Forensic and Criminal Psychology

<table>
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<th>Module Code</th>
<th>FCP</th>
<th>NQF level:</th>
<th>5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Value</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Study duration:</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
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This module aims to:
- Develop an understanding of the importance of Forensic Psychology within the Criminal Justice System.
- Provide students with the knowledge regarding the options available under the current Mental Health Act to deal with mentally disordered offenders.
- Highlight the various roles that the discipline of psychology plays in the Criminal Justice System.
- Develop a critical awareness of the potential caveats in Forensic Psychology

Learning outcomes
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
- Explain the differences between the disciplines of criminology, psychology and Law
- Demonstrate an understanding of the varying psychological underpinnings in the Criminal Justice System
- Apply theoretical understanding of offending behaviour to:
  - The investigative process
  - The judicial process
  - Management and treatment of offenders
  - Offending behaviour

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.
Forensic and Criminal Psychology

Syllabus

- Psychopathology and criminal behaviour
  - What is forensic and criminal psychology
  - History of forensic and criminal psychology
  - Mental illness and crime
  - Personality disorders and crime

- Developmental Origins of Criminal Behaviour
  - Theories of Crime: A Criminal Psychology Approach
  - Juvenile Offenders

- Psychology, the Legal System and Criminology
  - What is the Mental Health Act
  - What are the options for mentally disordered offenders
  - Caveats to the Mental Health Act

- Psychopathy and Criminal Behaviour
  - What is psychopathy?
  - Treatment of psychopathy
  - Psychopathy and the Law
  - Psychopathy and Criminal Behaviour

- Management and Treatment of Offenders
  - Psychological treatment in prisons
  - Treatment of sexual and violent offenders
  - Forensic mental health care

- Violent and Sexual Offending
  - Introduction to violent crime
  - Introduction to sexual offending

- Caveats in Forensic Psychology
  - The danger malingering poses in the criminal justice system
  - The implications of arbitrary mental health assessments

- The Psychology of the judicial process
  - Eyewitness testimony
  - Decision making biases in the judicial process

- Psychology and investigation
  - Children as witnesses
  - Forensic interviews with children
  - False Allegations
  - False confessions
  - Detecting Deception

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<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>Fortnight</td>
<td>Unit 2 and Unit 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-module assignment</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal entry</td>
<td>500 words (each)</td>
<td>Unit 4 and Unit 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of module project</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Unit 9</td>
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