

## **SPECIALTY PSYCHOLOGY**

### **MASTER'S PROGRAM „CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY”**

Educational and qualification degree: MASTER

Professional qualification: MASTER'S DEGREE IN CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

Duration of training: 2 years

Mode of study: FULL-TIME

### **QUALIFYING CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **1. General characteristics and educational objectives of the Master's program:**

The Master's program "Criminal Psychology" for specialists is designed to acquire a Master's degree after a Bachelor's degree in psychology. The program is also suitable for young professionals who have focused on analyzing the factors and motives for realizing criminal behavior.

**The main aim** of the program is, by using various academic methods and practices, to build students' theoretical knowledge and professional skills for psychological analysis of criminal behavior and research of perpetrators of crimes; applied competencies for psychological support of operational-investigative work; specific psychological expertise for diagnostic and advisory work in pre-trial and judicial proceedings and carrying out preventive and intervention activities in the conditions of critical situations related to criminal activity.

#### **2. Professional competencies and realization:**

##### **Graduates of the master's program have:**

- a wide range of theoretical and practical knowledge, specialized in the relevant field, which builds on what was achieved in the previous stage of training; knowing and understanding theories, concepts, principles, and regularities related to the factors and motives of criminal behavior; demonstrate a critical awareness of domain knowledge and the connections between different areas of study;
- possess highly specialized practical and theoretical knowledge, which forms the basis for psychological support of operative-search activities;
- theoretical knowledge and basic skills for conducting negotiations when dealing with situations arising as a result of hazardous criminal activity;
- a wide range of practical knowledge and approaches necessary for understanding criminal behavior, diagnosis of problems of aggression and aggressive behavior, based on modern research in the field of Criminal Psychology, by integrating knowledge from new or interdisciplinary fields

##### **Graduates of the master's program have the following skills:**

- make an adequate estimation in situations characterized by incomplete or limited information and unpredictability, develop new and varied skills in response to emerging knowledge and practices, demonstrate the free application of innovative methods and tools, distinguished by innovation in solving complex tasks and unpredictable problems in the specialized field of work, find and maintain arguments when solving problems of an interdisciplinary nature;
- show initiative in working and learning in a complex and unpredictable environment, requiring solving problems with multiple interacting factors, have skills to create and lead networks or teams, allocate time and manage human and financial resources, and solve complex problems through new technological methods and tools;
- quickly find, retrieve, arrange, synthesize, and evaluate the necessary information from various sources; possess skills to solve and overcome critical problems in the field of research and/or innovation; quickly learn new qualities and skills to anticipate technological and creative development;



- possess skills such as entrepreneurship, demandingness, adaptability and intellectual flexibility, independence, and responsibility, which are acquired during training and the implementation of the tasks set in the master's program.

**Professional competencies:**

- According to the results of mastering the knowledge of the set disciplines, students will form competencies necessary for theoretical analysis and empirical research of the personality of criminals, factors, dynamics, and motivation of criminal behavior, as well as knowledge of lie detection methods and basic principles of recognizing untruthful behavior.
- Masters collect, process, and interpret specialized information using in-depth psychological knowledge of crime and its causal conditioning; the criminal behavior and criminal realization of the individuals and criminal groups; the motives and motivations of criminal behavior; the practical application of psychological knowledge in the various phases of criminal investigation, pre-trial and judicial proceedings, as well as in the prevention and control of crises.
- They are able to assist in making a psychological profile of unknown crimes perpetrators by integrating complex sources of knowledge, theoretical concepts, and scientific and practical skills.

**Graduates of the master's program can be realized as:**

- specialists - psychologists in the Institute of Psychology of the Ministry of Interior and the structural departments for criminal investigations in the Ministry of Interior;
- specialists - psychologists in the state security structures;
- experts - psychologists in court and pre-trial proceedings;
- civil servants in the Ministry of Interior and state security agencies;
- Criminal psychologists in non-governmental organizations and foundations;
- Psychologist experts in the corporate security sector in private organizations;
- Heads of units, directorates, and departments in the local and state administration.

**3. Organization and structure of training:**

The Master's program "Criminal Psychology" enables graduates of the specialty "Psychology" with an educational qualification of "Bachelor" or "Master" to continue their studies in order to acquire specialized, extended, and in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical skills to effectively support operational-investigative activity and the practical application of psychological knowledge in the various phases of criminal investigation, pre-trial and judicial proceedings, in the prevention and management of crisis situations, as well as in psychological support of corporate security in private organizations.

**Curriculum for two years /four semesters/:**

The curriculum provides 120 ECTS credits, distributed equally over the four semesters, with a total of 1005 classroom hours. The compulsory training takes place in a practical internship, during which students get the opportunity to observe and carry out expert activities under supervision in the field of criminal psychology in specialized institutions. In terms of structure, the master's program includes compulsory and optional subjects (in the ratio of 70%: 30%), optional subjects, and compulsory study practice in the specialty. Compulsory academic disciplines ensure the acquisition of in-depth theoretical and specialized training for the implementation of effective preventive, diagnostic, advisory, and therapeutic activities. The optional study disciplines provide expansion and upgrading of the theoretical and specialized training in the specialty by mastering specific knowledge, skills, and competencies. Optional courses provide the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills from various scientific fields in accordance with the interests of students. Students graduate after defending a thesis (master's thesis) or a written state exam, for which they acquire 15 credits (Article 10 of Ordinance No. 21/30.09.2004).

**4. Compliance with the mission of the SWU "Neofit Rilski"**

The curriculum and curricula of the master's program "Criminal Psychology" have been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Higher Education, Regulation No. 21/30.09.2004. on the implementation of a system for the accumulation and transfer of credits in higher education institutions (GG No. 89/12.10.2004), Ordinance on the state requirements for the



acquisition of higher education at the educational qualification degrees "bachelor," "master" and "specialist" " (GG No. 76/06.08.2002), the National Qualification Framework (adopted by the Council of Ministers with Decision No. 96 No. 02.02.2012) and Ordinance No. 29/04.10.2006 on the professional competence of persons who have graduated from higher education in the field of Psychology, issued by the Ministry of Health (GG No. 84/17.10.2006). The qualification characteristic of the "Criminal Psychology" program for the educational qualification degree "Master" with the professional qualification "Master in Criminal Psychology" is a basic document that determines the development of the curriculum and study programs. It complies with the Ordinance on the state requirements for acquiring higher education for the educational qualification degrees "bachelor," "master," and "specialist," with the Ordinance on the professional competence of persons who have completed higher education in the specialty of Psychology, with the Regulations of the SWU "Neofit Rilski " and with the National Qualification Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria



