

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Psychology and the Legal System		
MODULE CODE	PS4801 (L7)	CREDIT VALUE	15 / 7.5 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE		

MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

1. Explore the role of psychology in the legal process.
2. Review definitions of crime and criminality, with respect to offender, victim and witness.
3. Identify psychological theories of punishment and treatment, including probation.
4. Explain and illustrate the concept of throughcare.
5. Develop students' skills in reading and interpreting primary sources.

MODULE CONTENT

Definitions of crime.

The measurement of crime

Litigation vs. mediation and arbitration.

Juvenile justice and detention orders.

Punishment and treatment: The role of detention and custody.

The seamless sentence: the throughcare process.

The Victims in the Criminal Justice System

Crime as a social function.

The role of probation.

Desistance from crime.

Identifying suspects.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Select and interpret primary sources and integrate these to provide informed analysis of the role of psychology within the legal process.
2. Demonstrate skills in independent learning and critical analysis appropriate to postgraduate study.

TEACHING METHODS

The module will be taught via weekly formal lectures and a seminar. The lectures will provide details of criminal and civil legal processes and the role of forensic psychologists within these processes, whilst the seminar will enable students to examine particular concepts relating to practical and ethical considerations (of forensic psychologists) arising from operating within judicial systems in the UK.

Assessment will be via one 2.5 hour exam. One question will be a compulsory seen question and the other two exam questions will be unseen from a choice of five.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an examination (100%).