



Module code	FPP	NQF level	5
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

# Forensic Psychology

## Module description

The module aims to introduce students to the assessment and treatment of offenders, including thinking about context and considering ethical issues relating to working as a psychologist with this group.

The topics taught within this module highlight to students the difficulties that can occur when dealing with mentally disordered offenders, providing students with an understanding of how such offenders are dealt with within the UK criminal justice system.

The module also captures psychology in the legal system, with specific reference to the judicial process.

## This module aims to:

- Develop students':
  - understanding of the importance of forensic psychology within the criminal justice system
  - knowledge regarding the options available under the current mental health act to deal with mentally disordered offenders
  - understanding of the various roles that the discipline of psychology plays in the criminal justice system
  - 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, law and psychology
- demonstrate an understanding of the varying psychological underpinnings in the criminal justice system
- apply theoretical understanding of offending behaviour to applied settings:
  - offending behaviour
  - the investigative process
  - the judicial process
  - management and treatment of offenders

## Syllabus

- Psychopathology and criminal behaviour
- Developmental origins of criminal behaviour
- Psychopathy
- Violent and sexual offenders
- Management and treatment of offenders
- Caveats in forensic psychology
- Psychology and the legal system
- Psychology of the judicial process

## Learning and teaching methods

The pedagogical approach for this module is informed through the principles of collaborative enquiry, constructionism and scientific apprenticeship.

Collaborative enquiry is supported through our internet-mediated learning platform that aims to develop a learning community and support dialogue and collaboration between students. This is encouraged through online peer discussion and debate to construct a unique learning experience that enhances students' subject understanding through social interactions and empowers them to explain their understandings, and receive feedback from tutors and peers.

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the University of Essex Online learning platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly online question and answer sessions (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility).

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students.

The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students will be given direction on required and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Collaborative learning question: Post a 500-word response to a tutor posed question. Respond to two of your peer's posts (300 words per response). Your answers must be evidence based and supported with psychological literature.	1,100 words	Continuous	30%
Essay	2,000 words	End of module	70%