

**Code**

FOR2001 (Forensic Psychology)

**ECTS-credits**

7.5 ECTS

**Organisational unit**

CES

**Coordinators**

Jenny Schell-Leugers, PhD

Anna Sagana, PhD

Maureen Steijvers

**Description**

Forensic Psychology

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with applications of psychology to the legal system and to raise awareness about the problems that arise when psychology is applied to law in practice. In the course of 3 weeks, students will take part in an intensive educational program that covers the most important topics in the field of Forensic Psychology. During the course four main themes within the field of forensic psychology will be addressed. The first is eyewitness memory, which consists of eyewitness identification and (false) memories. The second is about interviewing and interrogation. Within this topic, the students learn about police interrogation techniques, deception detection and (false) confessions. As a third issue, cognitive biases in the legal context will be dealt with. Students will get acquainted with the interpretation and reliability of forensic evidence and the role of biases in experts' decisions. Lastly, as a fourth area, students will learn about the association of mental illness and crime. Within this topic students will examine the psychopathic mind and the psychology of sex offenders. Different case studies, tools and experiments will be discussed in order to allow the students to get acquainted with the methods used in this discipline. In each tutorial, research articles and case material descriptions related to a theme will be studied and discussed. The examination will consist of question-based tests taken throughout the course, a final symposium where students will present and discuss topics related to Forensic Psychology and a final paper.

Disclaimer trips: trips and visits related to the course are conditional. E.g. Dutch travel advice should be positive regarding the region that will be visited and institutions should be able to accept visitors. In case a proposed trip or visit cannot continue due to circumstances, alternatives may be organized.

Disclaimer ECTS: the number of ECTS credits earned after successfully concluding this course is the equivalent of 7,5 ECTS credits respectively according to Maastricht University's guidelines. Please consult with your home university if these credits will be accepted as part of your programme and, if necessary, converted to the credit system acknowledged by your home university.

**Goals**

- Provide knowledge of some of the the current issues, controversies and trends in the filed of Forensic Psychology
- Familiarize students with the terminology of Forensic Psychology
- Provide in-depth comprehension of the psychological and legal aspects of the field
- Give descriptions of the methods typically used and the experimental work done in this discipline

**Instruction language**

EN

**Prerequisites**

Students should have a basic background in psychology and an interested in the legal system.

**Recommend literature**

Various book chapters and journal articles will be provided digitally at the beginning of the course.

**Teaching methods**

▪ Assignments ▪ Lectures ▪ PBL ▪ Presentations ▪ Work in subgroups

**Assessment methods**

▪ Exams ▪ Final paper ▪ Presentation