## CURRICULUM

<b>Firstyear</b>			
First semester	ECTS credits	Second semester	ECTS credits
Cognitive psychology	4	Psychopathology	4
Neuroscience	4	Differential psychology	4
Personality psychology	4	Organizational Psychology	3
Social Psychology	4	Occupational psychology	3
Developmental psychology	4	Counselling psychology	4
Pedagogical Psychology	3	Experimental psychology	5
History of Psychology	4	Psychological measurements	4
Elective discipline /first group/	3	E;ective discipline /second group/	3
	<b>30 total</b>		<b>30 total</b>
<b>Second year</b>			
Third semester	ECTS credits	Fourth semester	ECTS credits
Introduction to criminal psychology	3	Lie detection methods	2
Psychological analysis of criminal behavior	4	Psychological strategies and tactics for influencing the interrogation of suspects	2
Typology of violent crimes perpetrators	4	Negotiating critical incidents and crisis management	2
Psychological profiling of violent crimes perpetrators	4	Psychology of organized criminal groups	2
Psychology of aggressive behavior	4	Elective discipline from the fourth group	2
Psychodiagnostics of personality in pre-trial and court practice	4	Elective discipline from the fourth group	2
Elective discipline from the third group	2	Practical intreship	3
Elective discipline from the fhird group	2	State exam or diploma thesis defense	15
Practical intership	3		
	<b>30 total</b>		<b>30 total</b>
Elective disciplines /first group/ <i>Students choose one discipline</i>	ECTS credits	Elective disciplines /second group/ <i>Students choose one discipline</i>	ECTS credits
Evolutionary Psychology	3	Clinical Psychology	3
Psychology of Adult development	3	Professional Psychodiagnostic	3
Psychology and Technology	3	Political Psychology	3
Gender Sociology	3	Psychology of Sexuality	3
Psychology of Advertising	3	Business Psychology	3
Psychology of Stress	3	Psychotherapeutic techniques and counselling	3
Sports Psychology	3	Fundation of Psychoanalysis	3
Folk Psychology	3	Psychology of Family Relationships	3
Economic Psychology	3	Psychology of Creativity	3
Psychology of Art	3	Psychology of Fashion	3
Psyche and Health	3	Intercultural Psychology	3
Elective disciplines /third group/ <i>Students choose two disciplines</i>	ECTS credits	Elective disciplines /fourth group/ <i>Students choose two disciplines</i>	ECTS credits
Psychological support for corporate security	2	Victimology	2
Criminalistics	2	Psychopathology and character accentuations of the personality	2
Factors and dynamics of criminal motivation	2	Psychology of juvenile offenders	2
Visual-linguistic psychodiagnostics	2	Psychology of the cybercrime	2
Psychology of terrorism	2	Forensic psychological expertise	2

**TOTAL FOR 2 ACADEMIC YEARS: 120 CREDITS**



# COMPULSORY DISCIPLINES

## COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [natasha\\_v@swu.bg](mailto:natasha_v@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

The current curriculum is built according to several principles. The first principle is integrative. Proceeding from the idea of mental phenomena belonging to the whole personality and their interconnectedness, this principle is concretely reflected in the following aspects: only the specific features of each mental process are revealed, but its interactions with other processes are also outlined; the influence of personal characteristics on the functioning of mental processes is presented; both analytic and integral mental processes are considered.

The second principle for building the program is related to the versatility of scientific positions when analyzing mental phenomena. This guiding principle determined the following: characterization of psychological phenomena from the positions of different schools; analysis of a broader range of mental phenomena.

### **Course content:**

The main goal of the Cognitive Psychology discipline is to reveal the essence of the cognitive processes through which people ensure contact with the continuous flow of information about the world and about themselves. In parallel, topics about emotional and volitional processes are also included, allowing for a more detailed examination of the content of cognitive processes and their relationship with the person's personality.

By studying the discipline, students will acquire abilities to reveal the specifics of the outlined processes, the connections between them, and their information capabilities.

The discipline also contributes to developing a wide range of intellectual and linguistic skills and theoretical knowledge formed in parallel with other essential disciplines of this subject. Particularly important are the connections with physiological psychology as well as with personality psychology. The subject connections of cognitive psychology with these two disciplines serve as a practical basis for developing students' specific analytical knowledge and skills.

Establishing the skills to express themselves with the conceptual apparatus of cognitive psychology in the academic discipline, their learning style, motives, and interests in the academic discipline is an essential factor in achieving the goals and tasks.

Depending on the indicated level of preliminary preparation, an update of the content, volume, and depth of the topics covered, as well as teaching methods, is foreseen.

### **Teaching and assessment method:**

The current evaluation is a sum of the evaluations of the participation in classroom and out of classroom work during the semester.

Students are admitted to the final exam:

- ✓ have attended at least two-thirds of the lectures;
- ✓ they appeared for a test or control (with a grade of more than „poor“);
- ✓ have developed a Annotation: (example topics are attached at the end of the program);

Those who do not meet these requirements:

- ✓ appear directly for a remedial exam;
- ✓ develop more exam questions;



Alternatively, they are given extra assignments within the semester to attend the regular first session.

The method of assessment is a written exam. It includes two questions from the outline. The grade is the average of the answers to the two exam questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment of ongoing control during the semester and the final exam assessment.

## NEUROSCIENCE

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assist. Prof. Desislava Drenska, MD, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [ddrenska@swu.bg](mailto:ddrenska@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

### Annotation:

The academic course in Neuroscience introduces fundamental concepts in the Anatomy and Physiology of the nervous system, with a focus on systems relevant to psychological functioning. The objective is to equip students with essential knowledge about the structural and functional organization of the nervous system, its role in mental processes and states and the use of specialized terminology.

The nervous system consists of two major components: Central nervous system (CNS), which includes the brain and spinal cord, and Peripheral nervous system (PNS), comprising corresponding anatomical substructures. The brain itself is subdivided into the cerebrum (with two cerebral hemispheres), the brainstem and the cerebellum. Functionally, the cerebral cortex is highly differentiated with the frontal, parietal, temporal and occipital lobes containing centers responsible for diverse and essential functions. The basic unit is the specialized nerve cell, or neuron.

### Course content:

The Neuroscience course is tailored to a psychology-oriented curriculum and includes the following main topics: Overview of structural and functional characteristics; Types of nerve fibers, synapses and neurotransmitters; Brain - topographical anatomy and functional differentiation; Organization of the cerebral cortex; General and specialized sensory systems; Autonomic nervous system; Spinal cord - morphological features and functions; Physiology of sleep and sleep disorders; Contemporary concepts of stress, associated psychological and somatic consequences and “anti-stress” programs; Biological foundations and psychological correlates of Burnout syndrome.

### Teaching and assessment method:

Student performance in the course is evaluated in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The final grade is determined at the end of the course based on two components: the written response to a question related to a topic covered in the lecture series and the assessment of the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written



**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D.,** Department of Psychology

Email: [b\\_iordanova@swu.bg](mailto:b_iordanova@swu.bg)

**Annotation:**

The Psychology of Personality course presents the major paradigms and the personality models based on them primarily from the perspective of theoretical frameworks allowing for competing interpretations and the implications they have for understanding psychological reality. Seminars and practical classes provide for the individual preparation of students on specific topics. Independent work in preparing presentations is encouraged - from selecting sources on the topic to how it will be presented. Practically-oriented forms of work are also foreseen - didactic familiarization with some popular methods of personality research, referencing and discussion of classic studies, as well as conducting illustrative mini-research assignments within the seminar and practical groups.

**Course content:**

This discipline investigates basic concepts and theories in personality psychology, such as personality dispositions, emotions, temperament, character, motivation, self-concept, stress, and stressful conditions. Basic constructs from personality psychology are commented on: basic directions in personality psychology, self-image, and self-esteem, attitudes, values, abilities, needs, emotional regulation, the role of heredity and the environment in personality formation, mental health and personality pathology, personality and health, social constructivism of norm and pathology. Personality is presented as a set of factors that determine each individual and representative of society, where thinking, feelings, and ways of behaving make each person unique.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

Training in the discipline „Psychology of personality“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. The traditional lecture course includes group work, interactive learning methods, and multimedia. Discussions and scientific articles are commented on at the seminar classes.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

## **SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D.,** Department of Psychology

Email: [natasha\\_v@swu.bg](mailto:natasha_v@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The „Social Psychology“ discipline includes two content modules: 1) The process of socialization and social-psychological theories of personality; 2) Small social groups – social influence and interpersonal communication.

**Course content:**

The subject area of social psychology. Social-psychological issues in personality research. Small social groups - leadership and social influence. Communication, aggression, conflicts and prosocial behavior.

**Teaching and assessment method:**



The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lecture course and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [teodor@swu.bg](mailto:teodor@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures+10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

The discipline „Developmental Psychology“ considers the need to examine mental processes, states, properties and their age specifics from different scientific positions. This creates an opportunity to form broader concepts about the nature of mental phenomena.

