

# PS351-15 Psychology and the Law

**26/27**

**Department**

Psychology

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Kimberley Wade

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

12 weeks

**Assessment**

33% coursework, 67% exam

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module aims to provide a broad understanding of the role of cognitive psychology in legal contexts.

### Module aims

Topics usually covered include: the legal system; eyewitness testimony; the suggestibility of children; theoretical issues in memory distortion; identifying people; interrogations and confessions; cognitive theories of sex offending; repressed and recovered memories; deception detection

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Eyewitness testimony

Eyewitness identification

Source monitoring Framework

Interrogations & confessions

Deception  
Children in court  
Case evidence  
Repressions  
Juries  
Revision sessions

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Discuss the ways in which psychology has been applied to the legal context;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the current state of psychology and law research;
- Compare and critically discuss the methodologies used in psychology and law;
- Discuss the topics covered in relation to theories and debates in the applied cognitive literature.

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

## Subject specific skills

Understand how psychology can be applied to the legal context  
knowledge of the current state of psychology and law research  
Understanding of current theories and debates in applied cognitive literature.

## Transferable skills

Effective communication skills to develop a cogent argument supported by relevant evidence and being sensitive to the needs and expectations of an audience  
Familiarity with collecting and organising stored information found in library book and journal collections, and online,  
Critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources  
effective personal planning skills

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## Study

## Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	34 sessions of 1 hour (23%)
Private study	116 hours (77%)
Total	150 hours

## Private study description

116 hours of private study and assessment preparation

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

## Assessment group D6

### Weighting Study time Eligible for self-certification

#### Assessment component

Multiple choice assessment	33%	No
Online multiple choice assessment		

#### Reassessment component is the same

#### Assessment component

Centrally-timetabled examination (Online)	67%	No
~Platforms - WAS		

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- Online examination: No Answerbook required

#### Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

Formative and summative feedback is available in relation to the multiple-choice assessment. Further verbal feedback is available to students on request. Feedback on examination performance is provided in line with Department of Psychology procedure.

[Past exam papers for PS351](#)

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## Availability

### Pre-requisites

To take this module, you must have passed:

- Any of
  - [PS120-15 Neuropsychology & Psychopathology](#)
  - [PS121-15 Brain & Behaviour](#)
  - [PS122-15 Psychology in Context](#)
  - [PS210-15 Language and Cognition](#)
  - [PS211-15 Perception, Planning and Action](#)

## Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
- UPSA-C800 Undergraduate Psychology
  - Year 3 of C800 Psychology
  - Year 3 of C800 Psychology
  - Year 3 of C800 Psychology
- Year 4 of UPSA-C801 Undergraduate Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-C8L8 Undergraduate Psychology and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 3 of UPSA-C804 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies
- UPSA-C802 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics
  - Year 3 of C802 Psychology with Linguistics
  - Year 3 of C802 Psychology with Linguistics