

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	PSY629
Module Title	Forensic Psychology
Level	6
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100497
Cost Code	GAPS
Pre-requisite module	None

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BSc (Hons) Psychology	Optional
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Foundation Year	Optional
BSc (Hons) Criminal Psychology	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	24 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	176 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module will acquaint students with the main areas of the discipline of Forensic Psychology.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically discuss the application of psychological theories and research within the discipline of Forensic Psychology
2	Critically evaluate current theories and evidence base in Forensic Psychology
3	Critically discuss the current issues in Forensic Psychology

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1:

A 3000-word research proposal focused on an area of forensic psychology (e.g., behaviour change, factors influencing criminal behaviour, interventions).

Assessment 2:

A podcast on a chosen issue in forensic psychology (e.g., case study focused on factors influencing criminal behaviour, interventions, cultural perceptions). Duration of the podcast will be 10 minutes.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1, 2	Written Assignment	3000 words	70	N/A
2	3	Presentation	10 minutes	30	N/A

Derogations

None.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

lectures, seminars, group, and individual activities, directed and self-directed learning, and tutorials. External specialist professionals will provide lectures and/or workshops aimed at giving students an overview of the work carried out by a Forensic Psychologist. Case studies will be utilised to enable students apply relevant theories/models to the real-world and appreciate different perspectives within the discipline. Module content will include prerecorded asynchronous online content that will inform synchronous sessions. This will allow students time to reflect on and further develop their knowledge ahead of consolidating learning through group workshops and/or seminars.

All learning and teaching methods are supported by the University's virtual learning environment, Moodle, where students will be able to access clear and timely information to support the delivery of content such as videos, links to relevant online information, discussion forums, and pre-recorded lectures.

The University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) is embedded within the module to achieve optimal accessibility, inclusivity, and flexibility in terms of teaching and learning. This is in line with the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). A learning blend is used that combines synchronous and asynchronous digitally enabled learning with best use of online opportunities and on-campus spaces and facilities.

Welsh Elements

Students can present their work, access forms, resources, email correspondence, placement support and personal tutorials in Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Forensic psychology as a profession
- Theories of crime
- Violent offenders
- Terrorism
- Mental health and crime
- Offender profiling
- Fear of crime
- Eyewitness testimony
- Vulnerable witnesses
- Psychology of the courtroom

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads:

Howitt, D. (2022). *Introduction to forensic and criminal psychology* (7th ed.). Pearson

Other indicative reading:

Canter, D. (2003). *Mapping murder: Walking in killers' footsteps*. Virgin.

Canter, D. (2017). *Criminal psychology*. (2nd ed.). Hodder.

Davies, G. M., & Beech, A.R. (Eds.) (2024). *Forensic psychology: Crime, justice, law, interventions*. (4th ed.). John Wiley and Sons.

Holmes, D. A. (2010). *Abnormal, clinical and forensic psychology*. Prentice Hall Business.

Huss, M. (2013). *Forensic psychology: Research, clinical practice, and applications* (2nd ed.). John Wiley and Sons.

Webber, C. (2020). *Psychology and crime: A transdisciplinary perspective*. (2nd ed.). London, UK: Sage.

Winder, B. & Banyard, P. (Eds.) (2012). *A psychologist's casebook of crime: From arson to voyeurism*. Palgrave Macmillan

Journals

The British Journal of Criminology

Criminology & Criminal Justice

Theoretical Criminology: An International Journal

Psychology, Crime & Law

European Journal of Criminology

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	April 2026
With effect from date	September 2026
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1