



**JINDAL INSTITUTE OF
BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES**

COURSE MANUAL

CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

Dr Sulbha Rai, Assistant Professor

Jindal Institute of Behavioral Sciences (JIBS)

4 Credit Course

FALL SEMESTER 2025

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The information provided herein is by the Course Coordinator. The following information contains the official record of the course details.

PART I

Course Title: Criminal Psychology		
Course Code	BE-E-0010	
Course Duration	1 Semester	
No. of Credit Units	4	
Level	UG & PG	
Pre-Requisites	Nil	
Pre-Cursors	Nil	
Equivalent Courses	Nil	
Exclusive Courses	Nil	
Class Timing		

PART II

Course Description: Have you ever watched the TV shows like Mind Hunters or Inside Criminal Minds and wondered about the reasons behind why some people become criminals? This course offers an in-depth exploration of the psychological principles and theories underlying criminal behavior. Designed for graduate and post graduate students, the course delves into the biological, psychological, and social factors that contribute to criminal conduct. Students will critically analyze major psychological theories, including theories of crime causation, mental disorders, and behavioral patterns that contribute to deviant behavior. Focus will be given to the roles of biological, developmental, and socio-cultural factors in determining criminality.

Through case studies, research, and theoretical discussions, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how criminals process information, make decisions, and respond to social stimuli differently than non-criminals. The course will also explore contemporary approaches to offender profiling, risk assessment, legal outcomes, and rehabilitation, with an emphasis on the treatment of offenders. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to analysis the complexities of criminal behavior and develop informed, evidence-based approaches to addressing crime and other related aspects.

Course Aims:

1. To provide the students with an insight into the concept, causation and some types of criminalbehavior and their psychological assessment.
2. To provide knowledge about application of psychological measures in the correction of crime.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes:

1. To develop an understanding of the concepts of criminal psychology.
2. To critically evaluate various psychological theories of crime and its causation.
3. To analyze the intersection of psychology with the legal system, including mental disorders and criminal responsibility
4. To evaluate different approaches to the rehabilitation and treatment of offenders
5. To acquire knowledge about the deception-detecting techniques and other psychological assessments in a forensic setting.

Assessment Process:

The course will be majorly taught using class discussions, anecdotes, presentations, and experiential exercises. The evaluations will include individual and group presentations, written assignments and projects.

Assessment	Weightage	Remarks
Quiz	30 Marks	On principles, concepts, and themes
Mid-term written test	20 Marks	Descriptive questions, including short notes
Presentation	20 Marks	Group Presentation
Assessment	Weightage	Remarks
Term-end Examination	30 marks	There will be an end semester examination for all participants of the course to analyze the theoretical reasoning and analysis over the module.

(*Please note that absenteeism on the day of assessment will not be entertained, and no assessments shall be rescheduled. Also, for both offline and online modes, the assessment criteria remain the same.)

Grading Structure:

COURSE LETTER GRADES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION			
Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	Interpretation
O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 – 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 – 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.

B+	60 – 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 – 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 – 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 – 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 – 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.

Course Outline:

This course is spread across five units. The brief description of each unit is as follows:

UNIT 1: Introduction to Criminal Psychology

- Definition, Nature, and Scope of Criminal Psychology
- Historical Evolution of Criminal Psychology
- Role of Forensic Psychologists in the Criminal Justice System
- Methods of Studying Criminal Behavior (Case Studies, Experiments, Interviews)

UNIT 2: Theories and Causes of Criminal Behavior

- Biological Theories (Genetics, Neurobiology, Hormonal Influence)
- Psychological Theories (Psychoanalytic, Cognitive, Behavioral)
- Sociological Theories (Strain Theory, Social Learning, Labeling Theory)
- Personality Disorders and Crime (Antisocial Personality Disorder, Psychopathy)
- Classical and Modern Criminological Theories

UNIT 3: Psychology and the Legal System

- Mental Disorders and Criminal Responsibility (Insanity Defense, Competency to Stand Trial)
- Risk Assessment of Criminal Behavior
- Criminal Profiling Techniques (Behavioral Analysis, FBI Profiling)
- Case Law and Psychological Expert Testimony

UNIT 4: Rehabilitation and Treatment of Offenders

- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Criminal Rehabilitation
- Juvenile Delinquency and Psychological Interventions
- Effectiveness of Psychological Treatment in Correctional Settings
- Ethical and Human Rights Issues in Correctional Psychology

