



Course Outline

PSYC1027

Forensic Psychology: Crime, Courts and
Corrections

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T1, 2020

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1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Dr Alice Towler	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Email
Lecturer	Prof Richard Kemp	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Email
Lecturer	A/Prof Kristy Martire	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Email
Lecturer	Anita McGregor	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Email
Lecturer	Dr Kevin O'Sullivan	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Email

2. Course information

Units of credit:	6
Pre-requisite(s):	None
Teaching times and locations:	Online via Moodle

2.1 Course summary

This course provides an introduction to forensic psychology – the application of psychological knowledge to issues related to the legal system. The course will follow an offender through the criminal justice system, from the offence and pre-trial right through to court, conviction, punishment, sentencing, and finally to treatment and release. Some of the topics covered include: theories of offending, punishment, eyewitness memory, mental health assessments, expert evidence, jury decision making, the effectiveness of treatment programs for offenders, mental illness and offending, and the rehabilitation of offenders. Students will attend court, where they will get first-hand experience of the criminal justice system in action. On completion of the course students will have an appreciation of some of the ways psychologists interact with and can contribute to the criminal justice system. This is an online course. All course content is delivered through Moodle. However, the court observation assignment requires students to attend court IN PERSON and the final exam will be held IN PERSON and ON CAMPUS (i.e., not on Moodle).

2.2 Course aims

This course aims to provide an introduction to forensic psychology. You will learn how psychologists play a critical role in the criminal justice system, and how psychological research can inform many aspects of the legal process.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Show familiarity with, and comprehension of various topics in Forensic Psychology and demonstrate an ability to locate and critically evaluate psychological research relevant to these topics.
2. Understand the ethical framework particular to practice within forensic psychology.
3. Critically engage with relevant psychological literature in order to: understand how evidence-based psychology can be applied to the field of law, form an evidence-based argument, and critically evaluate psycho-legal issues.
4. Engage in evidence-based, constructive and respectful communication on psycho-legal topics.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

Program Learning Outcomes							
CLO	1. Knowledge	2. Research Methods	3. Critical Thinking Skills	4. Values and Ethics	5. Communication, Interpersonal and Teamwork	6. Application	Assessment
1.	Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.	Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.	Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.			Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.	Quizzes, exam, forums, report
2.	Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.			Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.			Quizzes, exam, forums, report
3.	Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.		Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.				Forums, exam, court report
4.					Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.		Forums, exam, court report

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

The design of the structure, content and assessment of this course has been informed by the policy document “Guidelines on learning that inform teaching at UNSW” (see <https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/guidelines>). In particular, lectures and discussions are designed to encourage active, challenging and enjoyable learning. The teaching employs a variety of different methods and encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning.

The lectures released on Moodle each week will provide students with the core course content. The lectures will follow an offender through the criminal justice system, from the original offence and pre-trial, through to court, conviction, punishment, sentencing, treatment and then release. These lectures will contain a mixture of slide-based content, videos, demonstrations and practical activities. Students will be directed to additional readings and materials to supplement the lecture material. Keeping up-to-date with lectures is highly recommended.

The weekly online small group discussions will provide students with an opportunity for in-depth and active learning. In these discussions, students will debate issues, engage with and think critically about the course content and discuss case studies.

Weekly quizzes provide an opportunity to evaluate understanding of course material on a weekly basis. Timely completion of the weekly quizzes will assist students in gaining a proper understanding of each topic so that this knowledge can be built on in future content.

3.2 Expectations of students

We require students to have read the UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

We require students to read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

All news updates and announcements will be made on the ‘Announcements’ forum on the Moodle page, in the weekly Moodle message and/or by email. It is the student’s responsibility to check Moodle and their official UNSW email account regularly to keep up-to-date.

Although this is an online course, it is expected that students dedicate the same amount of time each week to studying for this course as they would for an ‘on-campus’ course.

Given that the course content and some assessable components are delivered online, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable of handling the features of the Moodle eLearning website and any of its content. There will be no special consideration granted due to internet connection or computer issues arising from the use of a non-UNSW computer.

The PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au email address should be the first line of contact with the Course Co-ordinator.

