

PSYC90027 Psychology of Health Problems

Credit Points:	6.25
Level:	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2012, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, Parkville - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 1.5 hours of lectures/seminars per week for 12 weeks Total Time Commitment: 54 hours
Prerequisites:	PSYC00029 Graduate Research Methods PSYC00030 Principles of Psychological Assessment PSYC00031 Introduction to Psychopathology
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	Completion of APAC approved psychology studies to fourth-year (Honours) level.
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering requests for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements, Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
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Subject Overview:	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.
Objectives:	Students will have an opportunity to develop expertise in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Recognition, understanding and assessment of psychological responses to illness, hospitalisation, medical treatment and disability; # Understanding of psychological factors contributing to illness; # Skill in planning psychological management of medical patients (taking into account common issues such as stress management and patient adherence to treatment); # Preparation of patients for surgery and other invasive procedures; # Understanding of common presenting difficulties in medical settings, such as pain, secondary depression, medical phobias and anxieties, fatigue, post-traumatic stress, death and dying; # Understand the above in the context of a biopsychosocial framework;

	# Develop additional knowledge in one aspect of the course through the critical appraisal of the literature for an essay.
Assessment:	A mid-semester treatment plan of 500 words (20% of assessment) A 1500 word essay due at the end of semester (80% of assessment).
Prescribed Texts:	Caltabiano, M., & Sarafino, E.P. (2008). Health Psychology: Biopsychosocial interactions. Melbourne: John Wiley & Sons
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	Written, oral and communication skills Analytical, information integration and synthesizing skills
Related Course(s):	Master of Psychology (Clinical Child Psychology)/Doctor of Philosophy Master of Psychology (Clinical Child) Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)/Doctor of Philosophy