At the beginning of the course, essential introductory questions are included. Their content is related to the subject of age psychology, its origin, development and the research methods it uses. The basic conceptual apparatus is specified. The development of the psyche is analyzed, tracking the dynamics of mental phenomena in terms of age. Questions related to the age periodization of development, as well as the factors for the formation of the psyche during the individual age periods and the characteristics of the personality, are considered. The most established age periodizations are also presented.

### **Course content:**

The discipline „Developmental Psychology“ provides general information about the regularities in age-related mental development during the early stages of the human life cycle. In the cognitive aspect, the following content modules are included: 1) historical-methodological problems of age psychology; 2) development issues; 3) ideological foundations of age periodization; 4) socio-psychological characteristics of the stages and age periods; 5) the problem of activity in age psychology.

### **Teaching and assessment method:**

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PEDAGOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [teodor@swu.bg](mailto:teodor@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written



**Annotation:**

Pedagogical psychology occupies an important place in the overall preparation of students, as it reveals essential regularities and psychological conditions for forming the personality of students. It is a border discipline between pedagogy and psychology, which scientifically sheds light on the problems of the educational process at school.

Through pedagogical psychology, students learn the psychological regularities of learning, the observance of which increases the effect of the educational process. They become familiar with the conditions for the best perception, thinking, fantasizing, memorizing, etc., for effective teaching in each subject and the harmonious development of the student's personality.

Pedagogical psychology indicates the forms of interaction of the various academic disciplines, which leads to the formation of qualities of thinking, will, emotions, temperament, and character to form an integral and harmonious personality. It foregrounds students' learning of self-awareness, self-regulation, self-evaluation, self-development, reflection, and self-concept. With this, contributes to a decisive change in the position of the teacher in the educational process - of impact with interaction, of education with self-education, and development with self-development.

**Course content:**

The discipline outlines pedagogical psychology's conceptual apparatus and the discussions around this issue. Students get an idea of the ongoing problems of pedagogical psychology and the psychological mechanisms of the assimilation of socio-historical experience by students and, on this basis, the regularities of the formation of their personalities. It contains information on the formation of qualities of thinking, will, emotions, and character, as well as on the formation of an integral and harmonious personality. Attention is given to the problems of self-awareness, self-regulation, self-evaluation, self-development, reflection, and self-concept of students.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY

**ECTS credits:** 4**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, D.Sc., Department of PsychologyEmail: [stoil\\_m@swu.bg](mailto:stoil_m@swu.bg)**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The study discipline „History of Psychology „ includes the following content modules: 1) Introductory problems of the history of psychology; 2) Studies and views on the mental until the individualization of psychology as an independent science; 3) Emergence and development of psychology as an independent science - major schools of thought in psychology.

**Course content:**

This discipline is optional. It deals with psychological concepts, ideas, concepts, theories and schools, which build in students the necessary knowledge about the emergence and development of psychology as a central element of modern science.

**Teaching and assessment method:**



Evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the process of training in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PSYCHOPATHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assist. Prof. Desislava Drenska, MD, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [ddrenska@swu.bg](mailto:ddrenska@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

The academic course in Psychopathology provides specialized academic training encompassing the extensive range of issues related to mental disorders and abnormal behavior. The curriculum addresses personality difficulties and disorders, which are characterized as deeply entrenched and enduring patterns of behavior. By their nature, pathological responses to personal and social situations represent profound or significant deviations from the typical ways in which an average individual within a given cultural context perceives, thinks, feels and interacts with others. The presence of such conditions frequently serves as a predisposing factor for potential clinical deviance or criminal conduct.

The program explores diverse facets of deviant individual behavior and delineates specific standards and criteria that are consistent with personal and societal norms as well as the regulatory frameworks governing the individual's functioning within society. The objective is to impart comprehensive knowledge and develop practical competencies necessary for utilizing contemporary classification systems alongside specialized diagnostic methodologies for distinct psychopathological deviations. The curriculum critically examines disharmonious attitudes and dysfunctions across various functional domains - including emotional regulation, excitatory processes, impulse control, perceptual and cognitive styles - situationally maladaptive behaviors and impairments in occupational and social adaptation.

### **Course Content:**

The Psychopathology course is structured in alignment with a psychology-oriented academic framework and covers several principal topics: psychotic disorders (Schizophrenia), Affective disorders (Bipolar disorder), non-psychotic conditions such as Anxiety disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive disorders, Conversion disorders and a spectrum of personality difficulties and disorders.

### **Teaching learning and Assessment:**

Student achievement is assessed in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The final grade is awarded upon completion of the course, based on a written examination addressing topics covered in the lecture series and the evaluation of the student's independent (extracurricular) academic work.

## **DIFFERENTIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written



**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D.,** Department of Psychology

Email: [b\\_iordanova@swu.bg](mailto:b_iordanova@swu.bg)

**Annotation:**

The discipline „Differential Psychology” provides a scholarly perspective that connects psychological theory to the assessment of individual differences in real-world situations. It presents the most important and emerging literature on personality, intellectual ability, cognitive style, and other individual differences such as creativity, emotional intelligence, professional interests, and economic behavior. Particular attention is given to the differences in mental status between large groups of people - differences between the sexes and the most diverse social groups in society.

**Course content:**

The discipline investigates basic concepts and theories in the field of individual differences. Methodological and theoretical approaches in differential psychology (the study of individual differences) are explored. The impact of these methods and theories is discussed with illustrative examples and real-world scenarios. The discipline introduces students to individual differences in the abilities of the individual; it explains his personality depending on heredity and the influences of his environment (upbringing, culture), hereditary characteristics (biological and genetic), and mental characteristics (intellect, abilities, character).

**Teaching, learning, and assessment:**

Training in the discipline „Differential Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, interactive learning methods, and multimedia. During the seminar classes, discussions are held, and scientific articles are commented on.

The academic discipline is one semester, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are assessed for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D.,** Department of Psychology

Email: [b\\_iordanova@swu.bg](mailto:b_iordanova@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The discipline „Organizational Psychology“ offers specialized training in the problems of human behavior in a work and social environment. It has a practical focus and includes conducting actual research and practical exercises, thus preparing students to develop and apply the skills necessary for successful implementation in the real economic environment and human resource management. Emphasis is given to the interaction between organizations and the people who work in/or with them in order to increase their effectiveness. The points of contact of social and organizational psychology are brought out, emphasizing the social psychological processes in labour and civil organizations. Another distinctive feature of this discipline is the study and understanding of organizational processes from different perspectives - at the individual, group, and organizational levels.

**Course content:**



The discipline includes basic concepts and theories in the field of organizational psychology. The main topics and problems in the field of organizational psychology related to organizational structure and culture, leadership, and different approaches to its study and understanding, power, and influence are touched upon. Emphasis is also placed on group processes at the workplace - communication, teamwork, conflicts, the basic concepts, theories, and methods in organizational psychology, the essence, goals, and mechanisms for the functioning of the various units of an institutional nature, and the functional capabilities of the „organization“ and „the management“; to derive the conditionality between individual and group work behaviour.

**Teaching, learning, and assessment:**

Training in the discipline „Organizational Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and the assignment of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. During the seminar classes, discussions are held, and scientific articles are commented on.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are assessed for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

## **OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Ivan Krastev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [iv.krestev@swu.bg](mailto:iv.krestev@swu.bg)

**Annotation:**

The discipline „Occupational Psychology“ studies the main properties of the mental structure and regulation of labour activity that are involved in solving all types of labour activity, as well as the processes of goal setting and motivation, creating an orientational basis, of designing action programs, of deciding on the methods of implementation and its control with the help of the relatively stable operational images leading to the implementation of the specific activity. Its subject is the processes of activation and cognitive automation, which change the mental regulation of labour activity and the study of the prevention of overfatigue, use, traumatism, and professional deformations of the personality, increasing the meaningfulness of work, creating conditions for multifaceted personality development, deployment of abilities.

