



UNSW Course Outline

PSYC1027 Forensic Psychology: Crime, Courts and Corrections - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC1027

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Science

Academic Unit : School of Psychology

Delivery Mode : Online

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

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. No prior science or psychology knowledge is required.

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.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Show familiarity with, and comprehension of various topics in Forensic Psychology.
CL02 : Understand the ethical framework particular to practice within forensic psychology.
CL03 : 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.
CL04 : Engage in evidence-based, constructive and respectful communication on psycho-legal topics.
CL05 : Locate and critically evaluate psychological research relevant to these topics.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Show familiarity with, and comprehension of various topics in Forensic Psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quizzes • Discussion forum • Court observation assignment • Final examination
CL02 : Understand the ethical framework particular to practice within forensic psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quizzes • Discussion forum • Court observation assignment • Final examination
CL03 : 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion forum • Court observation assignment • Final examination
CL04 : Engage in evidence-based, constructive and respectful communication on psycho-legal topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion forum • Court observation assignment • Final examination
CL05 : Locate and critically evaluate psychological research relevant to these topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court observation assignment

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Weekly quizzes Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: Monday of each week Due Date: 11:59pm Sunday of each week
Discussion forum Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: Monday of each week Due Date: 11.59pm Sunday of each week
Court observation assignment Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Week 1 Due Date: See each assignment part for due date
Final examination Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Exam period

Assessment Details

Weekly quizzes

Assessment Overview

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 few practice exam questions so you can see what exam questions for that week's material might look like. Once you have completed a quiz, you will see your mark. You can take each quiz as many times as you like within the week. Each quiz is worth 1.11% 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. See Moodle for more information.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Show familiarity with, and comprehension of various topics in Forensic Psychology.
- CL02 : Understand the ethical framework particular to practice within forensic psychology.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Discussion forum

Assessment Overview

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. Marks and feedback will be returned via Moodle within 10 working days from due date.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Show familiarity with, and comprehension of various topics in Forensic Psychology.
- CLO2 : Understand the ethical framework particular to practice within forensic psychology.
- CLO3 : 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.
- CLO4 : Engage in evidence-based, constructive and respectful communication on psycho-legal topics.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Court observation assignment

Assessment Overview

For this assignment, you will learn about court etiquette and observe court cases in-person. 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.

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 (15%)

For this part of the assignment, you will observe court cases in-person 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). Refer to the assignment sheet on Moodle for more information about this assignment and the marking criteria. Marks and feedback will be provided within 10 days of the due date for Part 2.

Part 3: Report (20%)

Once you have completed Part 2: Summary, you are required to prepare a 1600 word report addressing a psychological question relevant to the case you described in Part 2. 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). Refer to the assignment sheet on Moodle for more information about this assignment and the marking criteria. Marks and feedback will be provided 10 days from the due date for Part 3.

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- CL05 : Locate and critically evaluate psychological research relevant to these topics.

Assessment information

Flexibility in task completion - Short Extension

If you are struggling to meet the deadline for this assessment task for Part 2 (Observation & Summary) or Part 3 (Report), you may apply for a short extension of 2 days.

All short extension applications must be submitted *before* the task's due date.

For details on how to apply, and the conditions on applying, please visit the UNSW [Special Consideration](#) website.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Final examination

Assessment Overview

The final exam will be held in the university examination period **online**. 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. Feedback is available through inquiry with the Course Convenor.

Course Learning Outcomes

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Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

General Assessment Information

Students should be familiar with the School of Psychology Student Guide, which contains key staff contact details and important information about policies and procedures related to courses and assessment

Special Consideration: Students who experience circumstances outside of their control that prevent them from completing an assessment task by the assigned due date due can apply for Special Consideration. Special Consideration applications should include a medical certificate or other documentation and be submitted within 3 days of the sitting/due date.

Important note: UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address and advised of the official outcome. If the special consideration application is approved, you may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure and Psychology Student Guide.

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

All course assessments have been designed and implemented in accordance with [UNSW Assessment Policy](#).

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](#).

