

Course Outline

School / Portfolio:	Faculty of Health
Course Title:	FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
Course ID:	ATSGC3844
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	120 points of study in any discipline
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED Code:	090799

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	✓	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1: Demonstrate an understanding of the personality and psychological factors that affect criminal behaviour
K2: Acquire an understanding of how theories of memory and decision-making can be applied for forensic purposes
K3: Understand the law (both nationally and internationally), how it relates to mental health issues, and the factors that influence the treatment of offenders
K4: Be cognizant of current theoretical debates that influence the practice of Forensic Psychology

Skills:

- S1: Evaluate and explain the main theories in the field of forensic psychology (e.g., theories of aggressive behaviour)
S2: Exhibit ethical and responsible behaviour in conducting psycho-legal evaluations
S3: Ability to identify and critique the evidence used to support current approaches to Forensic Psychology

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1: Effectively conduct psycho-legal evaluations and communicate their own, and others, research ideas effectively in written reports and presentations
A2: Apply psychological theories to diverse contexts (e.g., jury decision-making, eyewitness testimony)
A3: Capacity to independently research, evaluate and identify evidence appropriate for supporting one's position

Course Content:

Forensic psychology deals with the application of psychological principles to problems of law enforcement and the courts. This course includes areas such as eyewitness and expert testimony, jury selection and

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decision-making, screening and training of police, handling of situations such as hostage taking and suicide threats, and the construction of personal profiles of criminals.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

- Students will be expected to:
- Identify and assess the needs of offenders affected by mental health issues;
 - Apply principles of self-directed learning in a co-operative education environment;
 - Appreciate theoretical approaches that aid in understanding differing types of offenders;
 - Demonstrate respect for other students, their opinions and backgrounds; and,
 - Possess a sense of responsibility for correct standards in writing, research and citation.

Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students will be equipped with skills to engage with the field of psychology as it applies primarily to the law. Students will reflect on current literature and develop cognitive skills to critically review, analyse, consolidate and synthesize knowledge and this will be captured in a spectrum of activities and assessment tasks throughout the course.	High
Self Reliance	Students are given many opportunities to undertake independent research and manage their time to complete tasks and meet deadlines.	Medium
Engaged Citizenship	Students will develop knowledge and skills relevant to key areas of forensic psychology and the needs of offenders with mental health issues. This knowledge will be relevant in fields such as psychotherapy, schooling and nursing. Having engaged in collegial discussions with their peers and teachers about issues relevant to contemporary society (e.g., racial bias, SES), students will be able to contribute this information to many future careers in society.	Medium
Social Responsibility	Students will develop social responsibility relevant to writing reports for the courts, including confidentiality and ethical behaviour in diagnosing patients. Students discuss the potential of psychology to contribute to the contemporary legal system.	Medium

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K4 S2, S3 A1, A3	Independently research and apply appropriate psychological knowledge to the psycho-legal assessment of an offender.	Psychological Report	30
K1, K4 S2, S3 A1, A3	Present an argument in a written/visual format about the case examined in the Psychological Report	Expert Witness presentation (10 mins)	20%
K1-K4 S1, S3 A2, A3	Demonstrate and apply knowledge from the textbook in response to multiple-choice questions	Examination	50%

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Adopted Reference Style:

APA