

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	Forensic Mental Health		
<b>MODULE CODE</b>	PS4807 (L7)	<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	10 / 5 ECTS
<b>SCHOOL</b>	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE		

### MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

1. Identify theories of mental illness and personality disorder, with a focus on the application of forensic psychology to such offenders.
2. Describe the assessments and interventions applied, and examine the implications of working with offenders who present with mental illness, personality disorder and/or learning disability.
3. Outline the ethical and practical issues when assessing and treating offenders with mental disorders, examining issues such as “consent”, “capacity”, “responsibility” and “treatability”.
4. Develop students’ practical skills for dealing with clients who are highly distressed.
5. Identify the context in which forensic psychologists’ practice, with reference to the legal framework relating to mentally disordered offenders and the role of psychologists in the relation to this framework.

### MODULE CONTENT

The patient versus offender debate: Overview of the research, ethical and practical arguments and implications for risk assessment.

Working with mentally ill and personality-disordered offenders: Implications for assessment, management and treatment.

An introduction to mental illness, including schizophrenia, bi-polar affective disorder, anxiety disorders and depressive disorders.

Psychoses - hallucinations and delusions.

An introduction to personality disorders: What it is and the dimensional versus categorical debate.

Therapy interfering behaviours: Overview and practical techniques for minimising.

Mental disorders: Overview of the role of psychologists in relation to the legal framework, including the impact of D.S.P.D.

An introduction to working with distressed clients: Suicide and self-injury and practical techniques for dealing with acute mental health distress.

Ethical considerations when working with mentally disordered offenders: “Capacity”, “Consent”, “Responsibility” and “Treatability”.

### INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. Discuss relevant definitions of mental disorder and recognise the implications of this when working with a specific client group.
2. Identify the psychological theories relating to the development and understanding of mental illness, personality disorder or learning disability.
3. Demonstrate skills in independent learning and critical analysis appropriate to postgraduate study, such as enhanced critical evaluation skills.
4. Locate, select, synthesize and evaluate the relevant research literature in depth, on a specific aspect of mental disorder.

### TEACHING METHODS

The module will be taught via weekly sessions including formal lectures and practical seminars, with one independent learning session. The lectures will provide the theoretical background and knowledge of mental illness and mental disorder and the implications for forensic psychologists. The seminars will allow students the opportunity to learn and employ practical skills that would be appropriate for dealing with clients with high levels of emotional distress, and will allow them to critically examine the ethical and practical issues that must be considered when working with this client group.

## **ASSESSMENT METHODS**

This module is assessed through an essay (60%) and a presentation (40%).