**Course content:**

The discipline's content covers theoretical knowledge and practical skills for distinguishing the functions and the relationships of conditioning between the cognitive, emotional, and conative mental processes, which are the basis of the labour behavior realized in the different activity situations. Furthermore, the discipline helps students to acquire knowledge and form psychological skills in themselves to reveal the interrelationship between cognitive mental processes and personal characteristics (such as temperament, character, anxiety, aggressiveness, etc.), which are the main internal determinants of mental regulation and self-regulation of personal and group work behaviour.

**Teaching, learning, and assessment:**

Training in the discipline „Occupational Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and the assignment of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. During the seminar classes, discussions are held, and scientific articles are commented on.



The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are assessed for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

### **COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief. Assis. Prof. Gergana Stanoeva, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [gerystanoeva@swu.bg](mailto:gerystanoeva@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

Counseling Psychology is an interdisciplinary field focused on supporting and developing human potential in the face of personal, interpersonal, and professional challenges. The discipline explores the psychological foundations of the counseling process, key theoretical paradigms (such as humanistic, cognitive-behavioral, and existential approaches), as well as the core skills and techniques used when working with clients. Special emphasis is placed on building a trusting counselor-client relationship, active listening, ethical principles, and cultural sensitivity. Although theoretically grounded, the discipline also has a strong practical dimension – it prepares future professionals to be effective support in situations of crisis, stress, life transitions, or seeking direction. The role of the psychologist in the counseling process is not only related to overcoming the difficulties that arise, but also to providing support in the process of personal development and self-awareness.

#### **Course content:**

Throughout the course, students will engage with real case examples, practice essential communication and intervention skills. Special attention is given to ethical principles and professional standards in working with clients. The specifics of counseling when working with children, families, and couples, as well as in crisis situations, are discussed. The approaches for intervention in cases of loss, trauma, violence, and acute stress reactions are explored, as well as strategies for psychosocial support and interinstitutional collaboration.

#### **Teaching, learning, and assessment:**

The course is delivered through interactive lectures, discussions, case study work, and practical exercises (including role plays and simulations). Reflection and the development of self-awareness are encouraged throughout the learning process. Assessment includes continuous evaluation (participation, assignments, and presentations), case analysis, a written project, and a final written exam. Emphasis is placed on the practical application of knowledge and on receiving constructive feedback during the course.

### **EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 5

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [avka@swu.bg](mailto:avka@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

The course „Experimental psychology” is studied during the second semester as a compulsory subject of the Master curriculum of Forensic Psychology – non-specialists, Master curriculum of



Psychology of Management – non-specialists, Master curriculum of Criminal Psychology – non-specialists, Master curriculum of Clinical Psychology – non-specialists, and the Master curriculum of School Psychology – non-specialists. It includes 120 hours extra-curricular activity.

**Course content:**

The course in “ Experimental psychology” includes the following modules of content: 1) principles and methods of the experimental psychological research; 2) structure of the experimental psychological research; 3) experimental designs; 4) psychological research of the cognitive processes and personality. The goals of the subject “Experimental psychology” are: the basic terms in the experimental psychological research to be clarified; a clear understanding of the essence and peculiarities of the experiment as a method of research to be achieved, as well as of the conditions of its application and the limitations in its use; the skills for carrying out of the experimental psychological studies to be formed (planning, conducting experiments and analyzing data); the skills for presentation of the results from the experimental psychological research as a scientific paper to be formed; the professional ethics requirements of the psychological activity to be known and applied. The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, interactive methods, etc. The seminars are held in the laboratories.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The students’ extra-curriculum activity represents the preparation and presentation of a scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases. Assessment of the students’ results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written test on some topics from the course content, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Hours:** 20 lectures + 10 seminars

**Assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [avka@swu.bg](mailto:avka@swu.bg)

**Annotation:**

The goals of the course “Psychological measurements” are: the basic terms of psychological measurement and assessment to be clarified; the whole process of construction of a psychological test to be presented; the skills to be formed for application of psychological tests in the spheres of the clinical practice, education and staff selection; the skills to be formed for conducting computer testing; the skills to be formed for presenting the results from a psychological study in the form of a scientific paper; the professional ethics requirements of the psychological activity to be known and applied.

**Course content:**

The course in “Psychological measurements” includes the following modules of content: 1) process of measurement; 2) construction of a psychological test; 3) typology of psychological tests; 4) applied aspects of psychological testing – in clinical practice, school environment, staff selection; computer testing; 5) unidimensional and multidimensional scaling in psychology.

**Teaching and assessment method:**



The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, and interactive methods. The practical exercises are held in the laboratories. The students' extra-curricular activity represents preparation and presentation of a scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test.

Assessment of the students' results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written test on some topics from the course content, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

## **INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** III

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief Assist. Prof. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Ph.D , Department of Psychology

**Email:** [emelina\\_z@swu.bg](mailto:emelina_z@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

“Introduction to criminal psychology” course offers systematized information about main theoretical, research and applied approaches in criminal psychology, related to its historical development, object, tasks, methodology and applications. It examines psychological aspects of crimes, personality features of offenders, suspects, witnesses and victims, and features of criminal psychologists' professional work. The aim of the discipline is to clarify the main points of Criminal psychology, its applications and theoretical justification; to present objects, methods and its main scientifically-applied tasks; to form main knowledge about crime prevention

### **Content of the course:**

Criminal psychology as a science. A historical overview of the development of criminal psychology. Subject of criminal psychology. Tasks of criminal psychology. Methods of criminal psychology. Peculiarities of the activity of criminal psychologists. Psychology of crime. Classification of crimes. Victimology. Crime prevention.

### **Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** III

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Hours:** 30 lectures +15 seminars

**Type of exam:** written



**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: H. Assist. Prof. Velina Vladimirova,, Ph.D.,** Department of Psychology**Email:** [vladimirova@assess.bg](mailto:vladimirova@assess.bg)**Annotation:**

The course aims to present the main approaches and methods for psychological analysis of criminal behavior. The emphasis is placed on revealing the intrapsychic and sociopsychological factors that determine criminal activity, as well as on the dynamics of the formation of deviant and delinquent attitudes. Key psychological theories and models related to motivation, personality structure, emotional regulation and cognitive distortions in perpetrators of various types of crimes are discussed. Profiles of offenders, including serial criminals, recidivists and individuals with psychopathological deviations, are analyzed.

The course supports the development of skills for assessing and interpreting criminal behavior in an individual and social context, with a view to prevention, prediction and correctional work. Particular attention is paid to the application of psychological analysis in forensic psychological expertise and forensic practice.

**Content of the course:**

Methods for the study of criminal behavior and its psychological regulation. The role of biological theories in psychological interpretations of criminal activities. Sociologically oriented psychological concepts to explain the deviant orientation of the perpetrators of selfish, violent and self-violent acts. Psychological theories of crime with their pros and cons. The contribution of psychoanalysis, cognitivism and behaviorism in the construction of the theoretical understanding of the personality with criminal behavior.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**TYPOLOGY OF VIOLENT CRIMES PERPETRATORS****ECTS credits:** 4**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** III**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Emil Madzharov, PhD,** Department of Psychology**H. Assist. Prof. Daniel Genkov****Email:** [r.p.mancheva@swu.bg](mailto:r.p.mancheva@swu.bg), [genkov@assess.bg](mailto:genkov@assess.bg)**Hours:** 30 lectures + 10 seminars**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The course considered the grounds for building typologies of criminals, their creation and fundamental components, and their role in revealing important factors, mechanisms, and features of the various violent behavior against a person. Especially are presented the general typologies and possibilities they offer for the more in-depth psychological study of perpetrators of murder, rape, body harm, robbery, and others. Personal differences that determine the criminal choices and the role in the deployment of a specific criminal type of violent activity are analyzed. By studying the course,



students will master the main typologies and build a more complete and adequate understanding of their foundations, interpretive possibilities, and practical validity in studying criminal acts involving violence toward the victim. After completing their studies in the discipline, students will have a complete idea of the personality differences of individual categories of offenders, which influence their criminal choices and the overall development of their criminal careers.

