

Module specification

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Module Code	PSYON729
Module Title	Introduction to Forensic Psychology
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 Psychology	Core
MSc Psychology with Educational Principles	Core
MSc Psychology with Forensic Principles	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 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 contribute to prevention and intervention
3	Critically evaluate the contribution of forensic psychology in relation to a global issues

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: Critical Appraisal of a Forensic Psychology theory in relation to implications for prevention and intervention (1000 words)

Assessment 2: Essay critically evaluating how we use theory and research to address a global problem in Forensic Psychology (1500 words)

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	2	Written Assignment	1000	40%	NA
3	1,3	Written Assignment	1500	60%	NA

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 adherence to the asynchronous elements of Active Learning Framework via a series of micro-lectures, directed reading and activities. There will be a mix of supporting materials along with directed study for students to complete as they work through the material and undertake the assessment tasks. The use of a range of 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

In line with the University's Welsh Medium Scheme, students will be offered the opportunity to submit assessments through the medium of Welsh. This will be drawn to the attention of students through the student handbook.

For those students wishing to engage with the subject area via the medium of Welsh, additional resources will be made available via www.porth.ac.uk, which is the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol resource portal

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.

Administrative Information

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