2017-2018

Forensic and investigative Psychology

Category: Psychology
Code: IS283
Level: 5
Credits: 15

Contact details: TUTOR TO BE CONFIRMED. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the syllabus please contact Dr Dave Smalley: davidsm@sussex.ac.uk.

Outline

This 15 credit upper division elective module is concerned with the application of psychological theory and research to criminological and forensic contexts.

It will consider issues such as the following. How reliable are eyewitnesses’ accounts of what they have seen, and their identifications of faces they have encountered? Why is that faces of other races are more likely to be misidentified in police line-ups? Can people be recognised reliably from ID cards, passports and CCTV? What is wrong with current face recall systems? Do children make reliable witnesses? How is memory affected by stress? How can we tell whether or not someone is lying? Why do some people become criminals but not others? What is the relationship between mental illness and crime?

The module integrates lecturing and small group teaching to support students in taking a critical perspective on contemporary and applied cognitive psychology.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a sound knowledge of contemporary theories and research on cognitive psychology in real-world contexts.
2. Evaluate the conceptual and methodological issues involved in applying these theories to real life situations.
3. Demonstrate an ability to evaluate the adequacy of empirical research on the topics covered.
4. Communicate theoretical ideas and practical information through group assignments in class.
Assessment of Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of assessment</th>
<th>Learning outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Duration or word length</th>
<th>Day and week of submission</th>
<th>Submission point</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESSAY</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Thursday W4</td>
<td>ISS Office</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP PRESENTATION</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
<td>5-10 mins per student</td>
<td>Thursday W2</td>
<td>In class</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>OBSERVATION</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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Teaching Structure and Delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Method</th>
<th>Session length</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>3 x weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>3 x weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td>Approx. 114 hours</td>
<td>As required</td>
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Seminars
Seminars follow on from each lecture. They offer students the opportunity to work collaboratively in groups to explore some of the contemporary debates identified in the lecture in more detail. Seminar activities are varied in their nature but have a focus on encouraging critical thinking and applications of theory and research within predefined contexts.

Prerequisites
There are no strict prerequisites for this module but it is strongly recommended that students have successfully completed at least one previous module in any area of psychology (preferably applied).
Module Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Problems with eye witness testimony</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Face composite systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Identification parades and own-group biases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Theories of crime</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mental disorder and offending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Personality, psychopathy and offending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Aggression and violent offenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sexual offending and stalking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Detection deception</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Interviewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cognitive biases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance policy, class etiquette, academic integrity

Students are expected to attend and engage fully in all lectures and seminars. In order to do so, they will need to have completed the essential reading before each session. Engagement in the seminars activities is assessed by means of an observation report completed by the tutor at the end of the module. In order to achieve a good observation report grade, students need to arrive on time, regularly make positive contributions in the workshops, and respect the opinions of their classmates.

Consistent with all teaching at the University of Sussex, strict adherence to the principles of academic integrity is expected and suspected plagiarism will be dealt with by our academic misconduct panel.
Reading

Core text

Due to the applied and interdisciplinary nature of the topics covered in this module, no single textbook covers all of the topics satisfactorily. Therefore individual research articles are preferred to a core text for this module. However, the following offer some excellent reviews of many of the topics covered:


Additional reading

Factors affecting eyewitness testimony


Face reconstruction systems


Identification parades and own-group biases


**An introduction to psychological theories of offending: Why do some people commit crimes?**


*Another ‘core’ text we will be drawing on in various lectures.*


**Mental disorder and offending**


**Personality, psychopathy and offending**


**Aggression and violent offenders**


**Sex offending**


**Detecting Deception**


**Interviewing**


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