

dream plan achieve 

course factfile

Consciousness and Transpersonal Psychology MSc, PgDip, PgCert

Introduction

These programmes of study are designed for those who wish to pursue an intellectually challenging postgraduate programme in the areas of Consciousness Studies and Transpersonal Psychology. We also encourage students to integrate their academic studies with an exploration of their own potential for personal and transpersonal development.

The programmes cover a number of topics, all of which have been at the forefront of change within psychology over recent years (as demonstrated by the establishment within the British Psychological Society of Sections for Consciousness and Experiential Psychology and for Transpersonal Psychology). These areas include the psychology and neuropsychology of consciousness and self, humanistic and transpersonal psychology, and the psychology of mysticism and religious experience.

Study to MSc level includes an emphasis on research methods to permit a thorough comprehension of key research findings, and to enable students to conduct their own original research.

Course delivery

The programmes operate within the University Modular Framework of Liverpool John Moores University. This is a modular structure with a range of possible awards. The MSc programme comprises seven modules of 180 credits in total. A student gaining a total of 60 credits will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate; a student gaining 120 credits will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma.

Those studying the MSc by part-time attendance (one afternoon per week) normally complete the MSc in two years. Full-time attendees (two afternoons per week) may expect to complete the MSc in 12 months. The Postgraduate Certificate may be completed in one year part-time. The Postgraduate Diploma is normally completed in two years part-time, although exceptionally it may be completed in one year. Teaching takes place over two semesters per year.

The distance learning MSc is taught entirely through online systems and is normally completed in three years, although exceptionally it may be completed in two years. The Postgraduate Diploma is normally completed following two years of study, and the Postgraduate Certificate is normally completed in one year.

Modules (attendance programme)

YEAR ONE

YEAR ONE

PSYCTM001	Approaches to Consciousness
PSyCTM010	Philosophy of Religion
PSYCTM003	The Emergence of Self
PSYCTM011	Transpersonal Research Methods

YEARTWO

PSYCTM005	Beyond the Self
PSYCTM006	Thesis
PSYCTM007	The Psychology of Spiritual Practice
PSYCTM008	Independent Study

Modules (distance learning programme)

YEAR ONE

PSYCDM001	Approaches to Consciousness
PSYCDM002	Foundations of Transpersonal Psychology
+ One elective	

YEAR TWO

PSYCDM003	Integral Experiential Learning
PSYCDM004	CTP Research Methods
+ One elective	

ELECTIVE CHOICES:

PSYCDM006	Philosophy of Religion
PSYCDM007	Issues in Transpersonal Psychology
PSYCDM008	Spirituality in the Workplace
PSYCDM009	Parapsychological Perspectives on the Transpersonal
PSYCDM010	Psychology of Spiritual Practice
PSYCDM011	Independent Study
PSYCDM012	Psychology & Buddhism

YEAR THREE

PSYCDM005	Thesis
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Module details

PSYCTM001/CDM001 Approaches to Consciousness (20 credits)

This module addresses the broad array of scientific and non-scientific inputs to the study of consciousness - from philosophy, modern physics, biology, neuroscience, and mysticism, as well as psychology. In addition to considering the substantive ideas from these disciplines - including such topics as consciousness and quantum physics, pure vs. ego consciousness, states of consciousness, the evolution of consciousness - we will also focus on questions concerning the validity of differing approaches and the extent to which a cross-disciplinary study of consciousness is achievable.

PSYCTM003 The Emergence of Self (20 credits)

This module begins by question the nature of personal identity from a philosophical perspective. We then explore the phenomenology of the experience of self before moving on to theories of how the sense of self and identity develop through the life cycle. We then consider normative approaches to the self through an examination of humanistic and Jungian theories of self-realisation. Finally we focus on transpersonal theories of consciousness and self.

PSYCTM005 Beyond the Self (20 credits)

This module begins by considering the nature and meaning of the "transpersonal" and the role of the spiritual dimension in human experience. We then examine the phenomenology of transpersonal states and consider various religious, philosophical and ecological perspectives on the transpersonal before exploring in some depth models in transpersonal psychology. Finally we discuss various issues and controversies that have arisen within transpersonal psychology.

PSYCTM006/CDM005 Thesis (60 credits)

In this module, students carry out an individual research study in the area Consciousness and Transpersonal Psychology The research study may be

partly theoretical but must be primarily empirical in the sense that it involves data collection and analysis using appropriate principles and methods. Students choose their own topic, in consultation with tutors. Each student will be allocated a supervisor to advise upon the study undertaken and to monitor progress.

PSYCTM007/CDM010 The Psychology of Spiritual Practice (20 credits)

This module surveys the key features of a variety of spiritual practices and examines the psychological models and explanations that further our understanding of them. Thus, prayer, meditation, sacred dance and ritual, amongst others, are examined in relation to cognitive, neuropsychological and depth psychological perspectives. The role of 'maps' as representations of meaning in both spiritual and psychological traditions is also examined. Finally we consider the relationship between models of the mind drawn from introspective spiritual traditions and their counterparts in contemporary, scientific psychology.