**Content of the course:**

Essence and methods of constructing psychological typologies of offenders who are prone to acts of violence. Personality typologies of violent offenders and their significance in predicting recidivism. Descriptive schemes applicable in criminal psychology to classify individual differences of perpetrators of violent acts against the person. Personality differences in perpetrators of violent crimes. Psychopathology and its impact on criminal behavior.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILING OF VIOLENT CRIMES PERPETRATORS**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** III

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** H. Assist. Todor Todorov., Ph.D., Department of Psychology

**Email:** [todorov@assess.bg](mailto:todorov@assess.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures + 15 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The course presents the essence of psychological profiling as a specific discipline and method in modern criminal psychology. It interprets the individual criminal development of offenders, which leads to the orientation towards the corresponding type of crime and victim. Victimological analysis is considered as an important component and concrete step in structuring the psychological profile of the unknown offender. Its comprehensive and precise formulation implies the psychological analysis of forensic-operational data from the assessment of the crime scene. After completing this course, students will know well the essence and application of the method of psychological profiling, as well as the stages of its implementation.

**Content of the course:**

Essence and application of the method of psychological profiling. Specifics of the individual development of the perpetrators of violent crimes. Victimology – the importance of the victim for the profile. Behavioral analysis of the crime scene. Psychological analysis of the crime. Developing a psychological profile.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PSYCHOLOGY OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR**



**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** III

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief Assist. Prof. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [emelina\\_z@swu.bg](mailto:emelina_z@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The course presents the psychological factors, mechanisms, and conditions of aggressive behavior. They are interpreted through the prism of leading psychological paradigms with their distinctive theoretical approaches of psychoanalysis, cognitivism, and behaviorism. The different types of aggression are differentiated, paying particular attention to their hostile-angry forms, related to the immediate realization of physical aggression toward other people. The personal prerequisites for the deployment of violent behavior and the external circumstances that favor the negative appearance and escalation are specially analyzed. By studying the course, students will learn about aggression and aggressive behavior and the behavior of offenders based on their aggressive manifestations. Students will have a more differentiated understanding of the psychological factors, conditions, and mechanisms for deploying physical aggression and the exercise of direct violence.

**Content of the course:**

Psychological definition of aggressive behavior. Psychological analysis of types of aggressive behavior. Psychological factors and prerequisites stimulating the development of aggressive behavior. Psychoanalytic interpretations of aggression. Cognitive models and the explanation of aggressive acts. The behaviorist direction and the mechanisms developed by it for mastering aggressive behavior. Using the explanatory schemes of aggression proposed by the cognitive direction, psychoanalysis and behaviorism in criminology and criminal psychology. Psychological analysis of the motivation of acts of physical aggression, which are expressed in various delinquent and deviant manifestations in minors and adults.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**PSYCHODIAGNOSTICS OF PERSONALITY IN PRE-TRIAL AND COURT PRACTICE**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** III

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Prof. Stanislava Stoianova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [avka@swu.bg](mailto:avka@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The course "Psychodiagnostics of personality in pre-trial and court practice" is studied in the 3rd semester as a mandatory course in the curriculum of Masters in Criminal Psychology - specialists. The schedule is 30 hours of lectures, 90 hours of extracurricular work and 4 credits.

The course "Psychodiagnostics of the Personality in Pre-Trial and Judicial Practice" includes the following content modules: diagnosis of cognitive functions; diagnosis of personality traits in



eyewitnesses, perpetrators and victims of criminal acts; diagnosis of personality disorders; diagnosis of relationships between parents and children in pre-trial and judicial proceedings; psychological features of the interrogation of minors who are victims or witnesses of criminal acts, as well as the interrogation of accused persons; methods and criteria for assessing the credibility of testimonies.

Objectives of the course “Psychodiagnostics of the personality in pre-trial and court practice ”: familiarization with the specifics of diagnostics within the framework of pre-trial and judicial proceedings; formation of skills for establishing the reliability of testimonies; knowledge of the psychological features of the interrogation of minors and underage persons, victims and witnesses of offenses; formation of skills for psychological assessment of offenders.

The lecture course is conducted using modern technical means such as multimedia and software, models and interactive methods.

Active independent work by students is expressed in the preparation and presentation of scientific research works, conducting psychological studies; solving tests; summarizing articles, book chapters; essays on problems on which students have personal observations and experience; analysis of case studies; adaptation of a test.

#### **Content of the course:**

Specifics of diagnostics within the framework of pre-trial and judicial proceedings. Recognizing false testimonies and overcoming the attitude towards their presentation. Diagnostics of the reliability of the testimonies of witnesses and victims when conducting an interrogation with them. Psychodiagnostic techniques used when interrogating minors and minors, victims and witnesses of sexual offenses. Psychodiagnostics of the reliability of the testimonies when interrogating a minor accused. Creating a psychological profile of offenders. Psychodiagnostics of eyewitnesses. Assessment of the offender..

#### **Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the learning process is carried out in accordance with the credit transfer and accumulation system. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written essay on the content of the course, as well as on the basis of the grade from the student's independent (out-of-class) work.

Grading scale: a six-point grading scale is used, where an excellent grade of 6 is equal to an A grade according to the European grading system; a very good grade of 5 is equal to a B grade according to the European grading system; a good grade of 4 is equal to a C grade according to the European grading system; an average grade of 3 is equal to a D grade according to the European grading system; a poor grade of 2 is equal to a E grade according to the European grading system.

### **PRACTICAL INTERNSHIP**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** III

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: [simona.nikolova@swu.bg](mailto:simona.nikolova@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 45 exercises

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

Students in the Master's program carry out a compulsory practical internship in the third (III) semester. The purpose of the practical internship is for the students to become familiar with the work of practising specialists in a real professional environment and to be able to implement an activity under supervision, in accordance with the content of their studies in the Master's program.

#### **Essence of the internship:**



An internship is a valuable component of or addition to any educational programme. It will give students an insight into the world of work and an opportunity to compare theory with practice. For many students, an internship is also an avenue towards longer-term employment.

- ✓ The head of the practical internship instructs the student-interns before starting the practical internship;
- ✓ He/she assigns the students (by order of the Rector), to institutions with which an institutional contract has been formed;
- ✓ Each student is obligated to certify the internship book with an inspector of the education department;
- ✓ The mentor prepares a program and schedule, which is agreed upon with the head of the practice;
- ✓ During the practical internship, each student keeps a diary for the implementation of the practical tasks;
- ✓ The mentor takes into account the student's presence and engagement during the internship and finally sets an overall grade for the student's work;
- ✓ After completing the practical internship, the student prepares a portfolio report, including a detailed description of the activities and practical tasks performed during the practical internship.

#### **Teaching and assessment method:**

Students who have successfully completed a practical internship at the relevant base institution are admitted to the exam. The final assessment includes the assessment by the base mentor and the submitted portfolio report. It is formed after an interview with the head of practice, including the defence of the acquired knowledge and skills during the internship. At the end of the internship book, there are two survey cards: One for the student and one for the base mentor, in which both enter their assessment and opinion about the practical internship and recommendations for its improvement.

### **LIE DETECTION METHODS**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief Assist. Prof. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

**H. Assist. Prof. Daniel Genkov**

**Email:** [emelina\\_z@swu.bg](mailto:emelina_z@swu.bg); [genkov@assess.bg](mailto:genkov@assess.bg)

#### **Annotation:**

The discipline presents polygraphic examinations' methodological and methodical aspects, the history of their emergence and gradual improvement. Special attention is paid to the discussion issues of the validity and reliability of polygraph examinations and the results obtained through them, given the different legal regulations of their use in individual countries, to meet specific public needs. Special attention is paid to the validated test formats and the formulation of the various questions during the instrumental part of the procedure. The applied sphere of the polygraph and the related legal and ethical issues are commented on in detail. After completing their training in the course, students will know more fully the functional essence of polygraph examinations, the methodology for their conduct and the possibilities for their real application.

