



Forensic Psychology (Semester 4, 3 ECTS) [Elective]

Description

This course examines the psychology of crime, psychopathology, deviance, and models of offending, criminal detection, crime scene analysis, forensic case studies, diagnosis and treatment, and crime prevention. Consideration is given to police interviewing, eye witness testimony, face recognition, and legal and courtroom psychology; the impact on victims; individual and collective violence in the streets, schools, home, and as represented in the media; sexual crime; drugs and crime, including the dynamics of use, abuse, addiction, recovery, psychological impact of drugs on individuals and families, and the socioeconomic costs for society; current trends in diagnosis and treatment; and community prevention strategies. Comparisons are made between psychological and legal assumptions and models of criminal behaviour and behaviour change, as well as in relation values and morality. In addition, consideration is given to the role of psychology in the legal process, the rules of procedure, the jury system, and the psychologist in the courtroom. Attention is also given to forensic psychology practice in Iceland.

Learning Outcomes

On completing the course students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the many facets of forensic psychology
- demonstrate understanding of the role of psychology within criminal justice systems in Iceland and abroad

Assessment

Students are required to participate in classroom reading and discussion assignments, and are assessed by essay and end-of-semester examination.