PSYCTM010/CDM006 Philosophy of Religion (20 credits)

This module introduces students to Philosophy of Religion by exploring and evaluating major challenges that have been made to the bases of religious belief on epistemological grounds. These include the arguments of scepticism, the refutations of rationalist arguments for the existence of a deity, the epistemological problems revealed by logical positivism, and present-day challenges made by natural science and psychology. Counter arguments in support of the rationality of religious belief are explored and evaluated. These include the view that contemporary science and religion are not in conflict (presented by writers such as Barbour), the arguments of process philosophy and process theology, and J. Hick's interpretation of religion which leads to his 'pluralistic hypothesis'.

PSYCTM011 Transpersonal Research Methods (20 credits)

PSYCDM004 CTP Research Methods

In the Research Methods module we address epistemological issues raised by research in transpersonal psychology, and introduce students to the range of quantitative and qualitative research designs that are most often employed in research in the field of consciousness studies and transpersonal psychology.

PSYCTM008/CDM011 Independent Study

The University Modular Scheme allows students the option of gaining credits by undertaking independent study. This enables students to pursue the study of a topic of their interest, provided that it is relevant to the subject matter of the degree programme. In practice, this means that students may take Independent Study to replace certain taught modules. Students will be allocated a supervisor for the independent study. Students will be expected to carry out appropriate literature searches and to produce a scholarly analysis, which may (but does not have to) include an empirical study.

PSYCDM002: Foundations of Transpersonal Psychology

This module aims to provide students with a thorough grounding in, and understanding of, the history, foundations and major theoretical approaches within transpersonal psychology. Topics include (1) History and Context of Transpersonal Psychology, (2) Transpersonal Experience, (3) Maslow, Self-Actualization and Self-Transcendence, (4) Jungian Approaches to Individuation and the Transpersonal, (5) Assagioli and Psychosynthesis, (6) Wilber and Integral Psychology.

PSYCDM003: Integral Experiential Learning

In this module, students undertake and report on a self-chosen schedule of integral experiential learning. The experience or practice must incorporate some work on physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, behavioural and interpersonal modalities. The schedule to be followed must first be approved by the Programme Leaders as involving the potential for integral practice and therefore capable of allowing the student to meet the learning outcomes of the module. The schedule must involve regular experiential activity carried out over a period of not less than 12 weeks during the student's period of enrolment on the postgraduate programme, and must total at least 100 hours of personal experiential work.

PSYCDM007: Issues in Transpersonal Psychology

This module explores in depth some of the major contemporary areas of research and debate in transpersonal psychology. Topics include (1) Religion, Metaphysics and Transcendence, (2) Regression and the Pre-Trans Fallacy, (3) Gender Issues in Transpersonal Psychology, (4) The Transpersonal Shadow, (5) Transpersonal Psychotherapy and Counselling, (6) Critiques, Evaluation and Future of Transpersonal Psychology.

PSYCDM008: Spirituality in the Workplace

This module reviews the impact that traditional and recent ideas on spirituality have had, and continue to have, on approaches to work. Various definitions of 'spirituality', especially by comparison with 'religiousness', are investigated in depth, and the meaning of 'workplace' is discussed. Different approaches to management styles that

incorporate ideas of spirituality are examined. The module considers the place and value of psychological and spiritual techniques in the context of work, and issues of morality and ethics relating to the working environment are studied. Students are encouraged to examine an organisation with which they are presently connected (or one with which they have been involved in the past), and to consider the ways in which spiritual aspects are/could be/could have been integrated.

PSYCDM009: Parapsychological Perspectives on the Transpersonal

This module examines the relationship between parapsychology and transpersonal psychology and the contribution of parapsychological research for our understanding of the transpersonal. Topics include (1) Parapsychology and the Transpersonal, (2) Extrasensory Perception and Precognition, (3) Psychokinesis and Healing, (4) Mediumship and Channeling, (5) Out-of-Body and Near-Death Experiences, (6) Past-Life Research.

PSYCDM012 Psychology and Buddhism

This module explores the interface between psychology and both Buddhist practice and philosophy. It aims to provide students with a critical understanding of basic psychological concepts conveyed within Buddhism. The subject is approached from the perspective that Buddhism is a science of the mind, which attained its knowledge of the nature and function of the human mind and consciousness through introspective analysis and logical deduction. Within the module an optional experiential component will be offered, in which students are introduced to typical Buddhist meditation practices. Finally, an overview of psychological research into Buddhist practice will be presented and discussed.

Entry requirements

A good first degree (normally first class or upper-second) in Psychology or a cognate discipline is the general entry requirement. Applicants with comparable professional qualifications and/or professional experience may also be considered for admission. Candidates without qualifications or experience in research methods and statistics may be eligible to enrol for the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate, or may be offered deferred entry to allow suitable preparatory learning in advance of beginning the MSc course. Short-listed applicants for the attendance programme are normally invited for interview. Candidates for the full-time programme must have a good first degree in Psychology. Applicants for the online programme must demonstrate that they have sufficient proficiency in the use of computers.

Course length

1-4 years FT/PT by attendance; 1-5 years PT distance learning

Intake

15 (attendance); 25 (distance learning)

How to Apply

Direct to the Admissions and Information Officer (see below) on a standard University application form. Applicants are normally advised to submit their applications before the end of May for entry in September of the same year.

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For the online programme:

<http://cwiv.livjm.ac.uk/ctp/ctpdistance/welcome.html>