

University of the West of England

MODULE SPECIFICATION

(Template revised October 2005)

Code: USPJLE-20-3

Title: Forensic Psychology

Version: 2

Level: 3

UWE credit rating: 20

ECTS credit rating: 10

Module type: Standard

Owning Faculty: Health and Life Sciences

Field: Psychology

Valid from: September 2008

Discontinued from: N/A

Contributes towards: Awards up to BSc (Hons) Psychology and Forensic Science

Pre-requisites:

USPJDB-20-2 Social and Developmental Psychology 2

or

USPJLB-30-2 Social and Theoretical Psychology: Conceptual and Historical Issues 2

or

USPJDJ-20-2 Developmental and Social Psychology 2

Co-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Learning outcomes:

On completion of the module students are expected to demonstrate:

1. an understanding of the multi-disciplinary nature of forensic psychology (Components A and B);
2. an understanding of the current perceptions psychologically unbalanced offenders (Components A and B);
3. critical analysis of the spectrum of psychological theories of crime (Components A and B);
4. critical analysis of the role of psychology in the criminal justice system (Components A and B);
5. critical analysis of the psychology of offenders (Components A and B);
6. critical analysis of the treatment of offenders (Components A and B);
7. ability to work independently (Component B) and as part of a group (component A) towards the assessments.

Syllabus outline:

This module will examine psychological theories of, and responses to crime in contemporary society, and although Content may vary from year to year, but the module is expected to include:

- Introduction to the psychology of crime (incl. The birth and dynamics of Criminal psychology; Research methods within criminal psychology; The role of the criminal psychologist (guest lecture); Law and psychology).
- Psychological theories of crime (incl. Biological; Social & Developmental; Personality; Drugs).
- Investigative psychology: Psychology in the Criminal Justice system (incl. Offender profiling; Interviews; Eyewitness testimony; Jury decision making; Psychology in prison; Miscarriages of justice).
- Offences, offenders and responses (incl. Violent offenders; Domestic violence; Mentally disordered offender (psychopath); Serial killers; Stalkers; Sex offenders; Female offenders; Treatment, control and community protection)

Teaching and learning methods:

1. Lectures to provide an introduction to each subject area and outline the key theoretical debates.
2. Online discussions and debate through blackboard on the lecture material (using forums and discussion groups)
3. Face to face discussions in a group setting which will provide a structured discussion of contemporary issues relating to psychological theories of, and reactions to crime.

The lecture programme will be supported by use of Audio-visual resources. Module support will be enhanced by use of electronic media such as Blackboard, email.

Reading Strategy:

All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them through membership of the University. These include a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through web sites and information gateways. The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely. Students will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively.

Any **essential reading** will be indicated clearly, along with the method for accessing it, e.g. students may be expected to purchase a set text, be given or sold a print study pack or be referred to texts that are available electronically, etc. This guidance will be available either in the module handbook, via the module information on Blackboard or through any other vehicle deemed appropriate by the module/programme leaders.

If **further reading** is expected, this will be indicated clearly. If specific texts are listed, a clear indication will be given regarding how to access them and, if appropriate, students will be given guidance on how to identify relevant sources for themselves, e.g. through use of bibliographical databases.

Indicative Reading List:

Current editions of;

Core texts

Alison, L. J. (2005). *The forensic psychologist's casebook : psychological profiling and criminal investigation*. Willian publishing.

Blackburn, R. (1993). *The Psychology of Criminal Conduct: Theory, Research & Practice*. Chichester: Wiley.

McGuire, J. (2004). *Understanding psychology and crime: Perspectives on theory and action*. Open university press.

Alder, J. (2004). *Forensic Psychology: Concepts, debates and practice*. Willan publishers.

Supplementary texts

Howitt, D. (2002). *Forensic and criminal psychology*. Prentice hall.

Maguire, M, Morgan, K and Reiner, R (2007). *The Oxford handbook of criminology (4th ed.)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Thompson, T. (2005). *Sex Crime: Sex Offending and Society (2nd Ed)*. Cullompton: Willam.

Bull, R & Carson, D (1995) *Handbook of Psychology in Legal Contexts*. Chichester: John Wiley

Huesmann, L. R. (2006). *Aggressive Behavior: Current Perspectives*. New York: Springer.

Journals

Child Abuse and neglect

International journal of forensic psychology

Psychology, crime and the law

Legal and criminological psychology

British journal of psychology

British journal of criminology

Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology

Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology
 Journal of Forensic psychiatry and psychology
 Journal of sex offending
 Journal of interpersonal violence
 Archives of sexual behaviour
 Aggression and violent behaviour
Case study

Assessment

Weighting between components A and B

A: 65% B: 35%

ATTEMPT 1

First Assessment Opportunity

Component A (Controlled conditions)
Description of each element

Element weighting

EX2 Examination (2 hours)

1

Component B
Description of each element (Controlled conditions)

Element weighting

ES1 Essay (2,000 words)

1

Second Assessment Opportunity (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

First Assessment Opportunity

Component A (Controlled conditions)
Description of each element

Element weighting

EX2 Examination (2 hours)

1

Component B
Description of each element (Controlled conditions)

Element weighting

ES1 Essay (2,000 words)

1

SECOND (OR SUBSEQUENT) ATTEMPT: Attendance at taught classes is not required.

Specification confirmed by**Date**
(Associate Dean/Programme Director)