

Module specification

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Module code	PSYON709
Module title	Forensic Psychology
Level	7
Credit value	15
Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Science
Module Leader	Prof Iolo Madoc-Jones
HECoS Code	100387
Cost Code	GAPS

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MSc Psychology	Core
MSc Forensic Psychology	Core
MSc Educational Psychology	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	15 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	15 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	130 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	150 hrs

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Initial approval date	18.5.21
With effect from date	September 21
Date and details of revision	January 2023 – updated assessment strategy October 2023 – AM0 updated Indicative Assessment Tasks section with immediate effect
Version number	3

Module aims

To provide a broad overview of the contribution forensic psychology can make in justice systems. The module considers the nature of forensic psychology and the insights that it provides into understanding crime; police practices and criminal proceedings in court.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically evaluate the contribution of forensic psychology to understanding offending behaviour
2	Critically assess how psychological research and theory may contribute to criminal investigations.
3	Critically evaluate the contribution forensic psychology can make in the courtroom

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

1. Critical Appraisal (1000 words)
2. Essay (2000 words)

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2, 3	Written Assignment	40%
2	1, 2, 3	Written Assignment	60%

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The overall learning and teaching strategy will include a series of lectures with accompanying media devices. There will be a mix of supporting notes/along with directed study for students to complete as they work through the material and undertake the assessment tasks. The use of a range digital tools within the virtual learning environment together with additional sources of reading will also be utilised to promote breadth and depth of learning.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Forensic psychology as a profession
- Psychological theories of crime
- Offender profiling: The FBI approach
- Organised/Disorganised Offenders
- Sex offender profiles
- Case studies of offender profiling
- Lies and lie detection
- Controversial approaches to interview (torture/ hypnosis)
- Miscarriages of justice
- Social and cognitive theory applied to forensic psychology

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Davies, G and Beech, A (2017) *Forensic Psychology: Crime, Justice, Law and Interventions*. Chichester: British Psychological Society and John Wiley and Son

Other indicative reading

Adler, J and Gray, J (2010) *Forensic Psychology: Concepts, Debates and Practice*. London: Routledge

Canter, D (2017) *Criminal Psychology (Topics in Applied Psychology)*. London: Routledge

Howitt, D. (2018). *Introduction to Forensic and Criminal Psychology*. Harlow, UK: Pearson.

Towl, G.J and Crichton, D.A (2015) *Forensic Psychology*. Chichester: British Psychological Society and Blackwell.

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Enterprising
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence

Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Digital Fluency

Organisation

Critical Thinking

Emotional Intelligence

Communication