

CRIM-332 FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code CRIM-332	Course Title Forensic Psychology	ECTS credits 6
Department Social Sciences	Semester Fall	Prerequisites PSY-110
Type of Course Core / Elective	Field Psychology	Language of Instruction Greek
Level of Course 1 ST Cycle	Year of Study 3d	Lecturer Dr Stavroula Soukara
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work placement N/A	Co-requisites None
Course Days/Times F 09:00 – 12:00	Course Venue M203	Student Consultation Hours W/TR 10:00-12:00, F 12:00-13:00
Telephone 22-351274 ext	E-mail soukara.s@unic.ac.cy	Office Humanities Building, Room 302c

Objectives of the Course

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to some of the diverse areas in which forensic psychologists might work or be involved with, and to provide them with a solid foundation in the theory and practice of forensic and criminal psychology. Among other things, this course explores the application of psychological theory and research to areas such as investigative psychology, confessions, jury selection and decisions, offender profiling, sexual and violent crimes (including homicide and serial killers) as well as in the process of sentencing, management and rehabilitation of offenders.

Learning Outcomes

After completion of the course students are expected to:

- Describe the contribution of psychology at all levels of the criminal justice system (i.e., from interviewing witnesses and suspects of crime, to jury decision making, to the incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders, to lie detection etc)
- Demonstrate an awareness of basic theory, research findings and methods of investigation used in forensic psychology
- Evaluate current knowledge of psychological motivation towards violent and sexual behaviour
- Conduct interviews for a range of purposes
- Identify the contributions that experts can make in forensic contexts in terms of increasing understanding of offender and victim behaviour
- Engage in group-work to facilitate understanding of investigative techniques

Course Contents

- Definitions and Overview: What is Forensic Psychology?
- The Psychology of Criminal Conduct
- Offender Profiling
- Eyewitness Testimony and Identification
- Investigative Interviewing of Children
- Investigative Interviewing of Suspects
- The Psychology of Lying and the Detection of Deception
- The Psychology of False Confessions
- Famous Miscarriages of Justice
- Jury and Decision-Making
- Juvenile Delinquency and Underage Crimes
- Sentencing and Rehabilitation of Offenders
- The Psychologist as Expert Witness: Practical and Ethical Issues

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods

Lectures, Practical Exercises, Assignments, Discussions

Required Textbooks/Readings

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Kapardis, Andreas	Psychology and Law	Mesogeios	2004	ISBN-13: 978-9604068807

Recommended Textbooks/Reading

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Bartol, C.R. & Bartol, A.M.	Current Perspectives in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Behaviour	Sage	2008	ISBN-13: 978-1412958318
Howitt, Dennis	Introduction to Forensic and Criminal Psychology, 2 nd Ed.	Prentice Hall	2005	ISBN-13: 978-0131297586

Assessment Methods

1	Midterm	30%
3	Final Examination	50%
4	Presentation	15%
5	Attendance and Participation	5%
	Total	100%

Examinations (80%)

The Midterm and final examinations will include short essay questions. Details regarding the exams will be given in class during the review sessions.

Presentation (15%)

You will be asked to select a topic of your interest and briefly present it in the class.

Attendance and Participation (5%) are crucial components for the successful completion of the course. According with the university’s regulation students who miss more than 20% of the lectures (3 lectures) will be automatically withdrawn from the course. Half of the points will be awarded for attendance and the other half for participation. Therefore, do not take these 5 points for granted, they are contingent on your attendance AND performance in class.

Makeup Policy: Make up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances, in cases of serious illness or emergency (requiring a doctor’s note or other official documentation). It is your responsibility to inform the instructor prior to the exam if you are unable to make it.

Cheating and Plagiarizing is a serious offence and will not be tolerated. Claiming work of others as your own is unethical and can have serious consequences. Plagiarizing is using another individual’s work without appropriate citation or paraphrasing. Acts of plagiarism will result in grades of zero. Cheating involves (a) using another individual's work, (b) using any material not available to other students on a test, and/or (c) helping another student on a test or assignment. In any of these cases, the participant(s) will receive a grade of zero on the particular assignment(s) that involved cheating.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Any students with disabilities or other special needs that may require special accommodations for this course should make this known to the instructor during the first week of the class.

GRADING POLICY

Letter Grade	Number Grade	GPA points	
A	93-100	4.0	Excellent
A-	90-92	3.7	
B+	87-89	3.3	Very Good
B	83-86	3.0	
B-	80-82	2.7	
C+	77-79	2.3	Good
C	73-76	2.0	
C-	70-72	1.7	
D+	67-69	1.3	Poor but Acceptable
D	63-66	1.0	
D-	60-62	0.7	
F	0-59	0.0	Failure