

## 512-938 Psychology of Health Problems

<b>Credit Points:</b>	6.25
<b>Level:</b>	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
<b>Dates &amp; Locations:</b>	2009, This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, - Taught on campus.
<b>Time Commitment:</b>	Contact Hours: 1.5 hours of lectures/seminars per week for 12 weeks Total Time Commitment: Not available
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	PSYC00029 Graduate Research Methods PSYC00030 Psychological Assessment across the Lifespan PSYC00031 Introduction to Psychopathology
<b>Corequisites:</b>	None
<b>Recommended Background Knowledge:</b>	None
<b>Non Allowed Subjects:</b>	None
<b>Core Participation Requirements:</b>	<p>&lt;p&gt;For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Student Support and Engagement Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Overview, Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Generic Skills sections of this entry.&lt;/p&gt;         &lt;p&gt;It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability may impact on meeting the requirements of this subject are encouraged to discuss this matter with a Faculty Student Adviser and Student Equity and Disability Support: &lt;a href="http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability"&gt;http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability&lt;/a&gt;&lt;/p&gt;</p>
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Dr Nola Rushford
<b>Contact:</b>	Dr Nola Rushford
<b>Subject Overview:</b>	<p>This unit covers 3 main aspects of the psychology of health problems: (I) the theoretical basis of stress and coping, and implication for medical procedures; (ii) assessment, differential diagnosis and treatment of psychological processes and factors resulting from, and contributing to medical illness management, and chronic illness, disability and rehabilitation; (iii) patient-doctor communications to facilitate adherence and breaking bad news. Topics include: management of responses to illness, hospitalisation and medical treatments; psychological factors in illness; enhancement of patient coping; normal illness behaviour, pain management; grief and loss; preparation for surgery and other invasive procedures; and screening, diagnosis and prognosis.</p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<p>Students will have an opportunity to develop expertise in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># Recognition, understanding and assessment of psychological responses to illness; hospitalisation, medical treatment and disability;</li> <li># Understanding of psychological factors contributing to illness;</li> <li># Skill in planning psychological management of medical patients (taking into account common issues such as stress management and patient adherence to treatment);</li> <li># Preparation of patients for surgery and other invasive procedures;</li> <li># Understanding of common presenting difficulties in medical settings, such as pain, secondary depression, medical phobias and anxieties, fatigue, post-traumatic stress, death and dying;</li> <li># Understand the above in the context of a biopsychosocial framework;</li> <li># Develop additional knowledge in one aspect of the course through the critical appraisal of the literature for a class presentation.</li> </ul>

<b>Assessment:</b>	A mid-semester essay of 1500 words (90% of assessment)A scheduled 15 minute class presentation during the semester (10% of assessment).
<b>Prescribed Texts:</b>	Baum, A., Neman, S., Weinman, J., West, R., & McManus, C. (eds) (1997) Cambridge Handbook of Psychology, Health and Medicine, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.Sweet, J.J., Rozensky, R.H., &Tovian, S.M.(eds) (1991) Handbook of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings, New York: Plenum PressCaltabiano, M., Sarafino, E.P. Health Psychology: Biopsychosocial interactions. Melbourne: John Wiley & Sons
<b>Breadth Options:</b>	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
<b>Fees Information:</b>	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, <a href="http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees">http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees</a>
<b>Generic Skills:</b>	Written, oral and communication skills Analytical, information integration and synthesizing skills
<b>Related Course(s):</b>	Master of Psychology (Clinical Child) Master of Psychology (Clinical) Master of Psychology(Clinical Psychology)/Doctor of Philosophy Master of Psychology/PhD (Clinical Child)