#### **Content of the course:**

Historical information on the origin and development of polygraph examinations. Methodological prerequisites for polygraph examinations. Validity and reliability of polygraph tests. Types of polygraph tests. The procedure of the polygraph examination. Practical use of the polygraph.



Legal and ethical aspects of polygraph examinations. Other methods for deception detection – EyeDetect и EyeDetect+, voice analysis, behavioral analysis, statement analysis, etc..

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FOR INFLUENCING THE INTERROGATION OF SUSPECTS**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** H Assist. Prof. Velina Vladimirova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

**Email:** [vladimirova@assess.bg](mailto:vladimirova@assess.bg)

**Annotation:**

The course presents the methodological and methodical aspects of the psychological interview and interrogation and their functions in the implementation of various types of criminal investigations. It presents the psychological underpinning of various strategies and tactical techniques for conducting interrogations with suspects, accused, witnesses and victims. The direct and indirect strategies of conducting an interrogation, as well as the combination between them, are analyzed separately. The psychological specifics of the implementation of such interrogation techniques as asking unexpected questions, bringing out contradictions from previous statements, prompting, without making suggestions in the cases of certain memory difficulties and disorders, providing information to a certain degree, demonstrating that more is known than is actually known. Students who have completed their studies in this discipline will have sufficiently differentiated knowledge of the psychological nature of the interrogation and the interview, as well as the psychological approaches and techniques used in conducting them with suspects, witnesses and victims to ensure reliable information and receive confessions from the guilty parties.

**Content of the course:**

Interview and interrogation in criminal investigations. History of emergence and development of methods. Persons who are the subject of the psychological interview – suspects, witnesses, victims. Content-thematic aspects of the psychological interview within the framework of the criminal investigation. Main stages of the psychological interview and interrogation when conducted for the needs of the criminal investigation. Procedure for conducting an interview and interrogation and criteria for assessing its effectiveness. Psychological analysis of interrogation as a procedural action. Psychological features of the directive and indirect strategy when conducting an interrogation. Open and closed questions when conducting an interrogation. Psychological aspects of using the technique of the unexpected turn of questions. Demonstration of the technique of showing contradictions in the presented data. Analysis of the use of prompting without suggestion to overcome mental difficulties

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.



## NEGOTIATING CRITICAL INCIDENTS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical lectures guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

**H. Assist. Prof. Todor Todorov**

**Email:** [emelina\\_z@swu.bg](mailto:emelina_z@swu.bg); [todorov@assess.bg](mailto:todorov@assess.bg)

**Hours:** 20 lectures +10 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

The academic discipline presents the methodology, the methods and the procedure of conducting negotiations in the occurrence of various crisis situations and incidents such as barricaded people, hostage situations, suicide attempts and other similar scenarios. The typologies developed so far of the different categories of kidnappers, their psychological profiles, specifics of motivation, adventurous attitudes, mental deviations, readiness for extreme and inappropriate behavior are specially analyzed. The qualities of the leading negotiators, their selection and psychological preparation, so that they are able to successfully perform their functions, are commented on. Students who have gone through the training in this discipline will know the principles of negotiation in managing critical incidents and situations, the stages of the negotiation process and its techniques. They will be able, based on their understanding of the typologies of kidnappers and other problematic participants in crisis situations and incidents, to more precisely analyze their motives, attitudes and intentions in order to plan more adequately and effectively lead the negotiations process.

### **Content of the course:**

Determining the psychological aspects of negotiations in the event of crises and incidents. Stages and methods of conducting negotiations. Typologies of kidnappers, hostages, and persons with suicidal intent. The Stockholm syndrome and its psychological interpretations. Psychologically essential qualities of employees leading negotiations. Psychological aspects of the preparation of employees assigned to conduct negotiations in critical situations and incidents

### **Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## PSYCHOLOGY OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUPS

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Emil Madzharov, PhD, Department of Psychology

**Email:** [e.madzharov@abv.bg](mailto:e.madzharov@abv.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**



The study discipline presents the psychological specificity of organized criminal groups, the system of their norms, leadership structure, sanctions, cohesion, roles, and communication. In the context of the functioning of organized criminal groups, such phenomena as group polarization, risk enhancement, and groupthink are analyzed. A psychological analysis is made of the difficulties and problems arising in the process of assisting the police and penitentiary authorities to confront organized criminal groups effectively. After completing their studies in this discipline, students will master the essential psychological criteria, concepts, and empirical methods for differentiating group structure, communication, and cohesion. They will be able to observe and analyze the phenomena of groupthink, polarization, and increased risk

**Content of the course:**

Nature and definition of organized crime. Types of organized criminal groups. Socio-psychological factors for the formation of organized criminal groups. Organizational-functional model of organized criminal groups. Group norms, cohesion and leadership in organized criminal groups. Personal characteristics and peculiarities of the leaders and members of organized criminal groups. Specificity of psychological analysis and investigation of organized criminal groups. Role and communicative structure of organized criminal groups. Psychological aspects of the functioning of organized criminal groups. Psychological support for the activities of the police and penitentiary authorities against organized criminal groups.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PRACTICAL INTERNSHIP**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester IV**

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: [simona.nikolova@swu.bg](mailto:simona.nikolova@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 45 exercises

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

Students in the Master's program carry out a compulsory practical internship in the fourth (IV) semester. The purpose of the practical internship is for the students to become familiar with the work of practising specialists in a real professional environment and to be able to implement an activity under supervision, in accordance with the content of their studies in the Master's program.

**Essence of the internship:**

An internship is a valuable component of or addition to any educational programme. It will give students an insight into the world of work and an opportunity to compare theory with practice. For many students, an internship is also an avenue towards longer-term employment.

- ✓ The head of the practical internship instructs the student-interns before starting the practical internship;
- ✓ He/she assigns the students (by order of the Rector), to institutions with which an institutional contract has been formed;
- ✓ Each student is obligated to certify the internship book with an inspector of the education department;



- ✓ The mentor prepares a program and schedule, which is agreed upon with the head of the practice;
- ✓ During the practical internship, each student keeps a diary for the implementation of the practical tasks;
- ✓ The mentor takes into account the student's presence and engagement during the internship and finally sets an overall grade for the student's work;
- ✓ After completing the practical internship, the student prepares a portfolio report, including a detailed description of the activities and practical tasks performed during the practical internship.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

Students who have successfully completed a practical internship at the relevant base institution are admitted to the exam. The final assessment includes the assessment by the base mentor and the submitted portfolio report. It is formed after an interview with the head of practice, including the defence of the acquired knowledge and skills during the internship. At the end of the internship book, there are two survey cards: One for the student and one for the base mentor, in which both enter their assessment and opinion about the practical internship and recommendations for its improvement.

## **ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES/ FIRST GROUP/**

### **EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Form of knowledge assessment:** ongoing assessment

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** I

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assistant Professor Dr. Blagovesta Dafkova, Department of Psychology

**Email:** [bl.dafkova@swu.bg](mailto:bl.dafkova@swu.bg)

**Annotation:**

The course in Evolutionary Psychology includes the following content modules:

- 1) Methodological issues;
- 2) Mental processes;
- 3) Mental actions.

**Course content:**

The aim of this course is to clarify fundamental questions related to the emergence, nature, and development of the psyche, to reveal the progressive evolution of mental processes, and to highlight the nature and specifics of various mental actions.

**Teaching and assessment methods:**

The assessment of students' achievements during the course is conducted in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The final grade is formed based on the evaluation of a written answer to a topic covered during lectures and the assessment of the student's independent (out-of-classroom) work.



