Psychological Foundations for Criminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>PFC</th>
<th>NQF level</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit value</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Study duration</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
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This module aims to:
- Provide an overview of key concepts and approaches in Psychology
- Introduce psychological thinking to contemporary topics relevant to criminology
- Critically evaluate how research and scientific inquiry builds psychological knowledge
- Consider the way that an understanding of psychological theory can be used to explain human behaviour(s)

Learning outcomes
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
- Have an awareness of the utility of psychological research in explaining human behaviour in contemporary society as well as its limitations
- Begin to consider some of the ways in which psychology can aid understanding of criminogenic behaviour
- Review and evaluate some of the key studies related to key concepts in psychology
- Identify the relationship between psychological theory and scientific research/data
- Understand some of the ethical issues involved in psychological practice and research

Syllabus

Social psychological concepts 1
- Altruism
- Labelling
- Prejudice and discrimination
- Attribution theory

Social psychological concepts 2
- Conformity
- Obedience
- Aggression
- Crowd behaviour

Theories of Learning
- Cognitive developmental theories
- Conditioning theories
- Social learning theory

Memory and perception
- Basic theories of memory
- Effects of these on eyewitness testimony
- Attachment and attachment disruption throughout the lifespan
- Understanding the work of Bowlby and Ainsworth in context
- Links between attachment and adult mental health
- Considerations of how stable attachment is over time

Understanding the basics of psychological trauma
- Childhood ACES
- Therapeutic understandings of trauma e.g. CBT/ Psychodynamic
- Links between trauma and psychosis/other mental health issues

Brief ideas relating to forensic psychology in practice
- Reducing recidivism with people with sexual convictions
- Theories of violence
- Psychological contributions to ‘risk of violence’ assessment
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Theories of motivation
- Drive theories
- Theories of need
- Motivation as transient

Synoptic module – Addiction
- Applying the concepts learned in the preceding 8 modules to substance use and addiction

Learning and Teaching Methods
The Learning and Teaching Methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and Tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The lecturecasts will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the Tutors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of unit of assessment</th>
<th>Length/Duration</th>
<th>Submission date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Contributions</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>Units 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Module Assignment</td>
<td>2,000 words</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal Entries</td>
<td>500 words (each)</td>
<td>Unit 4 &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Module Project</td>
<td>2,000 words</td>
<td>Unit 9</td>
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