UNIT 5: Psychological Assessments and Deception Detection in Forensic Settings

- Introduction to Psychological Testing in Criminal Investigations
- Lie Detection Techniques (Polygraph, NARCO, BEOS)
- Psychological Risk Assessments for Violent and Sexual Offenders
- Ethics and Challenges in Forensic Psychological Testing

PART III

Course/Class Policies:

Professional Conduct in Classroom

You are expected to arrive on time in the classroom and follow the classroom decorum. It is expected that you are punctual in class and be seated immediately within the first two minutes so that the class can start on time. Students arriving after a ten-minute window from the designated start time will be refused entry/attendance. You are expected to participate in the classroom discussions, activities and presentation. Participation is essential in this class. You are also expected to be respectful when the instructor is teaching. Furthermore, you are welcomed to share your thoughts in the class, but you are expected to do that respectfully and be welcoming of other perspectives in the class even if you disagree with the same

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes (100% attendance). A student who fails to attend a class is expected to inform the Course Instructor, orally or in writing, the reason for his or her absence. A minimum of 75% attendance is mandatory, failing which, student is not permitted to take the final exam or end term exam

Academic Integrity and Honesty

Learning and knowledge production of any kind is always a collaborative process. As such, collaboration demands an ethical responsibility to acknowledge who we have learnt what from, and how reading and learning from others have helped us shape our own ideas. Even originality requires an acknowledgement of the sources and the processes that helped you achieve it. Thus, any idea, sentence or paragraph you refer to or are inspired by must be cited in the piece of writing or any presentation being made. Any source from the internet, articles, books, journals, magazines, case law, statute, photographs, films, paintings, etc. must be credited with the original source. If the source or inspiration for your idea is a friend, a casual chat, something that you overheard, or heard being discussed at a conference or in class, even these must be credited. If you paraphrase or directly quote from a web source in the exam, presentation or essays, the source must be explicitly mentioned. The university has strict rules with consequences for students involved in plagiarism. This is an issue of academic integrity on which no compromise will be made, especially as students have already been trained in the perils of lifting sentences or paragraphs from others and claiming authorship of them.

Disability Support and Accommodation Requirements

JGU endeavors to make all its courses accessible to students. All students with a known disability needing academic accommodations are required to register with the Disability Support Committee dsc@jgu.edu.in. The Committee has so far identified the following conditions that could possibly hinder student's overall well-being. These include physical and mobility related difficulties; visual impairment; hearing impairment; medical conditions; specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia; mental health.

The Disability Support Committee maintains strict confidentiality in its discussions. The students should preferably register with the Committee in the month of June/January as disability accommodation requires early planning. DSC will approve and coordinate all the disability related services such as appointment of academic mentors, specialized interventions and course related requirements such as accessible classrooms for lectures, tutorials and examinations.

All faculty members are required to refer students with any of the above-mentioned conditions to the Disability Support Committee for addressing disability-related accommodation requirements.

Centre for Wellness and Counseling Services:

Contact: Email ID: cwcs@jgu.edu.in

Mobile: +91 8396907312

Safe Space Pledge

This course may discuss a range of issues and events that might result in distress for some students. Discussions in the course might also provoke strong emotional responses. To make sure that all students collectively benefit from the course and do not feel troubled due to either the contents of the course or the conduct of the discussions, it is incumbent upon all within the classroom to pledge to maintain respect towards our peers. This does not mean that you need to feel restrained about what you feel and what you want to say. Conversely, this is about creating a safe space where everyone can speak and learn without inhibition and fear. This responsibility lies not only on students but also on the instructor.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not acceptable! Please refrain from copying and pasting paragraphs and sentences from your reading materials. This includes copying someone's words, structure, grammar, ideas, thoughts, and phrases and passing them as your own. Too many quotes are not acceptable!

What is acceptable? Using one quote which is not more than 40 words with proper citation. Use citation! It's a must! Present the content you read from your reading materials in your own words! Think and critically analyze the content! The source should be always acknowledged in your written material and presentation. All papers in this class will be checked electronically for plagiarism.

Cell Phones

Cell phones or such other devices is strictly prohibited in classroom and such activities distract other students, speakers and the instructor. Any such actions would be inducted as violation of classroom code of conduct.

Laptops and Similar Gadgets

Laptops and similar gadgets can be used in the classroom only on the instruction of the professor.