## PSYCHOLOGY OF ADULT DEVELOPMENT

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [teodor@swu.bg](mailto:teodor@swu.bg)

### **Annotation:**

The discipline „Psychology of Adult Development“ covers topics dealing with the dynamics and changes of mental phenomena during different periods of adulthood. Their knowledge will contribute to the comprehensive knowledge of mental development throughout the life cycle. Information is provided on the factors leading to ageing and old age and the processes accompanying them. Personality development in terms of age is traced and conditioned by a multitude of individually specific and environmental circumstances. The interest in the psyche of the elderly is presupposed both by strictly scientific considerations and by humanitarian, social and demographic ones.

### **Course content:**

The discipline „Psychology of adult development“ includes the content modules: 1) methodological issues; 2) peculiarities of mental processes, properties and structures; 3) psychological characteristics of age periods; 4) crises in development; 5) influence of social factors on adult development and 6) attitude to life.

### **Teaching and assessment method:**

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## PSYCHOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGIES

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Form of knowledge assessment:** ongoing assessment

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** I

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assistant Professor Dr. Blagovesta Dafkova, Department of Psychology

Email: [bl.dafkova@swu.bg](mailto:bl.dafkova@swu.bg)

### **Annotation:**

"Psychology and Technologies" is an elective course intended for undergraduate students in Psychology, taught over one semester. The curriculum is structured around the integration of behavioral sciences and technical skills. The course illustrates changes in unconscious psychophysiological processes.

### **Course content:**

Students who complete the "Psychology and Technologies" course will:

- Become familiar with accessible and practical ways to observe and improve mental health;
- Learn concepts such as heart rate, brain activity levels, sleep quality, health and biological indicators, assessed via various devices;



- Work with technical methodologies for training and rehabilitation of the nervous system in cases of speech, motor, behavioral, and mental disorders;
- Learn about various forms of integration with counseling/psychotherapy;
- Observe demonstrations of stress response tracking and emotional activation during individual or group counseling/therapy sessions;
- Be able to guide individuals on how to participate in the development and maintenance of their mental health;

#### **Teaching and assessment methods:**

The following are assessed:

- Quality and depth of written coursework;
- Ability to present and defend course papers and their theses;
- Demonstration of knowledge, skills, and competence;
- Use of a creative approach in solving case studies;
- Ability to work independently during out-of-class activities;

Final grade: Students receive a grade on a six-point scale.

To be admitted to the semester exam, students must earn a minimum of 65 points through ongoing assessment. Otherwise, they must submit additional independent work to reach the required minimum.

## **GENDER SOCIOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief. Assis. Prof. Iveta Yakova, Ph.D., Department of Sociology

**Email:** [yakova@swu.bg](mailto:yakova@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

The course „Gender Sociology“ focuses on basic sociological concepts, social-psychological theories and research that contribute to clarifying the concepts of gender, gender identity and sexuality. In this way, by developing specific, universally valid terminology, the aim is to develop tolerant and non-discriminatory language necessary for communication and interaction with people of different sexes, genders and sexualities. This helps to develop empathy for sensitive issues such as violence and exploitation (and not only), ranging from unwanted contact, through sexist attitudes and actions, to rape and murder, by building the necessary reflection (including self-reflection) for recognition and developing a strategy for dealing with the resulting situation.

#### **Course content:**

The topics covered in the course aim to rethink gender models and behaviour, gender norms and stereotypical understandings that produce and reproduce inequalities in male and female roles and positions.

In the course of study, a historical review of the male-female opposition will be conducted in order to distinguish between traditional and contemporary understandings of spaces, spheres of influence and activity, including the „glass ceiling effect“.

Students will also learn about gender socialisation, interpersonal relationships, love, marriage and cohabitation, family or career, health and reproduction, gender and violence, emancipation and feminism, and the application of sociological methods in gender studies.

The course aims to develop skills for the adequate use of gender concepts, which will help overcome stereotypical attitudes about the distribution of roles and activities of men and women in



all spheres of life, from the family to the labour market.

This will reinforce attitudes of tolerance towards otherness, including gender identity and different sexualities, and will develop the practice of using measured language and avoiding discriminatory behaviour, which is one of the characteristics of education in Sociology.

**Teaching and assessment methods:**

The course in „*Gender Sociology*“ concludes with a written exam in the form of a test including questions from the syllabus, covering the topics of the course material.

Students who meet the following requirements are admitted to the final exam:

а) attend and participate in the activities scheduled during the course, which is no less than two-thirds attendance at lectures;

б) have an average grade of at least Satisfactory 3 from the case studies and coursework prepared within the framework of the scheduled continuous assessment and extracurricular activities.

The final assessment is calculated as 60% for ongoing assessment and 40% for the exam.

Students who do not meet the above requirements must meet the following criteria:

а) ongoing assessment during the regular exam session and a final exam test during the resit session;

б) prepare an analysis of the content of a film, interview, report, etc., and apply a sociological method of their choice in the field during the regular session in order to take the exam in the resit session.

To this end, during the classes, they must actively participate in the activities provided for in the classroom (discussions, analyses, comments, etc.) and have received an average grade of „very good“ or „excellent“ from the ongoing assessment and coursework.

## **PSYCHOLOGY OF ADVERTISING**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Ivan Krastev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

**Email:** [iv.krastev@swu.bg](mailto:iv.krastev@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The Psychology of Advertising discipline sheds light on the impact on consumer attitudes and behaviour towards offered goods and services. Businesses and corporations strive to transform consumers' thinking and preferences. To achieve this goal, special attention is given to the psychological influence, mechanisms, and models of the impact of advertisements on the psyche of the potential or actual consumer. The main task of the discipline is to reveal the mechanisms of advertising impact and consumer influence. Acquainting students with the main mental determinants of the behaviour of the economic entity provides an opportunity to develop effective advertising strategies.

**Course content:**

The discipline deals with the main mechanisms of advertising impact, the main approaches in developing an advertising strategy, and the methods of analyzing its effectiveness. By completing the discipline, students will become familiar with the research necessary for developing an advertising strategy and the main directions of advertising's impact. Verbal and non-verbal means of achieving advertising goals and creating an advertising image are discussed.

**Teaching and assessment method:**



Training in the elective discipline „Psychology of Advertising“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

### **PSYCHOLOGY OF STRESS**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, D.Sc., Department of Psychology

Email: [stoil\\_m@swu.bg](mailto:stoil_m@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

It is imperative to learn how mental processes, properties, and states of mind can positively or negatively affect health and their repercussions in people's lives. The knowledge acquired by the psychologist will allow him to be beneficial to society more purposefully and successfully. Tasks include:

- ✓ To clarify basic concepts and theories in the psychology of stress;
- ✓ To understand the nature and characteristics of stressogenic factors and concepts;
- ✓ To improve the student's skills in using research methods to assess and diagnose stressful conditions.

#### **Course content:**

The Psychology of Stress discipline includes the following content modules: Theories of stress, stressful factors and stressful conditions and professional stress.

#### **Teaching and assessment method:**

Students' activity in classes in that they participate, their ability to analyse and evaluate connections and dependencies between psyche and health, their ability to diagnose causes that led to health disorders, their ability to make appropriate recommendations of a psychological nature according to objective needs, to improve health, etc., will be assessed.

### **SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief. Assist Prof. Nikolay Ivanchev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [nikyart@swu.bg](mailto:nikyart@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

The discipline „Sports Psychology“ includes a detailed presentation of the psychological structure of sports activity and the age-specific features of physical culture.

The study discipline „Sports Psychology“ is a science that draws knowledge from the fields of kinesiology and psychology. It includes studying how psychological factors affect performance and how participation in sports and exercise affect psychological and physical factors. In addition to instruction and training in psychological skills to improve performance, applied sport psychology



may include working with athletes, coaches, and parents regarding injury and rehabilitation, communication, team building, and career transitions.

