

## Forensic Psychology (B001499)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 4.0**

**Study time 120 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Verbeke, Lize

PP07

lecturer-in-charge

De Clercq, Barbara

PP07

co-lecturer

Van Hiel, Alain

PP07

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

[Bachelor of Science in Criminological Sciences](#)

**crdts**

4

**offering**

A

[Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences\(main subject Criminological Sciences\)](#)

4

A

[Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences](#)

4

A

[Master of Science in Criminological Sciences](#)

4

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Forensic Psychology, Psychology & Law, Criminological Psychology

**Position of the course**

This is an optional course in the master of law or criminological sciences. This course adds to the multidisciplinary knowledge about criminal behavior. The specific goals of this course are the gain of insight in how Psychology and Law interact and are complementary to each other. This is an in-depth course that extends upon themes that are seen in the courses "Social Psychology" and "Forensic Psychiatry".

**Contents**

This course exists of three parts.

**Part I** focuses on the underlying mechanisms and developmental processes of different forms of antisocial/violent/deviant behavior (e.g. sexual violence, partner violence and radicalization). Etiological bio-psycho-social theories with attention for biological (e.g. neurological deviances), psychological (e.g. personality traits) and social (e.g. environmental factors) risk factors will be elaborated and discussed.

In **Part II** we focus on offender rehabilitation. Current leading models (i.e. the Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) and Good Lives Model (GLM)) are discussed, including their implications for processes of risk taxation and – management and treatment.

The final **Part III** elaborates on aspects of Legal Psychology, focusing on how psychological processes (e.g. memory, perception, social pressure) may influence legal practice. In this vein, we focus for example on the interrogation process, false confessions and witness statements. In each part, we will focus on the translation of theoretical insights to clinical and criminological practice. Therefore, different guest speakers from different forensic contexts (e.g. prison, forensic psychiatry) will be invited

**Initial competences**

Credit of the course Social Psychology or having acquired the competences of this course in another way.

**Final competences**

1 1. Being able to elaborate on the underlying mechanisms and developmental processes of

- different forms of criminal behavior.
- 2 2. Being able to link different frameworks of different forms of criminal behavior with each other.
  - 3 3. Having knowledge on current leading models and diagnostic instruments in offender rehabilitation
  - 4 4. Being able to explain the role of psychological processes in legal practice.
  - 5 5. Knowing how theoretical forensic psychological frameworks are translated in forensic psychological practice
  - 6 6. Being able to apply theoretical insights on forensic case studies

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Lecture

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

During the lectures, we will focus on theory. The theory will be illustrated with examples from practice, case studies and exercises. Also different guest colleges with forensic practitioners are planned

#### **Study material**

Type: Handouts

Name: Handouts of the lessons - to be printed by the student

Indicative price: € 15

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : one-time

#### **References**

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

- Contact during the lessons
- Interactive support through Ufora
- Possibility for individual appointments

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Written exam: closed book

- multiple choice questions to evaluate theoretical knowledge and insight
- open questions that require critical reflection and integration and the application of theory on real-life cases and examples from practice.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

All points (100%) are obtained in the periodic evaluation (written exam).

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

Students with a job have access to all online documents through Ufora.

