Module Specification

Introduction to Psychology and Crime

Version: 2024-25, v4.0, 21 Aug 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Introduction to Psychology and Crime

Module code: USPYKR-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Psychology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Introduction to Psychology and Crime (IPC) is a core psychology module for students studying BSc (Hons) Psychology with Criminology; BSc (Hons) Criminology with Psychology. This module covers the core British Psychological Society (BPS) elements and will include activities designed to teach students how to apply psychological theory to crime and allows students to consider these topics in relation to the criminal justice system.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module aims to equip students with both a wide ranging and critical understanding of different subdisciplines of psychology and their relationship to the criminal justice system. Through the exploration of key topics in cognitive, developmental, social, biological, and individual differences students will explore and analyse the current and possible future contribution of psychology and its ability to help advance how we understand offending behaviour. The module enables students to begin to develop key skills and specialist knowledge suitable for graduate employment within the area of psychology and crime.

Outline syllabus: The module will take an integrated approach to topics which span the appropriate range of sub-disciplines, with focus on how they relate to the Criminal Justice System. Core topics within the BPS will be covered.

Selected key topics and issues will be addressed in each of the following areas:

Overview of theoretical perspectives

Conceptual and historical issues

Behaviourism

Biological psychology

Memory and perception

Intelligence

Personality

Attachment Theory

Cognitive Psychology

Social Development

Moral Development

Motivation and Emotion

Social Cognition and Attitudes

Self and Identity

Interpersonal and Group Processes

Psychopathology/Mental Health

Replication Crisis and Critical Psychology

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: A variety of pedagogical approaches are used to ensure the active engagement of students. Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops. Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, assignment preparation and completion etc.

Lectures will present key concepts and issues relating to Psychology and its sub-disciplines: Social, Biological, Cognitive, Developmental, Individual Differences. Seminars or workshops will give students the opportunity to carry out a wide range of experiential and learning activities designed to foster insight into the topic material. Some of these activities may develop into the online arena. Students will progress through an incremental pattern of feedback on seminar activities.

Students will use the university supported virtual learning environment (VLE), to organise and communicate their learning material. They will be encouraged to engage with the material, other students and members of staff through this system and make use of the various functionalities built into the VLE (e.g., blogs, journals, audio, video, discussion boards, wikis, etc.). Moreover, students will be able to communicate with their instructors using university sponsored tools.

Contact time comprises of a mixed model of instruction that includes lectorials, lectures, seminars/practical sessions and online activities/sessions delivered within a virtual learning environment (e.g., online lectures, asynchronous discussions, virtual classrooms, etc.).

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Identify and explain the major theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches within Psychology and its sub-disciplines: Social, Biological, Cognitive, Developmental, Individual Differences

MO2 Place the development of the discipline of Psychology within its historical and cultural context.

MO3 Describe and begin to evaluate selected key studies and research programmes associated with the main sub-disciplines of Psychology.

MO4 Identify and explain the interconnected and overlapping character of nominally different sub-disciplines.

MO5 Discuss the philosophical foundations of Psychology and psychological knowledge.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 288 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 360

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Coursework Portfolio covering Behaviourism, Cognitive and Biological Psychology (Assessment 1) and Coursework Portfolio covering Developmental and Social Psychology, Psychopathology, and Individual Differences(Assessment 2):

Students must provide evidence of being able to find and critically evaluate primary sources of peer reviewed academic literature in relevant areas for each portfolio, connecting research and theory.

Indicative portfolio activities include several elements. This approach provides flexibility and scope for a range of evidence of learning. The content of the portfolio may change from year-to-year altering between a critical review of primary sources, a presentation, online activities such as blogging, and interactive question answering. The required assessments will be detailed within the module handbook stating the weighting of different aspects of the portfolio as well as marking criteria.

The portfolio model ensures academic development; hence the first assignment offers a formative opportunity wherein students can practice their programme relevant skills (e.g., reading, summarising, writing, developing an argument) early on through self-reflection and peer feedback. This will enable improvement opportunities prior to the submission of the portfolio.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio covering Behaviourism, Cognitive and Biological Psychology (Assessment 1)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio covering Developmental and Social Psychology, Psychopathology, and Individual Differences (Assessment 2)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Portfolio covering Behaviourism, Cognitive and Biological Psychology (Assessment 1)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio covering Developmental and Social Psychology, Psychopathology, and Individual Differences (Assessment 2)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Psychology with Criminology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Psychology with Criminology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24