Forensic Psychology

7.1 Module Overview

Module Number		Module Title	Forensic Psychology					
Stage of Principal Programme			3	Semester	1	Duration. *(Weeks F/T)*	12	ECTS	5
Mandatory / Elective (M/E)	E	Hours of Learner Effort / Week	2					

Analysis of required hours of learning effort		
Teaching and Learning Modalities	✓if relevant to this module	Approx. proportion of total (hours)
Contact Hours		
In person face-to-face	✓	24
Synchronous		
Indirect/Non-Contact Hours		
Asynchronous		
Work Based		
Other:		
• Independent reading	✓	65
• Research and preparation of assessments	✓	36
Total		125

Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	120

Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.		
Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.	**Qualifications & experience required**	**Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y**
Lecturer	A minimum level 9 qualification in Psychology or closely cognate area	1:120

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution					
Continuous Assessment	100%	**Proctored Exam – in person**		**Practical Skills Based**	
Project		**Proctored Exam - online**		**Work Based**	
Capstone (Y/N)?	N	**If Yes, describe**			

7.2 Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)

MIMLO On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	Related MIPLO #
1. List, describe and evaluate the most prominent criminological theories as well as more recent models.	1, 2, 8
2. Demonstrate a clear understanding of biological explanations when debating the nature of crime.	1, 8

3. Articulate and critique definitions and prevalence of crime in Ireland and its impact on victims.	**1, 2, 4, 5**
4. Discuss the history and ethics surrounding punishment.	**1, 2, 4, 8**

7.3   Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

The aim of this module is to give learners the opportunity to learn the applications of psychology associated with the legal system along with issues and problems that can arise when psychology is applied. The objectives are to expand the learners understanding of psychology as it relates to law.

Over the course of 12 two-hour lectures, the learner will cover topics such as:

Introduction and Overview
- Defining Forensic Psychology
- Methods of enquiry
- The legal System
- Psychology and Law: Different Approaches?
- Psychology issues in Forensic and Legal Contexts

Victims of Crime
- Victim-Offender Overlap
- Psychology and the victims of crime
- PTSD and the victims of crime
- Theories of PTSD
- PTSD and re-victimisation
- Victim Decision-Making

Types of Crime and Forensic Investigations: Violent Offenders
- Violent Offenders, drugs and alcohol
- Anger and violent crime
- Media influences on violent crime
- Theories of Homicide
- Investigating Violent Crimes as a Psychologist

Types of Crime and Forensic Investigations: Rapists
- Frequency of Rape
- Youth Sex Offenders
- Sex Offenders as specialists and generalists
- Gendered nature of domestic and sexual violence
- Anger and Hostility in Sex Offending
- Investigating Forensic patterns in Rape

Types of Crime and Forensic Investigations: Paedophiles
- Classifications of paedophiles
- Incidence and prevalence of this crime
- The normal sex lives of child sex offenders
- The nature of these offences
- Theories of Paedophilia
- Forensic Information and Guiding Investigations

Terrorism and hostage-taking Incidents
- The nature of terrorism
- The consequences of terrorism
- Is there a terrorist personality type or is this a psychopathology?
- Risk Assessing terrorism

- The creation of a terrorist
- Planning a terrorist attack
- Hostage barricade incidents
- Hostage Negotiation

Profile Analysis: American Style Offender Profiling
- The origins of offender profiling
- The FBI profiling process
- The methodology of FBI profiling
- The process of police investigation
- An example of FBI profiling
- Research on profiling and its efficacy

Profile Analysis: Investigative psychology, statistical and geographical profiling
- Geographical & Racial Profiling
- A research-based approach to profiling
- The homology issues and basic theory
- Consistency in offending
- Crime linkage
- Profiling and Personality

Lies, lie detecting and credibility
- Ekman's theory of lie detection
- Cues to deception
- What offenders say about lying
- Strategic Questioning
- The use of Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE) technique

Assessment of Risk, dangerousness and recidivism
- Risk Assessment
- Dynamic and static risk factors
- Clinical versus statistical judgement
- Statistical or actuarial prediction
- Assessing risk and dangerousness
- Ethical issues in risk assessments

7.4	Work-based learning and practice-placement *(if applicable)*
N/A	

7.5	Specific module resources required *(if applicable)*
N/A	

7.6	Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module

This module will be delivered in a two-hour lecture for twelve weeks. The rationale for this teaching mode rests in the amount of information to be covered in this timeframe. Moodle will be used each week to upload relevant articles, required reading and in some instances, links to essential viewing. In-class discussion and debates surrounding key issues and movements within forensic psychology will be scheduled within each class. Case studies will also be utilised to provide learners with an understanding of the practical applications of class content.

7.7	Summative Assessment Strategy for this module	
MIMLOs	**Technique(s)**	**Weighting**
1, 2, 3, 4	Abstract	**20%**
1, 2, 3, 4	Forensic Report	**70%**
n/a	Attendance	**10%**

7.8	Sample Assessment Materials

The learner is tasked with writing a 2,500 – 3,000 word report applying a specific Criminological approach to understanding a type of crime of their choosing. This assessment is broken up into two components:

1. An Abstract for the report (worth 20%)
2. A full Forensic report (worth 70%)

Learners must select **one** criminological approach and **one** type of crime as listed below.

Criminological approach	Type of crime
Classical Criminology	Antisocial behaviour
Positivism	Arson
Anomie/Strain Theory	Burglary
Chicago School	Child abuse
Subculture Approach	Cybercrime
Labelling theory	Domestic abuse
Control theory	Fraud
Marxist Criminology	Hate crime
Radical/Critical Criminology	Murder
Left Realism	Sexual assault
Right Realism	Robbery
	Terrorism

The report should be presented as follows:
- Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- Abstract (worth 20%)

1. Introduction (5%)
2. Outline of Criminological approach (10%)
3. Outline of Crime type (5%)
4. How selected approach helps us understand selected crime (20%)
5. Issues with selected approach in understanding selected crime (15%)
6. Alternative views (5%)
7. Conclusions (5%)
8. References (5%)

This prepares the learner with the ability to prepare case notes and report for Psychology positions in the workplace. It also prepares the continuing learner with a clear understanding of how a dissertation needs to be undertaken.

Marking of assessments will be in line with the Marking Assessment Guidelines as outlined in Section 3.3 of the College's Regulations in Relation to Assessment and Standards unless otherwise indicated.

7.9 Indicative reading lists and other information resources

Indicative Core Reading:

Bull, R., Cooke, C. and Hatcher, R. (2009). *Criminal Psychology*. Simon and Schuster.

Canter, D.V. (2017). *Criminal psychology*. London; New York, NY: Routledge.

Indicative Other Resources:

Case studies and articles as posted on Moodle by the Lecturer.

Ted Talks as allocated by lecturer