Module specification

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Module Code	PSYON710
Module title	Forensic Psychology in the Criminal Justice Process
Level	7
Credit value	15
Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
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 Forensic 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
Version number	1

Module aims

To provide a detailed and critical exploration of the contribution forensic psychology can make to criminal investigations and of the processes by which guilt or innocence is established in court.

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

1	Compare and contrast competing models for offender profiling and assess the efficacy of profiling as an investigative tool
2	Compare and contrast approaches to police interviewing and evaluate the implications of each in relation to the reliability of the evidence collected and impact on vulnerable suspects/witnesses
3	Critically evaluate how miscarriages of justice might arise as a result of court proceedings and how a knowledge of forensic psychology might reduce the potential for this to occur.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

- Case Study (1000 words)
- Essay (2000 words)

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

- Investigative psychology
- Theories of Criminal Behaviours
- Geographical profiling
- Offender profiling
- Vulnerability

- Leading questions, false memories and confessions
- Interviewing techniques
- Implications for memory, bias, and attribution
- The expert witness in court
- Case studies of constructing guilt and innocence

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 Sons

Other indicative reading

Alison, L ., Smith,M.D and Morgan,K (2003) 'Interpreting the Accuracy of offender profiles'. *Psychology, Crime and Law* 9(2) pp185-195.

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

Canter,D and Youngs,D (2009) *Investigative Psychology: Offender Profiling and the Analysis of Criminal Action*. Chichester: Wiley

Griffiths,A and Milne, R (2021) *The Psychology of Criminal investigation: From Theory to practice (Issues in Forensic Psychology)*. London: Routledge.

Leahy-Harland, S. and Bull, R. (2017) 'Police strategies and suspect responses in real-life serious crime interviews'. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 32(2), pp.138-151.

Loftus, E.F. (2019) 'Eyewitness testimony'. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 33(4), pp.498-503.

Loftus, E; Loftus,G.R and Messo,J (1987) 'Some Facts about Weapon Focus'. *Law and Human Behaviour*, 11(1) pp.55-67

Porter,S., Brinke,L and Gustaw,C (2010) 'Dangerous decisions: the impact of first impressions of trustworthiness on the evaluation of legal evidence and defendant culpability'. *Psychology, Crime and Law* 16(6) pp.477-491

Sigall,H and Ostrove,N (1975) 'Beautiful but dangerous: effects of offender Attractiveness and nature of the Crime on juridic Judgement' *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. 31(3) pp.410-414.

Walsh,D and Bull,R (2010) 'What really is effective in interviews with suspects? A study comparing interviewing skills against interviewing outcomes'. *Legal and Criminological Psychology* 15(2) pp. 305–321.

Wise, R.A. and Kehn, A. (2020) 'Can the effectiveness of eyewitness expert testimony be improved?' *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 27(2), pp.315-330.

Indicative Journals

Legal and Criminological Psychology

Psychiatry, Psychology and Law
Criminal Justice and Behaviour
Journal of Criminal Psychology

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
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes
Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets
Digital Fluency
Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication