

SS3719: PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF CRIME

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Psychological Aspects of Crime

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

3719

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

SS1101 Basic Psychology or SS2023 Basic Psychology I

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SS4710 Psychological Aspects of Crime

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enhance students' academic ability in understanding the psychological theories in crimes. The professional attitudes are promoted toward criminal behaviours in relation to mental health, prognosis, etiology, and post-release work.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Analyze the causes of criminal behavior from biological, social, cognitive, and learning perspectives in psychology;	50	x	x	
2	Apply mental status examination, risk assessments, interrogation processes, and post-release psychological consultation; and	50	x		

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will engage in lectures to learn different psychological theories related to criminal behaviours with supplement of short discussions and video clips.	1	3 hours/week
2	Demonstration of relevant psychology research and questionnaires	Students will examine how the data were collected to enhance their understanding of the criminal behaviours.	1, 2	
3	Case Study and Discussion	Students will participate in out of class activities such as court hearings and trials, which will enrich the class discussion. Students will be more able to deepen their understanding of different criminal behaviours.	1, 2	

4	Workshop	Students will engage in workshops, conducted by guest professionals to introduce the practical aspects of risk assessment and post-release follow-up.		
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Presentation	2	20	
2	Term Paper	1, 2	40	
3	Quizzes	1, 2	40	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Presentation

Criterion

Ability to explain criminal behaviors in relation to mental health, legal and ethical issues.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

strong

Good (B+, B, B-)

sufficient

Fair (C+, C, C-)

moderate

Marginal (D)

basic

Failure (F)

poor

Assessment Task

2. Term Paper

Criterion

Capability to evaluate the relationship between psychology and the law, and application of psychological concepts to legal standards.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

strong

Good (B+, B, B-)

sufficient

Fair (C+, C, C-)

moderate

Marginal (D)

basic

Failure (F)

poor

Assessment Task

3. Examination

Criterion

Capability of describing and explaining psychological theories in crime.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

strong

Good (B+, B, B-)

sufficient

Fair (C+, C, C-)

moderate

Marginal (D)

basic

Failure (F)

poor

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Concepts and Definitions of Criminal Acts in Psychology Perspectives, Personality and Motivation of Offender, Social Behaviour and Social Dynamic of Offender, Mental Health and Criminal Behaviour, Risk Assessment.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Textbook: Bartol, C. R., & Bartol, A. M. (2008) Criminal behavior: A psychosocial approach (8th ed.). New Jersey: Prentice Hall ISBN: 0-13-185049-0.
2	Berman, M. E., & Coccaro, E. F. (1998). Neurobiological correlates of violence: Relevance to criminal responsibility. Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 16, 303-318.
3	Christoffersen, M. N., Francis, B., & Soothill, K. (2003). An upbringing to violence? Identifying the likelihood of violent crime among the 1966 birth cohort in Denmark. The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology, 14, 367-381.

4	Clare P., Bailey, S., & Clark, A. (2000). Relationship between psychotic disorders in adolescence and criminally violent behaviour. <i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i> , 177, 275-279.
5	Levine, S. Z., & Jackson C. J. (2004). Eysenck's theory of crime revisited factors of primary scales? <i>Legal and Criminological Psychology</i> , 9, 135-152.
6	Martens, W. H. J. (2002). Criminality and moral dysfunctions: Neurological, biochemical and genetic dimensions. <i>International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology</i> , 46, 170-182.
7	Messer, J., Mauchan, B., Quinton, D., & Taylor, A. (2004). Precursors and correlates of criminal behaviour in women. <i>Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health</i> , 14, 82-107.
8	Russo, G., Salomone, L., & Villa, L. D. (2003). The characteristics of criminal and noncriminal mentally disordered patients. <i>Law and Psychiatry</i> , 26, 417-435.
9	Walters, G. D. (2004). The trouble with psychopathy as general theory of crime. <i>International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology</i> , 48, 133-148.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Arrigo, B. (2004). New directions in criminal behavior studies: Revisiting the unresolved questions. <i>International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology</i> , 48, 129-132.
2	Bovasso, G. B., Alterman, A. I., Cacciola, J. S., & Rutherford, M. J. (2002). The prediction of violent and nonviolent criminal behavior in a methadone maintenance population. <i>Journal of Personality Disorders</i> , 16, 360-373.
3	Campbell, M. A., Porter, S., & Santor, D. (2004). Psychopathic traits in adolescent offenders: An evaluation of criminal history, clinical and psychosocial correlates. <i>Behavioral Sciences and the Law</i> , 22, 23-47.
4	Cauffman, E., Piquero, A. R., Broidy, L., Espelage, D. L., & Mazerolle, P. (2004). Heterogeneity in the association between social-emotional adjustment profiles and deviant behavior among male and female serious juvenile offenders. <i>International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology</i> , 48, 235-252.
5	Cherek, D. R., Lane, S. D., Pietras, C. J., & Steinberg, J. L. (2002). Effects of chronic paroxetine administration on measures of aggressive and impulsive response of adult males with a history of conduct disorder. <i>Psychopharmacology</i> , 159, 266-274.
6	Cuellar, A. E., Morkowitz, S., & Libby, A. M. (2004). Mental health and substance abuse treatment and juvenile crime. <i>Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics</i> , 7, 59-68.
7	Garpenstrand, H., Longato, S. E., af-Klinteberg, B., Grigorenko, E., Damberg, M., Oreland, L., & Hallman, J. (2002). Low platelet monoamine oxidase activity in Swedish imprisoned criminal offenders. <i>European Neuropsychopharmacology</i> , 12, 135-140.
8	Genoves, V. G. (Ed.). (1997). <i>Advances in psychology and law: International contributions</i> . Berlin: Walter de Gruyter & Co.
9	Glicksohn, J. (Ed.). (2002). <i>The neurobiology of criminal behavior</i> . Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
10	Gudjonsson, G. H., & Sigurdsson, J. F. (2004). Motivation for offending and personality. <i>Legal and Criminological Psychology</i> , 9, 69-81.
11	Hiscoke, U. L., Langstrom, N., Ottosson, H., & Grann, M. (2003). Self-reported personality traits and disorders (DSM-IV) and risk of criminal recidivism: A prospective study. <i>Journal of Personality Disorders</i> , 17, 293-305.
12	Watt, B., Howells, K., & Delfabbro, P. (2004). Juvenile recidivism: Criminal propensity, social control, and social learning theories. <i>Psychiatry, Psychology, and Law</i> , 11, 141-153.
13	Weerman, F. M. (2003). Co-offending as social exchange. <i>British Journal of Criminology</i> , 43, 398-416.
14	謝永齡 (2003) 。《青少年心理問題》。香港：香港中文大學出版社。