

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

PSYC 2285: Introduction to Forensic Psychology

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

This course requires either of these prerequisites

PSYC 1110 - General Psychology (Minimum grade: 2.0 GPA Equivalent)

A score of 3 on test Advanced Placement Psychology

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

(MnTC Goals 2 and 5)

Prerequisites (must have a grade of C or better): PSYC 1110

This course provides an introductory survey of the fascinating psychological sub-field of forensic psychology. This course includes examinations of the roles of psychological science in criminal courts, juvenile courts, family and civil courts, corrections, and policing and public safety.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 02/03/2021 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. History of forensic psychology
2. Research methods in forensic psychology
3. Psychology in criminal courts
4. Psychology in juvenile courts
5. Psychology in family courts
6. Psychology in civil courts
7. Psychology in correctional settings
8. Psychology in policing and public safety
9. Forensic psychology and the media
10. Cultural competence in the legal system and public safety

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Identify the unique issues addressed by psychology and psychological science in criminal, juvenile, civil, and family courts and in corrections, policing, and public safety.
2. Discuss and analyze theories, research, and policies related to forensic psychology.
3. Evaluate cultural and systemic biases that impact decision-making in various settings where forensic psychological science is applied.
4. Apply psychological theories and prominent research findings to problems in the legal and criminal justice systems.
5. Compare and contrast the functions of psychologists and psychological science in various legal and public safety settings.
6. Examine personal beliefs, attitudes, and biases in the context of forensic psychological science.
7. Distinguish realities of the roles of psychologists and psychological science in legal and public safety settings from myths in popular media.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted