

Current Debates

Lecture 1: Introduction and Overview of Module

DR KATE WILLIAMS

Module Lecturing Staff

**Dr Kate Williams
(Module Lead)**

**Psychology
Team**



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Office Hours:

- **Sem 1: Mon & Tue 11-12**
- **Sem 2: Mon & Thur 2-3**

Dr Ceri Phelps
Dr Paul Hutchings
Dr Lymarie Rodriguez-Morales
Stacey Coleman
Dr Judith Marshall

Plus Guest Speakers

Module Structure

- ▶ **A very different type of module to any other.**
- ▶ **Does not follow usual sit & listen to lecturer format**
- ▶ **You will be faced with cutting-edge issues happening in psychology & the world beyond academic study.**
- ▶ **You will consider & debate issues with fellow students and academic staff to develop a critical understanding of the topics you are covering.**

Module Structure

- ▶ **Staff from the team (& outside the team) will deliver a topic in a way of their choosing.**
- ▶ **The way info is covered may differ from what you are used to in a traditional teaching format.**
- ▶ **There may be conference presentation-style delivery, workshops, debate, tasks – whatever we would do to engage people in the topics that we are passionate about and expert in.**

Module Structure

- ▶ **This year we will cover topics such as terrorism, genetics, drug use, emotion, and much more.**
- ▶ **It is your opportunity to engage with research in the company of the people driving this field: truly tapping into the expertise within the department.**
- ▶ **Your engagement with content & sessions is vital.**
- ▶ **Debate only works when you engage with materials & know something of the topic.**

Module Structure

- ▶ It is not about coming to the sessions with full understanding; it is about arguing points, clarifying confusion, & critically thinking about the issues.
- ▶ We hope you approach the discussions in the spirit we would like them to convey; friendly, competitive debate, based on open-mindedness & evidence-based support.

IMPORTANT!

- ▶ **Each week the session information will be made available on Moodle.**
- ▶ **If you have any issues/queries regarding the content or structure of the sessions please contact the person running the session beforehand to clarify.**
- ▶ **We understand some topics covered may be sensitive for some people, but this is psychology and we make no apologies for covering them.**

IMPORTANT!

- ▶ **We will take every step possible to ensure we minimise distress, but also ensure we work within university regulations regarding attendance monitoring & meeting learning outcomes.**
- ▶ **Therefore, given the potential sensitive nature of the topics, it is vitally important that you take ownership of your planning by checking the descriptions of each of the sessions prior to them taking place in order to be aware of topic areas being discussed.**

Module Structure

- ▶ **Sessions: Wednesday 11am-1pm.**
- ▶ **Semester One: Debate sessions led by members of academic team.**
- ▶ **Semester Two: As above plus Guest Speakers.**

Module Structure

- ▶ **Moodle:**
 - ▶ **Weekly planner & Module Handbook**
 - ▶ **Links to designated reading**
 - ▶ **Assessment details: proforma, TurnItIn portals, submission dates, etc.**
 - ▶ **No lecture slides**

Module Aims

- ▶ **Provide students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge of psychological constructs, models and theories to topical areas of interest of relevance to contemporary psychology;**

Module Aims

- ▶ **Develop students' critical thinking skills and ability to produce evidence-based debates in relation to real world issues;**
- ▶ **Further develop students' awareness of wider philosophical, political and ethical issues in relation to the study of human beings in society.**

Learning Outcomes

- ▶ **Upon successful completion of the module students should be able to:**
 - ▶ **Discuss the application of psychological knowledge and research to understanding a range of modern-day phenomena using empirical evidence;**

Learning Outcomes

- ▶ **Recognise the need to consider wider ethical, political and philosophical knowledge when understanding modern-day psychological phenomena;**
- ▶ **Evaluate the social and cultural factors underpinning modern-day psychological phenomena;**

Learning Outcomes

- ▶ **Have the ability to present work suitable for an academic audience through appropriate media.**

Module Content

W/C	T/W	Semester One - Lecture Title and Speaker - (Wednesday: 11am-1pm)
Oct 1 st	1	Dr Kate Williams/Dr Paul Hutchings - Overview of the module (one hour)
Oct 8 th	2	Dr Paul Hutchings: <i>Right Wing Authoritarianism and the Paris Terror Attacks</i>
Oct 15 th	3	Dr Ceri Phelps: <i>Men's Health: Men, Masculinity, and Help Seeking</i>
Oct 22 nd	4	Dr Lymarie Rodriguez-Morales: <i>No words for feelings: Alexithymia and mental health</i>
Oct 29 th		Reading Week
Nov 5 th	5	Miss Stacey Coleman: <i>'The classification of gambling disorder'</i>
Nov 12 th	6	Dr Kate Williams: <i>"Minority Report" - Science fiction fantasy film or insight into future law enforcement procedures?</i>
Nov 19 th	7	Dr Ceri Phelps: <i>Do we own our genes?</i>
Nov 26 th	8	Dr Lymarie Rodriguez-Morales: <i>'Happiology' or the dark side of happiness: A critical review of the psychology of wellbeing</i>
Dec 3 rd	9	Dr Kate Williams: <i>Is horse riding really more dangerous than taking ecstasy? Evaluating the evidence that hallucinogenic drugs should be used for therapeutic purposes.</i>
Dec 10 th	10	Dr Kate Williams: Assessment 1 Guidance/Information.

Readings

- ▶ **The module does not come with a prescribed core text or reference list.**
- ▶ **Weekly readings will be placed on Moodle by academic staff who are leading the session.**
- ▶ **Those who attend sessions but not carry out the readings will struggle to understand what is being discussed and will not develop the knowledge required to critically debate the subject.**

Readings

- ▶ **For each presentation given by academic staff, readings will be made available at least one week prior to the sessions.**
- ▶ **It is expected that students will engage in approximately 5 hours per week average on these readings.**

Module Assessments

Assessment One:

- **1 x 24-hour timed essay (50% of overall module mark) – answer ONE question from eight.**

Assessment Two:

- **1 x 15 minute individual presentation (50% of overall module mark) – Choose ONE presentation topic from a choice of six.**

Assessment One:

► 24-hour timed essay:

- You will be presented with Eight essay questions relating to the topics discussed in the sessions from semester one.
- Questions will be released 24-hours prior to the submission deadline (January 2019).
- You will choose ONE question to answer.
- You will have 24 hours to write and submit the essay on the topic (maximum 2,000 words).

Assessment Two:

▶ 15 minute individual presentation:

- ▶ You will be given Six presentation topic areas at the beginning of semester two.
- ▶ You will choose ONE presentation topic.
- ▶ You will have 15 minutes to discuss and present information relating to that topic (May 2019).
 - ▶ There will be 5 minutes at the end for questions.
- ▶ You can use PowerPoint in your presentation.

Run through Module on Moodle

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<https://moodle.uwtsd.ac.uk/login/index.php>

Next Week

- ▶ **Speaker: Dr Paul Hutchings**
- ▶ **Title: Right Wing
Authoritarianism and the Paris
Terror Attacks**