



COURSE UNIT INFORMATION SHEET (*SYLLABUS*)

2023/2024

Study Programme _____Masters in Cognitive and Social Psychology_____

Name Psychology and the law
Teaching staff (Also indicate the Professor in charge) Prof. Doutor Mário Boto Ferreira (coordinator) Prof. Doutora Rute Pires Prof. Doutora Manuela Calheiros
ECTS 6
Functioning Four hours per week: One theoretical lesson (2 hours) and one applied lesson (2 hours)
Learning goals <ol style="list-style-type: none">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
Skills to be developed In the end of the course students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.

Prerequisites (precedences) *

Contents

- 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

Bibliography

Bartol, C. R., & Bartol, A. M. (2018). Psychology and law: Research and practice (2nd Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Bartol, C. R., & Bartol, A. M. (2021). Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Research and Application (6th Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

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 Regimes (General and/or Alternative)

General

Evaluation Elements

(Dates due, weights, minimum required grades)

1. Group assignments to be completed and handed in during the semester (1/3 of the grade);



2. Written individual test (1/3);

3. Research report (1/3).

Minimum grade for all elements: 9.5

Rules for grade improvement

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

Rules for students having previously failed the course unit *

Repeating students must complete all the assessment elements

Requirements on attendance and punctuality

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

Rules for special students

(workers, elite athletes, student body leaders, military, fathers/mothers, with special needs) *

Language of instruction

Portuguese

Disciplinary violations and penalties

According to the Evaluation of Learning Regulation of the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Lisbon, the following behaviors are considered as disciplinary offenses subject to disciplinary action:

- a) To use or attempt to use materials, information, notes, study resources or other objects and equipment not authorized in academic exercises;
- b) To help or try to help a colleague in committing a disciplinary offense;
- c) To submit the same written work for evaluation in different course units without permission from the instructors, even if with minor changes;
- d) To present someone else's work as one's own;



- e) To forge, or change without permission from the author, any information or citation in an academic work;
- f) To interfere, change or attempt to change grades;
- g) To try to prevent or interfere with the proper functioning of classes, research or other academic activities;
- h) To make false accusations regarding instructors, governance bodies, other students or non-teaching staff of the FPUL;
- i) To falsify signatures in attendance sheets, documents relating to evaluation elements or in any official document relating to an academic process or status.

Disciplinary offenses committed in any assessment element can lead to its annulment, and must be reported to the Pedagogical Council or, considering their gravity and repetition, may lead to other penalties, to be determined by the Rector of the University of Lisbon.

* If applicable