

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Psychology, Investigation and the Courtroom		
MODULE CODE	PS4805 (L7)	CREDIT VALUE	20 / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE		

MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

1. Explore psychological theories and methods that can be applied both to forensic investigative techniques and to courtroom processes. These will build on undergraduate knowledge of the core disciplines of social psychology, cognitive psychology and individual differences.
2. Demonstrate skills in independent learning and critical analysis appropriate to postgraduate study.
3. Develop students' skills in conducting appropriate literature searches and reviews.
4. Develop students' understanding and appreciation of ethical and good practice guidelines.

MODULE CONTENT

Topics that may be covered include:

- Child and vulnerable witnesses in court.
- Giving of expert testimony.
- Eyewitness testimony.
- Forensic lie detection.
- Memory and interviewing.
- The psychology of the judge and jury.

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 contribution that psychology can make to the areas of forensic investigation and the courtroom.
2. Demonstrate skills in independent learning and critical analysis appropriate to postgraduate study such as application of independently sourced literature and enhanced critical evaluation.
3. Locate, select, synthesize and evaluate the relevant research literature in depth, on a specific aspect of psychological investigation.

TEACHING METHODS

The module will be taught via formal lectures, some including group exercises, and seminar, all of which are delivered by staff with current research interests in those areas. The lectures will provide details of the theories and methods behind forensic investigative techniques and courtroom processes, whilst the seminar will enable students to examine particular concepts in more depth and allow an opportunity for discussion of relevant issues. The assessment requires critical evaluation of evidence to be presented in a format used by Forensic Psychologists.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through An essay (70%) and an examination (30%).