

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:  
PS 4749 FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**

**3/0/3**

(Previously PS 4849 Forensic Psychology)

**UK LEVEL 6  
15 UK CREDITS**

(Updated Spring 2022)

**PREREQUISITES:**

PS 1000 Psychology as a Natural Science – L4  
PS 1001 Psychology as a Social Science – L4  
PS 2010 History and Systems of Psychology – L4  
PS 2236 Human Learning & Memory – L4  
PS 2260 Introduction to Statistical Thinking – L4  
PS 2347 Analysis of Quantitative Data – L4  
PS 3612 Personality Psychology & Individual Differences – L5

**CATALOG  
DESCRIPTION:**

A systematic examination of the application behavioral science and mental health principles to the justice system topics include criminal investigation, insanity defense, eyewitness and expert witness testimony, child custody disputes as well as police and correctional psychology.

**RATIONALE:**

This module provides students with an in-depth understanding of how psychological expertise can be applied to problems faced by judges, attorneys, police officials. Designed primarily - but not exclusively - for psychology majors, the module examines the psychologist's role in a number of processes related to civil, criminal, or administrative justice.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this module, the student should be able to:

1. Synthesize the knowledge from recent legal controversies that have shaped forensic psychology both in the U.S. and Europe and their application in the practice of forensic psychology.
2. Critically evaluate the basic issues pertaining to the commitment to and release from mental institutions, insanity defense, competency to stand trial, jury selection, eye-witness testimony and expert witness testimony.
3. Demonstrate in-depth understanding of domestic custody disputes where the doctrine of "the best interests of the child" is being applied.

**METHOD OF TEACHING AND  
LEARNING:**

In line with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures, discussions, in-class activities, homework assignments and case study discussions.
- Office hours
- Use of Blackboard site

<p><b>ASSESSMENT:</b></p>	<p><b>Summative:</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="678 226 1421 485"> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 226 1247 352"> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> assessment: Paper Assignment</b> Critical review/argumentative paper on recent empirical findings on controversial issues in forensic psychology practice.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1247 226 1421 352"> <p><b>50%</b></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 352 1247 422"> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> assessment: Application Assignments</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1247 352 1421 422"> <p><b>10%</b></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 422 1247 485"> <p><b>Final assessment: Examination</b> Essay questions</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1247 422 1421 485"> <p><b>40%</b></p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1,2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1,2,3. The final assessment tests Learning Outcomes: 2,3.</p> <p>Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> assessment: Paper Assignment</b> Critical review/argumentative paper on recent empirical findings on controversial issues in forensic psychology practice.</p>	<p><b>50%</b></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> assessment: Application Assignments</b></p>	<p><b>10%</b></p>	<p><b>Final assessment: Examination</b> Essay questions</p>	<p><b>40%</b></p>
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<p><b>INDICATIVE READING:</b></p>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b></p> <p>Bartol, C.R. &amp; Bartol, A.M. (2019). <i>Introduction to Forensic Psychology: research and application</i>. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b> Readings to supplement the basic material covered in the textbook.</p> <p>Ackerman, M.J. (2006). <i>Clinician's Guide to Child custody Evaluations</i>. New Jersey: John Wiley &amp; Sons, Inc.</p> <p>American Psychiatric Association (APA). (2000) <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i> (4<sup>th</sup> ed. Text Revision) Washington, DC:American Psychiatric Association</p> <p>Goldstein, A.M. (Ed.) (2006). <i>Forensic Psychology: Emerging Topics and Expanding Roles</i>. New York: John Wiley &amp; Sons, Inc.</p> <p>Heilbrun, K., Marczyk, G.R., Dematteo, D. (2002). <i>Forensic Mental Health Assessment: a casebook</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Melton, GB, Petrila, J., Poythress, NG &amp; Slobogin, C. (2007) <i>Psychological Evaluations for the Courts: A Handbook for Mental Health Professionals and Lawyers</i>. New York: The Guilford Press</p> <p>Perera, A.L., Van Hasselt, V.B., Baker, M.T., Ramano S.J., Shlessinger, K.M., Zucker, M &amp; Dragone, R. (2006). Crisis (hostage) negotiation training: a preliminary evaluation of program efficiency. <i>Criminal Justice and Behavior</i>. 33(1), 56-69.</p>						

	<p>Sheridan, L.P., Grant, T. (2007) Is cyberstalking different? <i>Psychology, Crime and Law</i> 13(6)., 627-40.</p> <p>Weiner, I.B., Hess, A.K. (2006). <i>The Handbook of Forensic Psychology</i>. New Jersey: John Wiley &amp; Sons, Inc.</p>
<p><b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</p>	<p><b>REQUIRED MATERIAL:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</b> <i>Law and Human Behavior</i></p> <p><i>International Journal of Forensic Psychology</i></p> <p><i>Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology</i></p> <p><i>American Journal of Forensic Psychology</i></p> <p><i>Criminality and Behavior</i></p> <p><i>Psychology, Public Policy and Law</i></p> <p><i>International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology</i></p> <p><i>Criminal Justice and Behavior</i></p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b></p>	<p>Written assignments submitted in Word. Academic use of English, both oral and written.</p>
<p><b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b></p>	<p>Blackboard, MS Office, search engines</p>
<p><b>WWW RESOURCES:</b></p>	<p>American Psychological Association: <a href="http://www.apa.org">www.apa.org</a> APA, Division on Psychology &amp; Law <a href="http://www.unl.edu/ap-ls">www.unl.edu/ap-ls</a></p> <p>British Psychological Association <a href="http://www.bps.org">www.bps.org</a></p> <p>National Institute of Mental Health <a href="http://www.nimh.nih.gov">www.nimh.nih.gov</a></p> <p>World Health Organization <a href="http://www.who.int">www.who.int</a></p> <p>American Academy of Forensic Psychology <a href="http://www.aafp.ws">www.aafp.ws</a></p> <p>American Board of Forensic Psychology <a href="http://www.abfp.com">www.abfp.com</a></p>
<p><b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Science of Forensic Psychology</li> <li>2. Correctional psychology and the Police</li> <li>3. Methods of Criminal Investigation</li> </ol>

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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Eyewitness Testimony</li><li>5. Criminal Profiling</li><li>6. Psychopathology and Crime</li><li>7. Commitment to and Release from Mental Institutions</li><li>8. The Insanity Plea and Competency to Stand Trial</li><li>9. The Role of Psychology in Domestic Disputes</li></ol> |
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