



Course Outline

PSYC1027

Forensic Psychology: Crime, Courts and
Corrections

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T3, 2021

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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

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 observe 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 a fully online course. All course content and assessment is delivered via 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, forums, court observation assignment
2.	Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.			Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.			Quizzes, forums, court observation assignment
3.	Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.		Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.				Forums, court observation assignment
4.					Lectures, forums, online modules, readings, weekly quizzes.		Forums, court observation assignment

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 by 12pm Monday 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 assessment 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.

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.

Week	Lecture topic	Lecturer	Online modules and self-determined activities	Assessment	
				Name	Due
Week 1 13/09/2021	Introduction	AT	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 19 th September 11:59pm
Week 2 20/09/2021	Offence	KM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 1	Sunday 26 th September 11:59pm
Week 3 27/09/2021	Court	RK	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 3 rd October 11:59pm
Week 4 04/10/2021	Pre-trial	RK	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 10 th October 11:59pm
Week 5 11/10/2021	Conviction	KM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 2	Sunday 17 th October 11:59pm
Week 6 18/10/2021	Flexibility Week				
Week 7 25/10/2021	Sentencing	KM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 31 st October 11:59pm
Week 8 01/11/2021	Punishment	RK	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 7 th November 11:59pm
Week 9 08/11/2021	Ethics & Assessment	AM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 3	Sunday 14 th November 11:59pm
Week 10 15/11/2021	Treatment	AM	Refer to Moodle	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum	Sunday 21 st November 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	30%	/30	Weekly by Sunday 11:59pm
Assessment 2: Discussion forum	10 entries	10%	/10	Weekly by Sunday 11:59pm
Assessment 3: Court observation assignment	Varied	60%	/60	Part 1: Week 2 Sunday 11:59pm Part 2: Week 5 Sunday 11:59pm Part 3: Week 9 Sunday 11:59pm

Assessment 1: There will be a short multiple choice quiz on Moodle each week. Quizzes include a mixture of easy questions and exam-style questions. Each of the nine quizzes is worth 3.33%. You have until 11.59pm Sunday of each week to complete the quiz. See Moodle for more information.

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 and 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., 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 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 will learn about court etiquette and observe court cases in-person or online. 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%)

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 2 (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 2, 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 (20%)

For this part of the assignment, you will observe court cases in-person or online and then 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 (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). 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 5 (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 (35%)

Once you have completed Part 2: Summary, you are required to prepare a 2000 word report addressing a psychological question relevant to the case you described in Part 2. You will then identify four *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.

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

Assessment 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.

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.

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	10 working days from closing date	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

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>.

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

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
- 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/>