



FICHA DE UNIDADE CURRICULAR

2020/2021

Designation

Law and Psychology

Lecturers

Prof. Doutor Mário Boto Ferreira (coordinator)

Prof. Doutora Maria Manuela Calheiros

Prof. Doutora Rute Pires

Prof. Doutora Rute Saraiva (FD-UL)

Credits (ECTS)

6 ECTS

Teaching hours

Four hours per week: One theoretical lesson (2 hours) and one applied lesson (2 hours)

Course description

The course offers a survey of theory and empirical research in psychology and law. It includes the presentation and discussion of research in psychology with applications to the forensic and legal domain.

Discussions will be based on readings previously assigned to students. Students are expected to read the assigned material before classes and be prepared to participate.

Goals

1. To provide a general perspective of theory and empirical research in psychology and law.
2. To develop a critical view of the contributes of psychology to the legal context

Competences

In the end of the course students should be able to:

1. To identify and explain the relevance of socio-psychological theories for the legal system and the law.
2. To demonstrate a basic understanding of the structure and function of the Law and in particular de Portuguese Law.



3. Acknowledge myths and distortions about psychology and the law.
4. To use results from research in psychology to make an informed critique of the perceptions and practices of the different agents of the legal system.

Pré-Requisitos * non applicable

Topics

- Introduction to Psychology and Law
- Clinical forensic psychology
- The Law and the Portuguese legal system
- Human Memory: false memories and false confessions
- Judgment and decision in the forensic context
- Emotions: provocation and premeditation in the forensic context
- Popular notions of justice and the legal system

References

Monahan, J., & Walker, L. (2010). *Social science in law: Cases and materials* (7th ed.). New York, NY: Foundation Press.

Fulero, S. M. Wrightsman, L. S. (2009). *Forensic Psychology*. Wadsworth Publishing.

Other references will be provided during the course

Teaching methods

Theoretical-practical lessons based on the presentation and discussion of the program topics followed by the discussion of legal cases informed by relevant social psychological theory and research.

Evaluation

1. Group assignment: research report about one of the topics of the program (50%);
2. Individual critical reflection on conceptual questions raised by the discussion of the topics of the program (25%). Students are requested to hand in at least one critical reflection during the semester (for students who opt to make more than one reflection only the best grade will be considered for evaluation)
3. Group critical reflection concerning study cases presented during classes (25%).

More details and dead-lines of the abovementioned assignments will be announced in the beginning of the semester



Grade improvement

Grades corresponding to elements 1 and 2 may be improved with the presentation of new assignments. Element 3 corresponds to assignments presented, discussed and evaluated during classes and hence they cannot be repeated for grade improvement.

assiduity ***

Students are required to attend at least 2/3 of the applied lessons to be approved in this course.

Specific rules for students under exceptional conditions

*** Assiduity rules do not apply to students in the following exceptional conditions: Working students, High competition athletes, Leaders of students' associations in the University of Lisbon; military students; Students with children, Students with special educational needs.

Teaching language: Portuguese