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 5 February - 11 February	Online Activity	Complete Getting Started Activities (Steps 1-6)
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Lecture	Introduction by JD
	Reading	Brigham (1999) - What is forensic psychology, anyway? (Assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Due Sunday February 18 at 11:59pm
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Lecture	Offence by KM
	Reading	Offence Lecture (Assessable) Davis & Dossetor (2010) - (Mis)perceptions of crime in Australia (Assessable) Daphne Donner Case Facts Report (Assessable) Daphne Donner Treatment Summary (Assessable) Perceptions of Crime - Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (Not assessable) Perceptions of Crime - 30min talk by Don Weatherburn (Not assessable) Casey (2005) - Law and order politics, public opinion polls and the media (Not assessable) Brown, Gottschall & Bennell (2015) - Criminal Behaviour (Not assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 1 Due Sunday February 25 at 11:59pm
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Lecture	Court by RK
	Reading	Week 3 Extra Resource (Assessable) Are docks fair on an accused? - The Law Report (Assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Due Sunday March 3 at 11:59pm
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Pre-trial by RK
	Reading	Intellectual disabilities and the law - The Law Report (Assessable) Acquired brain injuries in prison - The Law Report (Assessable) NSW Drug Court 3-part series - Earshot (Not assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Due Sunday March 10 at 11:59pm
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	Conviction by KM
	Reading	Wells (2003) - Eyewitness testimony (Assessable) McClellan (2011) - Looking inside the jury room (Assessable) Forensic science - Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (Not assessable) The Fiction of Memory - TED Talk by Elizabeth Loftus (Not assessable) Ronald Cotton - YouTube video (Not assessable) Bornstein (2011) - Jury decision making: Implications for and from psychology (Not assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 2 Due Sunday March 17 at 11:59pm
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Other	Flexibility Week - No lectures or assessments
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Sentencing by KM
	Reading	Mandatory Sentencing: Does it reduce crime? - ABC News FactCheck (Not assessable) 'You be the judge' Virtual Sentencing - Sentencing Advisory Council (Not assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Due Sunday March 31 at 11:59pm
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Punishment by RK
	Reading	BOCSAR Report Summary - Does going to prison reduce the risk of further offending? (Assessable) We are all criminals (Not assessable) Prison - Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (Not assessable) Death Penalty - Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (Not assessable) Ex-Prisoners - Episode 6 of ABC series "You Can't Ask That" (Not assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Due Sunday April 7 at 11:59pm
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	Ethics & Assessment by AM

	Reading	Haag (2006) - Ethical dilemmas faced by Correctional Psychologists in Canada (Not assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum Court Observation Assignment: Part 3 Due Sunday April 14 at 11:59pm
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Treatment by AM
	Reading	APS (2006) - Evidence-based psychological interventions in the treatment of mental disorders (Not assessable)
	Assessment	Weekly Quiz Discussion Forum x2 Due Sunday April 21 at 11:59pm

Attendance Requirements

Not Applicable - as no class attendance is required

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All prescribed resources are made available to students through Moodle.

Recommended Resources

All recommended resources are made available to students through Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Your feedback is invaluable to the continual improvement of this course. Whether it's refining course materials, adjusting the pace of the curriculum, or modifying assessment methods, your input guides our strategic choices. Both your ratings and written feedback will be evaluated to assess which areas of the course need to be improved and where actionable problems and solutions have been identified, these will be implemented as soon as possible to benefit future course cohorts. Because we view feedback as a continuous loop and not a one-time event, as we implement changes, we carefully monitor their effects and gather further feedback. This iterative process ensures that improvements are effective and aligned with your evolving needs.

It is also important to emphasise positive feedback as well, as this can help us identify the strengths of the course and when possible work to make the same principles apply throughout the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	James Dunn					Yes	Yes
Lecturer	Richard Kemp					No	No
	Kristy Martire					No	No
	Anita McGreg or					No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

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. 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, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can be located at:

- The [Current Students site](#),
- The [ELISE training site](#), and
- The [Use of AI for assessments](#) site.

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

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Special Consideration

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Important note: UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination

or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- [The Current Students Gateway](#)
- [Student Support](#)
- [Academic Skills and Support](#)
- [Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety](#)
- [Equitable Learning Services](#)
- [UNSW IT Service Centre](#)
- Science EDI Student [Initiatives](#), [Offerings](#) and [Guidelines](#)