

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
Status: Definitive
Code: **6003PSYSCI** (113674)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2020

Owning School/Faculty: Psychology
Teaching School/Faculty: Psychology

Team	Leader
Susan Palmer-Conn	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24
Total Delivered Hours: 50
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 190

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	40
Seminar	8

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Exam	Exam	2 hour written paper	34	2
Essay	Essay 1	1500 word essay	33	
Essay	Essay 2	1500 word essay	33	

Aims

This module aims to enable students to apply psychological theories and concepts to an explanation of criminal behaviour.

To critically discuss psychological processes occurring in various legal settings.

To examine the psychologist's role and function in agencies involved with the offender.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Assess the contribution of psychological theories and concepts to explaining criminal behaviour.
- 2 Critically evaluate some of the research studies that have been carried out to evaluate psychological processes occurring in a variety of legal settings before, during and after courtroom interactions
- 3 Analyse and evaluate the forensic psychologist's contribution to solving serious crime

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Exam	3
Essay 1	1
Essay 2	2

Outline Syllabus

Appreciation of psychological and sociological perspectives; historical; biological and biosocial approaches; personality and crime and critique of this approach.

Learning to offend, social influence and situational determinants of behaviour as causes and control.

The offender as a rational decision maker; personal construct theory approaches.

Mental disorder and crime; personality disorder, the 'bad or mad' controversy.

Aggression and dangerousness.

Adult and juvenile sentencing; context and associated psychological factors.

Contribution of Psychology to police investigations

Forensic psychology; the psychologist as expert witness; gathering and gaining evidence.

The use of hypnosis in police investigations. Decision making in legal settings.

Methods of collecting research evidence; the use of simulation studies. The work of the psychologist in custodial settings; social skills in training and group work.

Psychology in police education, and the prison service.

Learning Activities

Students read and discuss psychological issues related to the legal process; complete two essay assignments and prepare for a written examination containing unseen questions.

Notes

This module examines the explanations put forward by psychological theories to explaining criminal behaviour. This module examines psychological processes related to courtroom interaction. It also analyses the role of the psychologist in agencies working with the offender.