



PSYC-103 – Psychological Explanations of Criminal and Deviant Behaviour

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Winter 2024
Course Outline Review Date: 2029-03-01

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. Students will also delve into the field of forensic psychology. This course explores specific types of behaviours such as violent offences (homicide), sexual offences, economically motivated crimes and intimate partner violence through a psychological lens. The unique nature and needs of justice impacted Indigenous and Black individuals, females, youth, and those with mental illnesses 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 either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment 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:

Brown, S., Olver, M.E. Babchisin, K. M. & Forth, A. (2023). *Psychology of Criminal Behaviour* (3rd ed.) Pearson Education Canada

<https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/books/9780137703289>

Additional readings will be made available in class or online.

**Please ensure you get the correct edition of the 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 <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Define key terminology, nature, scope and impacts of crime in Canada
- evaluate the complexity of criminal behaviour;
- Describe various theories/ explanations, and the recent research on crime and criminal behaviours
- examine forensic and correctional psychology
- explain complexities and the nature of trauma;
- explain the impacts of colonization on Indigenous Peoples;
- Incorporate culturally appropriate responses to support wellness of justice impacted Indigenous Peoples
- Evaluate how different risk factors and assessment methods are used in the justice system
- Distinguish between justice impacted youth and adults
- Identify evidence and theoretical based practice
- Identify the complex needs and motivations of individuals in the justice system;
- Describe theories, motivations, risk and protective factors, assessments, preventions and treatments for various yet unique groups of individuals who are justice impacted
- Explain the over-representation of individuals with mental illnesses in the justice system; and
- Articulate the process and meaning of NCRMD in Canada.

Course Topics:

- Definitions of Crime and Crime Trends in Canada
- Forensic and Correctional Psychology
- Theories of Crime: Biological; Evolutionary, Learning & Social
- Impacts of Trauma
- Canadian Corrections in practice
- Justice-Impacted youth
- Economically Motivated Crimes
- Substance Use and Crime
- Violent Offending (Violence, Homicide, Mass murder, Serial killing)
- Intimate Partner and Family Violence
- Sexual Offending
- Psychopathic Offending
- Mental Disorder in the Criminal Justice System
- Justice-Impacted Girls and Women
- Justice-Involved Indigenous Persons

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 & activities)	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 PSYC 103 may not receive additional credit for CRIM 103.

Prior Course Code: CRIM 103/PSYC 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.