UNSW AUSTRALIA

Science

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC1027

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY:
CRIME, COURTS AND CORRECTIONS

SEMESTER 2, 2017

Table of Contents

1. Information about the Course 2
2. Staff Involved in the Course 2
3. Course Timetable 3
4. Aims of the Course 3
5. Student Learning Outcomes 3
6. Graduate Attributes 3
7. Rationale for the Inclusion of Content and Teaching Approach 4
8. Teaching Strategies 4
9. Course Schedule 5
10. Assessment 6
11. Expected Resources for Students 8
12. Course Evaluation & Development 8
13. Plagiarism & Academic Integrity 8
14. Administrative Matters 10

1. Information about the Course			
FACULTY	Science		
SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENT	Psychology		
COURSE CODE	PSYC1027		
COURSE NAME	Forensic Psychology: Crime, Courts and Corrections		
SEMESTER	Semester 2	**YEAR**	2017
UNITS OF CREDIT	6	**LEVEL OF COURSE**	General/1
ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE, PREREQUISITES OR CO-REQUISITES	None		
SUMMARY OF THE COURSE	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 conduct a court observation, 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. **NOTE: This course is taught entirely online using Moodle [http://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle]. The court observation requires students to attend a court in person. Students are told how to organise and arrange this visit themselves. The final exam will be held during the official exam period IN PERSON and ON CAMPUS (i.e., not on Moodle).**		

2. Staff Involved in the Course		
COURSE COORDINATOR		
Name	**Email**	**Contact Time & Availability**
Professor Richard Kemp (RK)	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment
COURSE ADMINISTRATOR		
Name	**Email**	**Contact Time & Availability**
Dr Alice Towler	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment
LECTURERS		
Name	**Email**	**Contact Time & Availability**
Dr Kristy Martire (KM)	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment
Anita McGregor (AM)	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment
Kevin O'Sullivan (KO)	PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au	By appointment

For all course enquiries, please email PSYC1027@unsw.edu.au

3. Course Timetable				
Component	**Class Number**	**Day**	**Time**	**Location**
Lecture	1017	Monday	Available by 12pm	Moodle
NOTE: Students are advised to check Moodle regularly for updates and announcements.				

4. Aims of the Course

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.

5. Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the discipline	1.1.	Show familiarity and comprehension of a broad range of topics within the field of forensic psychology.
	1.2.	Draw upon knowledge to critically analyse and debate contemporary forensic psychology issues.
	1.3.	Locate resources relevant to a practical forensic psychology issue.
2. Ethical, legal and professional matters	2.1.	Understand and demonstrate how evidence-based psychology can be applied to questions and processes within the field of law.
	2.2.	Understand the ethical framework particular to forensic psychology practice.
3. Research and evaluation	3.1.	Understand how evidence-based psychology can be applied to questions and processes within the field of law.
	3.2.	Locate and critically engage with psychological literature relevant to legal issues.
	3.3.	Mount an evidence-based argument pertaining to a psycho-legal issue.
	3.4.	Critically evaluate and contribute to discussions of psycho-legal issues.
4. Communication and interpersonal relationships	4.1.	Engage in online debate in a constructive, positive and respectful manner.
	4.2.	Critically evaluate a psycho-legal issue in a considered, constructive and respectful manner.
	4.3.	Make appropriate and relevant recommendations based on research.
	4.4.	Outline literature in a clear, concise and informative manner.

6. Graduate Attributes

Science Graduate Attributes*	**Level of Focus** 0 = No focus 1 = Minimal 2 = Minor 3 = Major	**Activities/Assessment**

* The *Graduate Attributes of the Australian Undergraduate Psychology Program* was produced as part of the Carrick Associate Fellowship project, "Sustainable and evidence-based learning and teaching approaches to the undergraduate psychology curriculum", and "Designing a diverse and future-oriented vision for undergraduate psychology in Australia", a Discipline-based Initiative funded by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (see Appendix II), and supported by the Australian Psychological Society, and the University of New South Wales (School of Psychology; Learning and Teaching @UNSW).

1. Research, inquiry and analytical thinking abilities	3	This will be developed through the weekly discussion forums which will encourage you to engage with and think critically about the course material.
2. Capability and motivation for intellectual development	2	This will be developed through engagement with the weekly course content, discussion forums, and assessment. In particular, the report will allow students to engage with the course material in an applied setting.
3. Ethical, social and professional understanding	3	The course will give careful consideration to the role of psychologists in the legal system, whether acting as a clinician, consultant, an expert witness, or a researcher. We will consider the ethical issues psychologists must consider in these contexts.
4. Communication	2	The ability to clearly communicate the outcomes of psychological research to a non-specialist audience will be assessed in the court observation report. The weekly small group discussion forums will also develop students' communication skills.
5. Teamwork, collaborative and management skills	1	The weekly discussion forums will require some collaborative effort to ensure that students get the most out of the exercise.
6. Information literacy	3	Information literacy will mainly be developed through the court observation assignment where students will need to locate and assess the suitability of various resources.