The final exam for this course will take place on campus during the UNSW examinations period. Students should not arrange travel during the UNSW exam period until the date of the final exam has been released. Students who arrange travel prior to the release of the final exam date will not be granted consideration in the event they are scheduled to be out of country when the final exam is to occur. This is especially important for study abroad students – do not arrange travel home until the final exam date has been released.

Students registered with Equitable Learning Services must contact the course co-ordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special

arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

4. Course schedule and structure

Each week of this course typically involves 1-2 hours of online lecture material and 2 hours of extra resources. Students are expected to take an additional 8 hours of self-determined study to complete assessments, and exam preparation.

Week	Lecture topic	Lecturer	Online modules and self-determined activities	Assessment	
				Name	Due
Week 1 17/02/2020	Introduction	RK	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 23 rd Feb 11:59pm
Week 2 24/02/2020	Offence	KM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 1 st March 11:59pm
Week 3 02/03/2020	Court	RK	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 1	Sunday 8 th March 11:59pm
Week 4 09/03/2020	Pre-trial	RK	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 15 th March 11:59pm
Week 5 16/03/2020	Conviction	KM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 22 nd March 11:59pm
Week 6 23/03/2020	Sentencing	KM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 2	Sunday 29 th March 11:59pm
Week 7 30/03/2020	Punishment	RK	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 5 th April 11:59pm
Week 8 06/04/2020	Ethics & Assessment	AM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 12 th April 11:59pm
Week 9 14/04/2020	Treatment	AM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 3	Sunday 19 th April 11:59pm
Week 10 20/04/2020	Desistance	KO	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 26 th April 11:59pm

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Mark	Due date
Assessment 1: Weekly quizzes	Varied	10%	/10	Weekly by Sunday 11:59pm
Assessment 2: Discussion forum	10 entries	10%	/10	Weekly by Sunday 11:59pm
Assessment 3: Court observation assignment	Varied	40%	/40	Part 1: Week 3 Sunday 11:59pm Part 2: Week 6 Sunday 11:59pm Part 3: Week 9 Sunday 11:59pm
Assessment 4: Final exam	~80 MCQ	40%	/80	Exam period

Assessment 1: There will be a short multiple choice quiz on Moodle each week. Each quiz includes a few easy questions – these provide immediate feedback so you can assess how well you’ve understood the lecture material. Each quiz also includes a practice exam question so you can see what an exam question for that week’s material might look like. Once you have completed a quiz, you will be told which questions you got correct and incorrect. You can take each quiz as many times as you like within the week. Each quiz is worth 1% so if you complete each week’s quiz within the week there is no reason why you cannot achieve the full 10% for this assessment. The quizzes will be open until 11.59pm Sunday of each week.

Assessment 2: At the beginning of term you will be allocated to a small discussion forum group on Moodle. Each week a discussion question will be posted in your discussion forum and you will discuss it with your group. The discussion forums are designed to help you think more deeply about the lecture content, engage with the material, and think critically about how the principles discussed in the lecture apply to cases in the real world. Your posts should be thoughtful, insightful or analytical aimed at generating discussion. Although each discussion forum will remain open until the end of term, only posts from the given week (i.e., from Monday 12pm until Sunday 11.59pm of each week) will count towards your mark for this assessment. You should therefore start your discussions as soon as possible after the lecture’s release to ensure you have enough time for detailed discussion with your group members. Information about the marking criteria is provided on the assignment sheet on Moodle.

Assessment 3: For this assignment, you are required to attend court and observe several cases. You will need to familiarise yourself with court etiquette and organise your own court visit. You will then

provide a summary of your experience and prepare a report based on one of the cases you observed. The court observation assignment will be completed in three parts and all three parts must be completed to satisfy assignment requirements. A penalty of 2% per day (including weekends) will apply for late submission of any of the parts.

Part 1: Court Etiquette Test (5%)

Before you attend court, it is *very* important that you are familiar with court etiquette. You are required to familiarise yourself with the Court Etiquette Guidelines available on Moodle. You will then need to complete the Court Etiquette Test on Moodle by 11.59pm Sunday of Week 3 (refer to the course schedule). You must achieve 100% on this test to pass, but you may attempt the test as many times as necessary to achieve 100%. **Parts 2 and 3 of this assignment will only be made available once you have achieved 100% on the Court Etiquette Test.** This means that if you don't score 100% by the end of Week 3, you will not be able to complete Parts 2 and 3 and will receive a mark of zero for all three parts of the Court Observation assignment. This would make it extremely difficult for you to pass the course. Refer to the assignment sheet on Moodle for more information about this assignment.

