Institute of Criminology

CRM1004 Biological & Psychological Theories of Crime (4ects)
Lecturer: Ms R Holland B.A (Hon.) MSc CPsychol CSci
Forensic Psychologist

AIM
This is an introductory course in psychological explanations of criminal behaviour. It covers the main theoretical perspectives dealing with contributing factors and correlates of criminal behaviour and the view of crime as a function of individual differences in biological predisposition, personality correlates, social and cognitive processes.

Students will be able to list various ways of how psychology explains and views criminal behaviour. They will be able to identify various psychological processes and explain how these influence offenders and behavioural outcomes.

Topics
Introduction
Theories of crime
Psycho-biological theories
Family interaction patterns
Psychological theories
Personality correlates of crime
Mental disorder and crime
The cognitive behavioural approach

Bibliography


Assessment
Assignment : 100% (2,000words)
Course Content

Introduction
Forensic and Criminal Psychology

Theories of Crime
- Macro-level theories
- Locality level theories
- Socialisation influence theories
- Individual theories
Reading: D. Howitt pgs.56-58

Historical Orientations
- Consensus
- Conflict
- Interactionist
- Classical Theories
- Positivist Theories
- Radical Criminology
- Labelling Theories
Reading: C.R. Hollin pg. 1 - 12

Measurement of Crime
Police records
Offender surveys
Victim surveys
Reading: C.R. Hollin pg. 12 - 21

Psycho-Biological Theories
Anatomical Correlates
Sex Differences
Chromosomal Abnormalities
Genetic Inheritance
Family Studies
Adoption Studies
Twin Studies
Reading: P. Feldman pg. 139 - 153
**Family Interaction Patterns**
- Training Children
- Parenting Styles
- Peers and Crime
- Media and Crime
- Childhood variables
- Delinquency and school performance
- The community context

**Reading:** Feldman pgs.188 - 217

**Moral Development**
- Moral thinking and moral action
- Morality and conformity
- Rules, roles and values in orientation to authority
- Kohlber’s theory of moral development
- Mechanisms of moral disengagement

**Reading:** G.M Stephenson Chapter 2

**Intelligence and Crime**
- Intelligence and Crime
- Verbal and non-verbal intelligence
- High I.Q and crime

**Reading:** Feldman pgs.154-157

**Psychological Theories**
- Who is the criminal
- Models of Personality
  - Typological
  - Dimensional
  - Specificity
- Consistency in Criminal Behaviour
- Multivariate Inventories
- Univariate Personality Constructs
- Delinquent Sub-Types
- Psycho-dynamic theory
- Eysenck's theory of personality

**Reading:** G M Stephenson Chapter 1
  P Feldman pg.. 157 – 171
Mental Disorder and Crime
Research & General Findings
Mental Disorders in Offender Populations
Offending in Psychiatric Populations
Types of Mental Disorder and Crime
Schizophrenia
Affective Disorders
Psychopathic Disorder
Reading: P Feldman pg. 171 - 183

The Cognitive Behavioural Approach
Social Learning Theory of Crime
General Framework
Rational choice Theory
Reading: P Feldman 262 - 327