7. Rationale for the Inclusion of Content and Teaching Approach

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.

8. Teaching Strategies

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.

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.

9. Course Schedule					
Wk	**Date**	**Who**	**Lecture Topic**	**Assessment**	
				Name	**Due**
1	24th Jul	RK	Introduction		
2	31st Jul	KM	Offence		
3	7th Aug	RK	Court	Court Observation Part 1: Court Etiquette Test	Sunday 13th Aug 11.59pm
4	14th Aug	RK	Pre-trial		
5	21st Aug	KM	Conviction: Part 1	Court Observation Part 2: Summary	Sunday 27th Aug 11.59pm
6	28th Aug	KM	Conviction: Part 2		
7	4th Sep	KM	Sentencing	Mid-Semester Exam	Monday 4th Sep 9am until Sunday 10th Sep 11.59pm
8	11th Sep	RK	Punishment		
9	18th Sep	AM	Ethics		
Mid-Semester Break					
10	2nd Oct	AM	Assessment	Court Observation Part 3: Report	Sunday 8th Oct 11.59pm
11	9th Oct	AM	Treatment		
12	16th Oct	KO	Desistance		
13	23rd Oct			Discussion Forum Log	Sunday 29th Oct 11.59pm

NOTE: All lectures are delivered online via Moodle.

10. Assessment

Assessment Task	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Date of		Feedback		
				Release	Submission	Who	When	How
Weekly Quizzes	**10%**	1,2	2,3	Weekly	Weekly	Automatic	Immediate	Moodle
Discussion Forum Log	**10%**	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,5	Weekly	Week 13	Marker	Study Period	General feedback on Moodle
Mid-Semester Exam	**20%**	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,6	Week 7	Week 7	Marker	Week 9	General feedback on Moodle
Court Observation	**30%**							
Part 1: Court Etiquette Test	P/F	1,2	3	Week 1	Week 3	Automatic	Immediate	Moodle
Part 2: Summary	10%	1,2,3	2,3,4		Week 5	Marker	Week 13	Written feedback returned via Turnitin on Moodle
Part 3: Report	20%	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,6		Week 10			
Final Exam	**30%**	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,6	Exam Period	Exam Period	N/A	N/A	N/A

1. **Weekly Quizzes (10%)**
   There will be a short multiple choice quiz on Moodle each week. The quizzes will be open from Monday 12pm (when the lecture is made available) until 11.59pm Sunday of each week. You will get a maximum of 1% for each quiz completed within the allocated week, up to the full 10%. If you complete more than 10 weekly quizzes within their allocated time you will receive a maximum of 10%. The weekly quizzes will provide immediate feedback and are designed to help you assess how well you've understood the lecture material. Once you have completed a quiz, you will be told which questions you got correct or incorrect. You will then be able to change and resubmit your answers until you get all questions correct. This means that if you complete each week's quiz within the week there is no reason why you cannot achieve the full 10% for this assessment.

2. **Discussion Forum Log (10%)**
   Every week, there will be a new discussion forum created on Moodle and students will be allocated to small discussion groups. The discussion groups 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 lectures apply to cases in the real world. Each separate discussion forum will only be open for one week (from Monday 12pm until Sunday 11.59pm of that week), so you should start posting your questions and reflections on the topic as soon as possible after the lecture's release to facilitate detailed discussion with your group members. You should also respond to threads started and posts made by others during the week. At the end of the semester, you are required to submit a log of your discussion forum activity as a record of your participation. This log should contain 10 of your best, most insightful posts to the discussion forum – five should be threads you started, where you posted something critical, thoughtful, insightful or analytical aimed at generating discussion (in your log, you should include your original post and, if applicable, at least one response in the thread). The other five posts should show where you have responded to something written by your group members with a critical, thoughtful, insightful or analytical response (in your log, include the original post from your group member and your response). A discussion forum log template is available on Moodle. The Discussion Forum Log must be submitted via Turnitin on Moodle by 11.59pm Sunday of Week 13 (refer to the course schedule). A penalty of 2% per day (including weekends) will apply for late submissions.

3. **Mid-Semester Exam (20%)**
   The mid-semester exam will be held in Week 7 and will assess all information covered in the lectures and readings from Weeks 1 to 6. The exam will be conducted online via Moodle and will be available from Monday 9am until Sunday 11.59pm of Week 7 (refer to the course schedule). You will only be able to sit the exam once. There is no option to save your answers and return to the exam later, so once you start the exam you must

complete it*. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a reliable internet connection before beginning the exam. If in doubt, you should use a library computer.* The material assessed on the mid-semester exam will not be assessed again in the final exam. Check Moodle regularly in the lead up to the exam for any updates.

4. Court Observation (30% total made up of three sub-tasks)

For this assignment, you are required to complete a court observation. This will involve familiarising yourself with court etiquette and learning how to organise your own visit to court. 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 submissions of any of the parts.

Part 1: Court Etiquette Test (Pass/Fail)

Before you attend court, it is *very* important that you are familiar with and follow 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. You must achieve 100% on this test to pass. However, you may attempt this test as many times as necessary to achieve 100%. **You must complete the Court Etiquette Test on Moodle by 11.59pm Sunday of Week 3** (refer to the course schedule). ***Parts 2 and 3 of this assignment will only be made available once you have achieved 100% on the Court Etiquette Test (i.e., if you do not score 100% on Part 1, 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 assessment, which will make it extremely difficult for you to pass the course).***

Part 2: Summary (10%)

You will choose one of the cases you observed in court 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. Your summary must be submitted via Turnitin on Moodle by 11.59pm Sunday of Week 5 (refer to the course schedule).

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 find and use three empirical psychology journal articles to critically engage with and answer the psychological question you have chosen. The report template and a list of psychological questions are available on Moodle. Your report must be submitted via Turnitin on Moodle by 11.59pm Sunday of Week 10 (refer to the course schedule). You are also required to submit the three journal articles you use to complete your report. A penalty of 5% will apply for each journal article you fail to submit (i.e., you will lose 15% if you do not submit any journal articles with your report).

5. Final Exam (30%)

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 readings) from Weeks 7 to 12. The exact time and date of the exam will be published by the University when available. No online alternative is available and all students must attend this exam.

NOTE: If more than one assessment piece is outstanding at the end of semester you may be ineligible to pass the course.

11. Expected Resources for Students	
TEXTBOOKS	No set text
REQUIRED READINGS	Available on Moodle
RECOMMENDED INTERNET SITES	Moodle

12. Course Evaluation & Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's myExperience digital survey.

13. Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- **Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.
- **Inappropriate paraphrasing:** changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.
- **Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- **Duplication:** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Where can I find out more information?

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism. The first place you can look is the section about referencing and plagiarism in each Course Guide, as this will also include information specific to the discipline the course is from. There are also other sources of assistance at UNSW:

- **How can the Learning Centre help me?**

  The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/academic-integrity-plagiarism. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.
- **How can Elise help me?**

  ELISE (Enabling Library & Information Skills for Everyone) is an online tutorial to help you understand how to find and use information for your assignments or research. It will help you to search databases, identify good quality information and write assignments. It will also help you understand plagiarism and how to avoid it. All undergraduate students have to review the ELISE tutorial in their first semester and complete the quiz, but any student can review it to improve their knowledge: http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise.
- **What is Turnitin?**

  Turnitin is a checking database which reviews your work and compares it to an international collection of books, journals, Internet pages and other student's assignments. The database checks referencing and whether you have copied something from another student, resource, or off the Internet. Sometimes students submit their work into Turnitin when they hand it in, but academics can also use it to check a student's work when they are marking it. You can find out more about Turnitin here: https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/elearning.

What if plagiarism is found in my work?

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in a honours thesis) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here

https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf

Examples of plagiarism

Using the internet appropriately

A first year student handed in an assignment where she had copied from a website. Her lecturer realised she didn't understand you have to reference websites in the same way you reference books and journal articles. The lecturer explained how to reference and sent her to a workshop at the Learning Centre to help her improve her skills.

Working together on a math assignment

A group of Mathematics students worked together on an assignment when they had been told this was not allowed. All questions where the students had worked together were given zero, and this lead to some student failing the assessment.

No referencing in an assessment

A third year student submitted a major assessment that included material from a journal article published in Canada. When his essay was submitted into Turnitin, it let the academic know that the student didn't reference the material. The student was given zero for the essay, and because it was worth 50 per cent he failed the course.

Copying design work

A final year design student used images of someone else's designs in her work and he said the designs were his own. The matter was formally investigated by his Faculty and he was found to have committed academic misconduct and failed the course.

Further information and assistance

If you would like further information or assistance with avoiding plagiarism, you can contact the Learning Centre. The Learning Centre at The University of New South Wales has two locations:

UNSW Learning Centre

Lower Ground Floor, North Wing, Chancellery Building

(C22 Kensington Campus – near Student Central)

http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/

Phone: 9385 2060

Email: **learningcentre@unsw.edu.au**

Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 9am - 5pm and

Friday: 9am - 2.30pm

COFA Campus Learning Centre

Email: cofalearningcentre@unsw.edu.au

Phone: 9385 0739

14. Administrative Matters

The *School of Psychology Student Guide*, available on http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/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;
- Special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Student Code of Conduct;
- Student complaints and grievances;
- Student Equity and Disability Unit; and
- Occupational Health & Safety.

Students should familiarise themselves with the information contained in this *Guide*.