



CRIM-103 – Psychological Explanations of Criminal And Deviant Behaviour

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022
Course Outline Review Date: 2025-03-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course is an introduction to biological, psychiatric, psychological and social/environmental explanations of criminal and deviant behaviour. This course explores specific types of behaviours such as violent offences (homicide), sexual offences and family violence through a psychological lens. The unique nature and needs of Indigenous, female, youth, and mentally ill offenders will also be explored.

Program Information:

This course is required for the Criminal and Social Justice Certificate. This course can be used as an elective in the Arts and Sciences Certificate and Diploma programs and the Child, Youth and Family Studies Diploma with a focus on youth justice.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	

Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

- Earned a minimum grade of C+ (65%) in at least 1 of the following:
 - [ENST 12](#) – English Studies 12
 - [ENFP 12](#) – English First Peoples 12
 - [ENGL090](#) – English – Provincial Level

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at other BC institutions, please see <http://www.bctransferguide.ca>. All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in BC or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrollment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Serin, R. Forth, A., Brown, S., Nunes, K., Bennell, C., & Pozzulo, J. (2017). *Psychology of Criminal Behaviour: A Canadian Perspective*. Second Edition.: Pearson Education Canada.

ISBN: 9780132980050

Additional readings will be made available in class or online.

**Students should ensure they get the correct edition of this text as older editions cannot be used.

Equipment:

- Reliable, consistent and regular online access to COTROnline course page
- High speed internet access
- Adobe Reader
- Word Processor

*Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator
<http://go.cotr.bc.ca/tuition/tCalc.asp> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.*

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- evaluate the complexity of criminal behavior;
 - recall and demonstrate knowledge of statistics on crime in Canada;
 - demonstrate knowledge of forensic psychology;
 - critically examine forensic psychology
 - explain psychosocial perspectives on the causes of crime;
 - apply psychosocial theories to explain criminal behavior;
 - identify needs to support mental illness to wellness;
 - explain complexities and nature of trauma;
 - articulate and explain the impacts of colonization on Indigenous peoples;
 - suggest culturally appropriate responses to support wellness of Indigenous peoples in the justice system;
 - explain the over representation of individuals with mental illness in the justice system;
 - recognize complex needs of individuals in the justice system;
 - demonstrate awareness of the complex, unique and varied motivations of offenders;
 - research and critically examine current issues and myths about offenders and crime in Canada;
 - critically examine and research roles that media plays on criminal behaviour;
 - assess and demonstrate the differences in the characteristics of different types of offenders and their subsequent needs;
 - recognize the psychological impacts on offenders as they move through the justice system; and
 - clearly articulate the process and meaning of NCRMD in Canada
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Course Topics:

- Forensic Psychology

- Role of Psychology in Criminal Justice Field
- Definitions of Crime and Crime Trends in Canada
- Theories of Crime: Biological; Learning & Social
- Impacts of Trauma Risk Assessments
- Youth Offending
- Economic Crime
- Violent Offending (Violence, Homicide, Mass murder, Serial killing)
- Family Violence
- Sexual Offenders
- Psychopathy
- Mentally Ill Offenders
- Female Offenders
- Indigenous Offenders

See instructor’s Course Information Sheet for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Assignments	15%
Midterm Exam(s)	20%
Project/Presentation (oral)	15%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%
Participation (class discussions & small assignments)	5%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Pass requirements: All assignments and evaluations must be completed.

Evaluation Notes: A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may

approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
 - Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
 - Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
 - Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
 - Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty
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Equivalent Course(s) and Course Code Changes

Equivalent Course: Students who have received COTR credit for CRIM 103 may not receive additional credit for PSYC 103.

Prior Course Code: CRIM 103/PSYC 103 >> CRIM 103

Date changed: April 2011

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.