

Psychological Foundations of Forensic Psychology

Code: 44451
ECTS Credits: 12

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4317571 Legal and Forensic Psychology	OB	0	1

Contact

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Other comments on languages

20% English / 80% Spanish.

Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

Teachers

María Carmen Navarro Villanueva

Jenny Cubells Serra

Sergio Mora Montserrat

Monica Balltandre Pla

Elena Garrido Gaitán

External teachers

Astrid Vidal

Ricardo Yáñez

Santiago Bueno

Àngel Cuquerella

Prerequisites

No requirements.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This module aims to develop the Legal and Procedural common basis of the field in which the professional role is going to be performed, eminently in the legal field. Likewise, essential tools will be provided for the understanding of the profession such as the structuring of the report, ethical aspects, structuring the expert process, as well as the important distinction between Legal and Forensic Psychology, initiating the bases in this module of both areas of knowledge that will be developed in the following modules.

Thus, it is intended to:

- Know the bases and differences between Forensic and Legal Psychology, as well as their different areas of work
- Provide the necessary knowledge related to the judicial processes in which they intervene as a forensic or legal psychologist.
- Strengthen the ethical, historical, documentary search and basic research foundations for Forensic and Legal Psychology.
- Know the language and processes of disciplines related to forensic work (police, forensics, court processes).

Competences

- Apply and compare forensic psychological assessment techniques.
- Apply the applicable regulations and show ethical and professional responsibility in the practice of forensic psychology.
- Contextualise the competences and specific concepts of general psychology within the area of legal and forensic psychology.
- Knowledge and understanding that provide a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and / or applying ideas, often in a research context.
- Organise and plan activities in order to achieve professional goals.
- Students can communicate their conclusions and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.
- That students have the learning skills that enable them to continue studying in a way that will be largely self-directed or autonomous.
- Use the basic techniques and suitable methodologies to draw up and defend judicial reports.
- Work cooperatively, in complex or uncertain environments and with limited resources, in a multidisciplinary context, recognising and adjusting to the roles played by the different professionals.

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the psychological concepts that are relevant in the field of legal and forensic psychology.
2. Know and know how to interpret the different legal regulations that are used in the forensic practice of psychology.
3. Knowledge and understanding that provide a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and / or applying ideas, often in a research context.
4. Organise and plan activities in order to achieve professional goals.
5. Select and administer the appropriate instruments for forensic psychological assessment.
6. Select the appropriate techniques for the preparation of judicial reports.
7. Students can communicate their conclusions and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.
8. That students have the learning skills that enable them to continue studying in a way that will be largely self-directed or autonomous.
9. Work cooperatively, in complex or uncertain environments and with limited resources, in a multidisciplinary context, recognising and adjusting to the roles played by the different professionals.

Content

This module is structured in the following contents:

- Historical development in the legal and forensic field. Beginnings and development of Forensic Psychology.
- Legal and ethical basis. Ethical principles. Ethics applied to forensic practice. Mal Praxis and ethical protocols for intervention.
- Role of the expert. Types of forensic roles. Training to act as an expert.
- Psychological expert process. General procedure. Application areas. The report, the testimony.
- Basis of Legal Psychology.

- Psychological expertise within the legal process. General aspects of psychological expert evidence. Principles of criminal, civil, family, labor and canonical procedures.
- Forensic evidence: judicial police information. Functions of the judicial police. The scientific police.
- Forensic evidence: medical-forensic information. Fields of forensic medicine.

Methodology

This module is of a professional nature, which involves masterful teaching by experts in their subjects. Thus, a methodology is proposed in which different contents will be developed in each session, taught by the different specialists. In the course of the sessions, there will be activities that might be assessed as stated in the assessment section. Methodologically, these activities will consist of case resolution, participation in debates and/or exams and tests, etc. Finally, students will have to do autonomous course work to pass the subject.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes and practical sessions	60	2.4	2, 1, 8, 5, 6, 3
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	20	0.8	4, 7
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous work	220	8.8	4, 8, 5, 6, 3, 9

Assessment

The approach that we propose aims to gather different scores on participation in the subject that allows proceeding to the continuous and definitive evaluation of the students. A continuous assessment will be carried out, measured through three evidences. The final grade for the module is between 0 and 10. It will be considered that a student has passed the subject if, in the weighted average of the different evidences, they obtain a score equal to or greater than 5, being the minimum grade for each piece of evidence a score of 4 for weighting purposes.

a) THEORETICAL EXAM (40% OF THE FINAL MARK). There will be a multiple choice exam on the content of the module.

b) PRACTICAL EXAM (30% OF THE FINAL MARK). A case resolution exam will be carried out on the content of the module.

c) WORKS AND REPORTS (30% OF THE FINAL MARK). During the course of the Module, the delivery of a work will be requested, which may consist of an expert report, a follow-up report or a practical case analysis. Specific information on the case and/or type of report will be provided at the beginning of the semester via Moodle.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
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Practical tests and reports	30%	0	0	2, 1, 4, 7, 5, 3, 9
Theoretical tests (exams)	40%	0	0	2, 1, 8, 3, 9
Written work and reports	30	0	0	2, 1, 4, 7, 8, 6, 3

Bibliography

As this is a subject with diverse content, lecturers will provide selected bibliography for each of the different areas and topics covered.

Software

Not foreseen.