the work of health professionals. Topics covered in this course include health behaviors, coping with health-related stress, social support and health, psychoimmunology, management of chronic illnesses, and patient-practitioner interaction.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **PSYC0066      Foundations of cognitive science (6 credits)**

This course allows students to gain an understanding of the workings of the mind in the context of the technological advances that are increasingly shaping our lives and our society. The course introduces students to the domain, goals and methods of Cognitive Science, showing how different disciplines converge in their enquiry into how the brain works. Lectures will present case studies highlighting research findings which show how similar questions about the functioning of the human mind are answered from the perspective of each contributing discipline.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **PSYC0067      Seminars in cognitive science (6 credits)**

This course is a tutorial-based reading course in specialist areas of cognitive science research and interest. It will include presentations and group discussions of research and issues of interest within cognitive science, providing an opportunity for students to examine critically the cognitive science approach to understanding intelligent systems.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisite: PSYC0066

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#### **PSYC0069      Psychology of motivation (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to theories and research on human motivation. The course will cover a variety of topics including: psychological needs, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, goal setting and goal striving, personal efficacy beliefs, self-regulation, academic value, and role of motivation in optimal functioning, achievement, and well-being.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **PSYC0070      Love, marriage, sex, and family (6 credits)**

Throughout our lifespan, human beings are involved in various kinds of personal relationships. People make friends, fall in love, break up, get married, and raise a family. Some go through divorce, and some



have to make decisions on cohabitation, adoption, and abortion. This course is an application of social psychological knowledge to the analyses of these relationships and events. The purpose of this course is to enable students to use a psychological perspective to rethink (or start to think) about such intimate relationships. After taking this course, students will be better informed of the psychosocial (and to some extent, legal and medical) implications of decisions they will be making with regard to their own intimate relationships, and be better equipped to advise others on the subject.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0071      Judgments and decision making (6 credits)**

To understand the psychological factors involved with human judgment and decision making. We will contrast human decision making with normative theories of rational choice, and survey psychological evidence of systematic decision biases and errors in judgments. We will discuss the heuristics and biases approach to judgment and decision errors, and critiques of this approach. Real world examples will be presented from the domains of medicine, economics, and consumer choice.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0072      Research internship in psychology I (6 credits)**

Students will have an opportunity to learn to do research as an intern in ongoing empirical research projects under a teacher's supervision in the Department of Psychology. Students spend 10-12 hours per week assisting various research activities. The internship includes participating in lab meetings or meeting individually with the supervisor, reading relevant theoretical and empirical articles, assisting in ongoing empirical research projects, and writing an internship report. Information about research projects offering internship placements and application procedure will be available in the Psychology Department webpage. Internship I and II can be done with the same supervisor or two different supervisors.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC0073      Research internship in psychology II (6 credits)**

Please refer to Research internship in psychology I for the course description. Internship I and II can be done with the same supervisor or two different supervisors.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **PSYC3005      Thesis in psychology (12 credits)**

A student will conduct an independent empirical investigation of a psychological problem in the final semester. Thesis research will be supervised individually by teaching members of the Department. The thesis should be about 9000 to 10000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices). Eligible students will be invited by the Department to apply for admission into this course. Approval by the Departmental Head is required for admission into this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

(Remarks: PSYC3005 and PSYC3009 are mutually exclusive.)

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### **PSYC3009      Independent study in psychology (12 credits)**

Student will each conduct an independent empirical research project in the final semester; regular attendance for research supervision is required. The project write-up should be about 9000 to 10000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices). Approval by Departmental Head is required

for admissions into this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

(Remarks: PSYC3005 and PSYC3009 are mutually exclusive.)

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