

Module specification

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Module Code	PSYON707
Module Title	Mental Disorder and Crime
Level	7
Credit value	15
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100387
Cost Code	GAPS
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MSc Forensic Psychology	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	15 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	15 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	135 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	150 hrs

Module aims

To critically explore the nature of mental disorder; the relationship between mental disorder and crime, and the challenges that arise from the legal framework for managing mentally disordered offenders.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Critically analyse the relationship between mental disorder and crime
2	Provide a critical historical account of how mental disorder has been identified and Managed
3	Critically assess the processes and the challenges associated with identifying and managing mentally disordered offender

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: Essay (1000 words): Students to critically explore the link between mental disorder and crime.

Assessment 2: Critical Appraisal (2000 words): Historical overview of how a specific mental disorder is identified and managed (including treatment), and critically assess the process and challenges of this within offender populations with that specific mental disorder

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1	Written Assignment	30%
2	2,3	Written Assignment	70%

Derogations

The minimum mark you need achieve for each module will be one of the following:

- 50%.
- A pass grade (normally only in place where an assessment is competency-based)

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.

Welsh Elements

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

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Classification systems (DSM, ICD)
- Major illnesses and personality disorder
- Forensic processes and assessment
- Pharmacological treatments
- Correlates of mental disorder
- Mental Health Acts
- Bedlams and Asylums
- Health and legal provisions (incl. Community Treatment Orders)
- Mental disorder and the secure estate

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads:

Prins, H (2015) *Offenders, Deviants or Patients? An Introduction to Clinical Criminology*. London: Routledge

Other indicative reading:

Bonta, J., Law, M. and Hanson, K. (1998) 'The prediction of criminal and violent recidivism among mentally disordered offenders: A meta-analysis', *Psychological Bulletin*, 123(2), pp. 123–142.

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

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

Hare, R.D. (1996) 'Psychopathy: A clinical construct whose time has come', *Criminal Justice and Behaviour*, 23(1), pp. 25–54.



Lorber, M.F. (2004) 'Psychophysiology of aggression, psychopathy and conduct problems: A meta-analysis', *Psychological Bulletin*, 130(4), pp. 531–552.

Lurigio, A. (2011) 'People with serious mental illness in the criminal justice system: Causes, consequences and correctives', *The Prison Journal*, 91(3), pp. 66–86.

Prins, H. (2005) 'Mental disorder and violent crime: A problematic relationship', *Probation Journal*, 52(4), pp. 333–357.

Silver, E., Felson, R.B. and Vaneseltine, M. (2008) 'The relationship between mental health problems and violence amongst criminal offenders', *Criminal Justice and Behaviour*, 35(4), pp. 405–426.

Tyler, N., Miles, H.L., Karadag, B. and Rogers, G. (2019) 'An updated picture of the mental health needs of male and female prisoners in the UK: Prevalence, comorbidity, and gender differences', *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 54(9), pp. 1143–1152.

Yu, R., Geddes, J.R. and Fazel, S. (2012) 'Personality disorders, violence and anti-social behaviour: A systematic review and meta-regression analysis', *Journal of Personality Disorders*, 26(5), pp. 775–792.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	June 2026
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