

<b>Study Programme: Psychology</b>
<b>Course Unit Title: Introduction to Legal and Forensic Psychology</b>
<b>Course Unit Code: 21MP023</b>
<b>Name of Lecturer(s): Prof. Dr. Irena Bošković, Associate Profesor</b>
<b>Type and Level of Studies: Master program</b>
<b>Course Status (compulsory/elective): Elective</b>
<b>Semester (winter/summer): Winter</b>
<b>Language of instruction: Serbian/English</b>
<b>Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): face to face</b>
<b>Number of ECTS Allocated: 6</b>
<b>Prerequisites: Cognitive and Clinical Psychology basic knowledge</b>
<p><b>Course Aims:</b></p> <p>During this course in legal and forensic psychology, the goal is to equip students with the ability to critically analyse legal processes, actively contribute to their improvement, and address biases among all actors in legal proceedings. Furthermore, the aim of education on the forensic role of psychologists is to help students understand the impact of mental health issues on an individual's criminal behaviour, as well as methods for assessing these issues and exploring possibilities for rehabilitation and prevention of antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>The first part of the course will be dedicated to legal psychology, during which we will strive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) train students to understand the role of various phenomena from cognitive psychology within the legal context, and</li> <li>b) enable them to recognize and understand biases in reasoning and in the approach to interviewing and judging suspects in criminal proceedings.</li> </ul> <p>In the second half of the course, students will focus more on forensic psychology, where they will be presented with information aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the practical application of clinical psychology knowledge in legal (criminal and civil) contexts, and</li> <li>b) the proper evaluation of the most commonly referenced psychiatric and physical conditions in forensic settings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b></p> <p>Upon completion of the course, students are expected to integrate newly acquired knowledge with pre-existing information from cognitive psychology (e.g., memory, perception, reasoning biases) and clinical psychology (e.g., diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders) into a coherent whole that can be applied in legal contexts. In particular, students are expected to be capable of adequately informing and educating other actors in the legal system (e.g., police officers, judges) about the most appropriate ways of approaching individuals involved in civil and criminal proceedings. Additionally, students will be trained to recognize the link between psychiatric diagnoses and antisocial behavior, identify the main indicators of that relationship, and properly assess it while adhering to ethical and empirical principles of psychological practice.</p>
<p><b>Syllabus:</b></p> <p><i>Theory</i></p> <p>In the first half of the course, dedicated to legal psychology, the content will include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>I Lie Detection</b></li> <li><b>II Interrogation of Suspects and Suspect Identification</b></li> <li><b>III Memory in the Legal Context</b></li> <li><b>IV Biases in Legal Decision-Making</b></li> </ul> <p>In the second half of the course, focused on forensic psychology, the content will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>V Defining Forensic Psychological Assessment</b></li> <li><b>VI The Relationship Between Mental Health and Antisocial Behaviour</b></li> </ul>

**VII Assessing the Authenticity of Symptoms in Court****VIII Treatment of Forensic Patients***Practice*

Students will regularly practice the use of psychological assessment instruments, as well as the writing of findings within forensic reports. Case studies and video materials will be used.

**Required Reading:**

Bošković, I. (2025). *Legal and Forensic Psychology: What It Is and What It is Not*. Springer Nature.

**Weekly Contact Hours: 3**

**Lectures: 10**

**Practical work: 8**

**Teaching Methods:**

Lectures and workshop groups.

**Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):**

<b>Pre-exam obligations</b>	points	<b>Final exam</b>	points
Active class participation		written exam	45
Practical work	10	oral exam	/
Preliminary exam(s)	45	.....	
Seminar(s)	/	/	/

The methods of knowledge assessment may differ; the table presents only some of the options: written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminars, etc.