Part 2: Observation & Summary (15%)

You will organise to visit court and observe cases. For this part of the assignment, you will choose one of the cases you observed and answer a series of questions about your experience. You are required to provide details about what the case was about (e.g., the charges, who was present), what happened while you were there (e.g., what evidence was presented, whether a jury was present), and your thoughts on the court process (e.g., how the experience compared to your expectations). You will not be able to digitally record the proceedings during your observation and you may not be able to take notes, so it is recommended that you complete the summary as soon as possible after your court observation. The summary template is available on Moodle. You should fill in and submit this template via Turnitin on Moodle by 11.59pm Sunday of Week 6 (refer to the course schedule). Submissions received after results for this assessment have been released will receive a mark of zero. Refer to the assignment sheet on Moodle for more information about this assignment and the marking criteria.

Part 3: Report (20%)

Once you have completed Part 2: Summary, you are required to prepare a 1500 word report addressing a psychological question relevant to the case you described. You will then identify three *empirical* journal articles which you will use to answer the psychological question you have chosen. The assignment sheet with the list of psychological questions, report template, resources to help you find and identify empirical journal articles, and a tutorial on writing in science are available on Moodle. To prepare your report, you should fill in and submit the template via Turnitin on Moodle by 11.59pm Sunday of Week 9 (refer to the course schedule). Submissions received after results for this assessment have been released will receive a mark of zero. Refer to the assignment sheet on Moodle for more information about this assignment and the marking criteria.

Assessment 4: The final exam will be held in the university examination period **IN PERSON** and **ON CAMPUS** (i.e., not on Moodle). You will have 2 hours to complete the exam, which will consist of multiple choice questions covering all course material (lectures and assessable extra resources). The exact time and date of the exam will be published by the University when available. All students must attend this exam. No online alternative or alternative dates (earlier or later) are available.

UNSW grading system: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades>

UNSW assessment policy: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

Further details and marking criteria for each assessment are available in the 'Course Assessment' section on Moodle (see 4.1: UNSW Assessment Design Procedure).

5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

Assessments 2 & 3 (excluding etiquette test): In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy the court observation summary and court observation report must be submitted online via Turnitin. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted.

Late penalties: Deduction of marks for late submissions will be in accordance with School policy (see: [Psychology Student Guide](#)).

Special Consideration: Students who are unable to complete an assessment task by the assigned due date can apply for special consideration. Students should also note that UNSW has a Fit to Sit/Submit rule for all assessments. If a student wishes to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, the application must be submitted prior to the start of the exam or before an assessment is submitted. If a student sits the exam/submits an assignment, they are declaring themselves well enough to do so and are unable to subsequently apply for special consideration. If a student becomes ill on the day of the exam, they must provide evidence dated within 24 hours of the exam, with their application.

Special consideration applications must be submitted to the online portal along with Third Party supporting documentation. Students who have experienced significant illness or misadventure during the assessment period may be eligible. Only circumstances deemed to be outside of the student's control are eligible for special consideration. Except in unusual circumstances, the duration of circumstances impacting academic work must be more than 3 consecutive days, or a total of 5 days within the teaching period. If the special consideration application is approved, students may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information see <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

Alternative assessments: Will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure.

Supplementary examinations: Will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Weekly quizzes	Immediate	Automatic	Online	Moodle
Discussion forum	10 working days from due date	Towler	Online	Moodle
Court observation assignment	10 working days from due date	Towler	Online	Moodle
Final exam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (7th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately:

[APA 7th edition](#).

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.¹ At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The *Current Students* site <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>, and
- The *ELISE* training site <http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise>

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

7. Readings and resources

Textbook	Nil
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	School of Psychology Student Guide .
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning Centre ELISE Turnitin Student Code of Conduct Policy concerning academic honesty Email policy UNSW Anti-racism policy UNSW Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy

8. Administrative matters

The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments

¹ International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

9. Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/>