

**Psychological Explanations of Criminal and Deviant Behaviour – PSYC 103**  
University Studies Program

**Course Outline**

**COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** April 2002  
**OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 2024  
**COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE:** September 2029

**GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to biological, psychiatric, psychological and social/environmental explanations of criminal and deviant behaviour. Students will also delve into the field of forensic psychology. This course explores specific types of behaviours such as violent offences (homicide), sexual offences, economically motivated crimes and intimate partner violence through a psychological lens. The unique nature and needs of justice impacted Indigenous and Black individuals, females, youth, and those with mental illnesses will also be explored.

**Program Information:** This course is required for the Criminal and Social Justice Certificate. This course can be used as an elective in the Arts and Sciences Certificate and Diploma programs and the Child, Youth and Family Studies Diploma with a focus on youth justice.

**Delivery:** This course is delivered face-to-face and online.

**COTR Credits:** 3

**Hours for this course:** 45 hours

**Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:**

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	
Other Contact Hours	
<b>Total</b>	45

**Practicum Hours (if applicable):**

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	N/A
Formal Work Experience	N/A
Other	N/A
<b>Total</b>	

**Course Outline Author or Contact:**

Avery Hulbert, BA Hon, MA

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Signature

**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

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Department Head Signature

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Dean Signature

EDCO

Valid from: January 2024 – September 2029

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Education Council Approval Date

**COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:**

**Prerequisites:** Minimum 65% in either English Studies 12, English First Peoples 12, ENGL 090, or equivalent (refer to Course Equivalency information on the College Website).

**Corequisites:** None

**Flexible Assessment (FA):**

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA  Yes  No

Learners may request formal recognition for flexible assessment at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

**Transfer Credit:** For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>.

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

**Prior Course Number:** CRIM 103/PSYC 103 ⇔⇔ PSYC 103

**Date changed:** April 2011

**Equivalent Course:** Students who have received COTR credit for CRIM 103 may not receive additional credit for PSYC 103.

## Textbooks and Required Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Brown, S., Olver, M.E. Babchisin, K. M. & Forth, A. (2023). *Psychology of Criminal Behaviour* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)  
Pearson Education Canada  
<https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/books/9780137703289>

Additional readings will be made available in class or online.

\*\*Please ensure you get the correct edition of the text as older editions cannot be used.

## Equipment:

- Reliable, consistent and regular online access to COTROnline course page
- High speed internet access
- Adobe reader
- Word processor

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Define key terminology, nature, scope and impacts of crime in Canada
  - evaluate the complexity of criminal behaviour;
  - Describe various theories/ explanations, and the recent research on crime and criminal behaviours
  - examine forensic and correctional psychology
  - explain complexities and the nature of trauma;
  - explain the impacts of colonization on Indigenous Peoples;
  - Incorporate culturally appropriate responses to support wellness of justice impacted Indigenous Peoples
  - Evaluate how different risk factors and assessment methods are used in the justice system
  - Distinguish between justice impacted youth and adults
  - Identify evidence and theoretical based practice
  - Identify the complex needs and motivations of individuals in the justice system;
  - Describe theories, motivations, risk and protective factors, assessments, preventions and treatments for various yet unique groups of individuals who are justice impacted
  - Explain the over-representation of individuals with mental illnesses in the justice system; and
  - Articulate the process and meaning of NCRMD in Canada.
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**COURSE TOPICS:**

- Definitions of Crime and Crime Trends in Canada
- Forensic and Correctional Psychology
- Theories of Crime: Biological; Evolutionary, Learning & Social
- Impacts of Trauma
- Canadian Corrections in practice
- Justice-Impacted youth
- Economically Motivated Crimes
- Substance Use and Crime
- Violent Offending (Violence, Homicide, Mass murder, Serial killing)
- Intimate Partner and Family Violence
- Sexual Offending
- Psychopathic Offending
- Mental Disorder in the Criminal Justice System
- Justice-Impacted Girls and Women
- Justice-Involved Indigenous Persons

*See instructor's Course Information Sheet for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.*

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**EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT:**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>% Of Total Grade</b>
Assignments	15%
Midterm Exam(s)	20%
Project/Presentation (oral)	15%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%
Participation (class discussions & activities)	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, students must complete all elements and components of the course evaluation and assessment.

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**EXAM POLICY:**

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

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**COURSE GRADE:**

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

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**ACADEMIC POLICIES:**

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

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**COURSE CHANGES:**

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will endeavour to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.