



Gyanmanjari
Innovative University

Course Syllabus
Gyanmanjari Science College
Semester-3(M.Sc.)

Subject: Forensic Psychology- MSCFS13513

Type of course: Major

Prerequisite: Students should have a basic knowledge of psychology, criminology, and law, with an understanding of human behavior and mental health disorders.

Rationale: The rationale for forensic psychology lies in its vital role in applying psychological principles to legal matters, particularly in understanding criminal behavior, assessing mental states, and assisting in legal decision-making. Forensic psychologists provide valuable insights into criminal investigations, competency evaluations, sentencing, and rehabilitation, ensuring that psychological factors are considered in the justice process.

Teaching and Examination Scheme:

Teaching Scheme			Credits	Examination Marks					Total Marks
CI	T	P	C	Theory Marks		Practical Marks		CA	
				ESE	MSE	V	P	ALA	
4	0	0	4	60	30	10	00	50	150

Legends: CI-Class Room Instructions; T – Tutorial; P - Practical; C – Credit; ESE - End Semester Examination; MSE- Mid Semester Examination; V – Viva; CA - Continuous Assessment; ALA- Active Learning Activities.

4 Credits * 25 Marks = 100 Marks (each credit carries 25 Marks) Theory

SEE 100 Marks will be converted in to 50 Marks

CCE 100 Marks will be converted in to 50 Marks



Course Content:

Unit No.	Course content	Hrs	% Weight age
1	Introduction to forensic psychology History of forensic psychology, Definition, practicing ethical forensic psychology, training in forensic psychology, forensic ethics training, forensic psychological competence, credentialing in forensic psychology, challenges in training forensic psychology scientists.	15	25
2	Forensic Psychology and the Law: Ethical Issues in Forensic Psychology, Civil and criminal case assessment, Assessing mental competency, Mental disorders and Forensic Psychology, Eye witness testimony, Criminal profiling- need and types, Forensic Scientific evidence, Serial murders, Modus Operandi.	15	25
3	Psychological Assessment: Psychological Assessment Tools, Detection of deception, Various methods for detection of deception, Interview, Non-verbal detection, statement assessment, Hypnosis, Psychological assessment. Polygraph: Historical aspects of Polygraph, Principles of polygraph, psycho physiological aspects, operational aspects, Question formulation techniques, Interviewing technique procedure,	15	25
4.	Narco-Analysis: Historical aspects, Principle and Theory, General Procedure –Legal and Ethical aspects, Human rights of individual. Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature (BEOS) Profiling: Principle and Theory, General Procedure – Legal and Ethical aspects, Human rights of individual.	15	25

Continuous Assessment:

Sr. No	Active Learning Activities	Marks
1.	Training Challenges Reflection Essay: Students will write a brief reflection on the challenges faced by aspiring forensic psychologists during training and credentialing. They will be encouraged to identify at least one major challenge and suggest realistic strategies to address it, enhancing their awareness of the profession's demands and ethical responsibilities and upload it on GMIU web portal	10



2.	Civil vs. Criminal Case Comparison Table: Students will create a comparison table on paper outlining the differences between civil and criminal case assessments in forensic psychology. This table will include objectives, types of assessments, legal outcomes, and psychological roles in each case type and upload it on GMIU web portal	10
3.	Deception Detection Comparison Chart: Students will create a hand-written chart comparing different methods of deception detection such as polygraph, non-verbal cues, statement analysis, and hypnosis. They will summarize each method's principles, strengths, and limitations in bullet points, promoting critical analysis of investigative tools and upload it on GMIU web portal	10
4.	Polygraph Procedure Mapping: Students will draw a step-by-step diagram outlining the polygraph examination procedure, including pre-test interview, question formulation, testing phase, and post-test analysis. They will annotate each step to show its psychological and operational importance and upload it on GMIU web portal	10
5.	Pros and Cons List Activity: Students will create two columns Pros and Cons for Narco-Analysis and BEOS, listing down advantages such as speed and truth-finding potential, and disadvantages like ethical concerns and reliability issues. They will conclude with a short paragraph justifying their opinion on the use of these methods in justice systems.	10
Total		50

Suggested Specification table with Marks (Theory):60

Distribution of Theory Marks (Revised Bloom's Taxonomy)						
Level	Remembrance (R)	Understanding (U)	Application (A)	Analyze (N)	Evaluate (E)	Create (C)
Weightage	30%	30%	30%	10%	00	00

Note: This specification table shall be treated as a general guideline for students and teachers. The actual distribution of marks in the question paper may vary slightly from above table.



Course Outcome:

After learning the course the students should be able to:	
CO1	Define forensic psychology and describe its roles and applications in both civil and criminal legal systems, including its integration into law enforcement and judicial processes.
CO2	Differentiate between civil and criminal case assessments, with a focus on psychological evaluation and its relevance in court proceedings.
CO3	Describe the history and principles of polygraph testing, including the psycho physiological basis and scientific theories behind its operation.
CO4	Analyze the legal and ethical implications associated with the use of Narco-Analysis and BEOS, ensuring awareness of professional boundaries and limitations.

Instructional Method:

The course delivery method will depend upon the requirement of content and need of students. The teacher in addition to conventional teaching method by black board, may also use any of tools such as demonstration, role play, Quiz, brainstorming, MOOCs etc.

From the content 10% topics are suggested for flipped mode instruction.

Students will use supplementary resources such as online videos, NPTEL/SWAYAM videos, e-courses, Virtual Laboratory

The internal evaluation will be done on the basis of Active Learning Assignment

Practical/Viva examination will be conducted at the end of semester for evaluation of performance of students in laboratory.

Reference Books:

- [1] The Handbook of Forensic Psychology – Irving B. Weiner & Randy K. Otto, *Wiley Publications*
- [2] Forensic Psychology: Crime, Justice, Law, Interventions – Graham M. Davies & Anthony R. Beech, *Wiley-Blackwell*
- [3] Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Research and Application – Curt R. Bartol & Anne M. Bartol, *SAGE Publications*
- [4] Forensic Psychology – Matthew T. Huss, *Wiley-Blackwell*
- [5] Forensic Psychology: A Very Short Introduction – David Canter, *Oxford University Press*