**Course content:**

Basic concepts in sports psychology; The essence and features of sports psychology, the conditions for its application and its use; Both general and specific psychological characteristics of the sports activity; The causes, essence, and specificity of the phenomenological manifestations and the prognosis of the different forms of the sports activity; Basic knowledge regarding the technology of conducting a psychological diagnosis of sports activity, specialized competencies regarding the application of various psychological approaches to sports.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

Training in the optional discipline of Sports Psychology is carried out through lectures and the assignment of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

## **FOLK PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Department assuring education:** Psychology

**Faculty assuring education:** Philosophical

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D Department of Psychology

E-mail: [simona.nikolova@swu.bg](mailto:simona.nikolova@swu.bg)

**Hours :** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The discipline focuses on the collective mental processes that shape the national character, cultural identity, and social attitudes of a people. Topics include ethnic stereotypes, cultural norms, myths, folklore, and their influence on individual and group consciousness.

**Course content:**

The course content is focused on developing in students the skills to understand and analyse cultural and psychological differences, their application in intercultural communication and social processes, and the application of folk psychological approaches in social, educational and managerial contexts. The specific features of the mentality, behavior and values of the Bulgarian people, formed over the centuries, are reflected. The lecture course is conducted using interactive teaching methods and techniques.

**Teaching learning and assessment:**

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of learning in the various disciplines is carried out according to the transfer and accumulation of credits system. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving tasks, tests, control and coursework. Training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the course material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic average of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the grade from the ongoing control during the semester and the grade from the final exam.

## **ECONOMIC PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written



**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Krastev, Ph.D.,** Department of PsychologyEmail: [iv.krastev@swu.bg](mailto:iv.krastev@swu.bg)**Annotation:**

The discipline „Economic Psychology“ was developed based on the interdisciplinary interaction between the scientific specialties of economics and psychology. Economic psychology offers a new approach to the analysis of economic phenomena. It also examines the social conditioning of economic phenomena, the role of economic institutions in society, and the influence of organizations and social networks on economic life. It is related to the study of the psychological mechanisms of economic behaviour and economic decision-making, the role of social communities in the economy, and group interactions in economic organizations.

**Course content:**

The lectures cover the peculiarities of economic behaviour at the individual level. The individual's motivational structure, character, abilities, work attitudes, and job satisfaction are revealed. The theories that reveal the psychological parameters of activity and professional suitability are examined, and the psychological mechanisms through which people's labour and market behaviour is influenced. The topics concern the psychological aspect of economic behaviour from the point of view of socio-psychological interactions and relations between individuals in social groups as subjects of economic activity. The discipline includes the study of the psychological parameters of consumer behaviour. An essential prerequisite for success in business activity is communication skills. In this aspect, the communication problems in business and some requirements and rules for conducting a business conversation are considered.

**Teaching, learning, and assessment:**

Training in the discipline „Economic Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. Discussions and scientific articles are commented on during the seminar classes.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

**PSYCHOLOGY OF ART****ECTS credits:** 3**Assessment:** exam**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D.,** Department of PsychologyEmail: [b\\_iordanova@swu.bg](mailto:b_iordanova@swu.bg)**Hours:** 15 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The „Psychology of Art“ discipline includes a detailed presentation of the psychological structure of artistic depiction and the age-specific features of pictorial activity. The discipline is a systematic presentation in historical terms of the main psychological concepts and discussions about the essence of art, styles in art, and aesthetic categories. The benefit of a psychological approach to artistic practice is demonstrated by presenting leading psychological interpretations of certain periods or styles in art, as in view of the academic context of which the discipline is a part, the emphasis is placed on fine art and individual characteristics of the personality.

The assessment of this discipline is by evaluating the students' answers to written questions at the end of the training course.



**Course content:**

Basic concepts in the psychology of art  
Analysis of the artistic activity's general and specific psychological characteristics, the causes, the essence, and the specificity of the phenomenological manifestations. The prognosis of the different forms of creative activity and basic knowledge about the technology of psychological diagnosis of artistic activity.

**Teaching, learning, and assessment:**

The training in the elective discipline „Psychology of Art“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

## PSYCHE AND HEALTH

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** I

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [teodor@swu.bg](mailto:teodor@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

This discipline covers a series of topics substantiating the interaction between the psyche and health. In the modern world, many circumstances favour health, but there are not a few challenges to its preservation. It is increasingly realized that the psyche is the integrating, guiding force in the unity of man's systems and that the functioning of all others depends on its condition. At the same time, the psyche is most vulnerable in various life circumstances. Therefore, its preservation significantly determines the general state of health of the person. This calls for special attention to the relationship between the psyche and health. By studying the course, students will become familiar with the role of mental processes in protecting and restoring health. Also, they will form skills to establish healthy behavioural patterns.

**Course content:**

This discipline is based on a wide range of theoretical and practically proven positions. Information is provided on the basic concepts of the discipline „Psyche and Health“ / psyche, health, personality, mental processes, reflections, adaptation, habits, mutual relations and dependencies between psyche and health (mental, physical), conscious organization of psychophysical life and spontaneous (subject to circumstances), motives, values, etc. The overall process of interaction between psyche and health is clarified, as well as the role of mental processes and mental self-regulation in maintaining and strengthening health. Skills are formed to apply what has been learned in a real environment.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.



## ELECTIVE COURSES / SECOND GROUP/

### CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief. Assis. Prof. Gergana Stanoeva, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

**Email:** [gerystanoeva@swu.bg](mailto:gerystanoeva@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

Clinical psychology is a branch of applied psychology focused on understanding, diagnosing, and treating mental disorders, as well as emotional and behavioral problems. It integrates theory, scientific research, and practice with the goal of improving mental health and the overall well-being of individuals. The main methodological approaches include clinical interviews, psychodiagnostic tests, observation, and various forms of psychotherapy. There are diverse therapeutic models, among which the psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral, and humanistic approaches stand out. Particular importance is placed on ethical principles and professional standards, which ensure conscientious and effective work with clients in various contexts – individual, group, or institutional. In the modern context, clinical psychology plays a key role in interdisciplinary teams and in the prevention of mental illnesses, with increasing attention given to cultural sensitivity and personalized interventions.

#### **Course content:**

Key topics of the course include psychopathology, assessment of mental disorders, diagnostic tools and interviews, as well as various forms of therapy, such as individual psychotherapy, family therapy, and group therapy. Special attention is given to ethical principles in clinical practice and issues related to confidentiality and working with vulnerable groups.

#### **Teaching and assessment method:**

The course is delivered through lectures, discussions, case analyses, and practical exercises, which will enable students to master key techniques for diagnosis and therapeutic intervention. During the course, students become familiar with real clinical situations through examples and role-playing. Assessment includes continuous evaluation, participation in discussions and seminar sessions, analysis of clinical case studies, a written project, and a final exam. The course emphasizes the development of practical skills and critical thinking in the context of clinical practice.

### PROFFESIONAL PSYCHODIAGNOSTIC

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

**Email:** [avka@swu.bg](mailto:avka@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

The course “Professional Psychodiagnostics” is studied during the sixth semester as an optional subject of the bachelor curriculum of Psychology. The workload is 30 academic hours lectures, 60 hours extra-curriculum activity and 3 credits.

#### **Course content:**



The course in “Professional Psychodiagnostics” includes the following modules of content: 1) subject and historical development of professional psychodiagnostics; 2) profession, job, career, competence and competences; 3) career guidance and career counselling; 4) vocational selection. The goals of the course “Professional Psychodiagnostics” are: to be known the difference between profession, job, and career; to be known the types of competences; to be clarified the methods of psychological diagnostics of professional suitability of candidates for different occupations; to be formed skills for professional guidance, professional counselling and professional selection; to be formed skills for preparation of professiograms.

The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, etc. Interactive methods are also used.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The students’ extra-curriculum activity represents preparation and presentation of scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test. Assessment of the students’ results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written test on some topics from the course content, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work. Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

## **POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assist. Prof. Iva Dimitrova, PhD, Department of Psychology

**Email:** [idimitrova@swu.bg](mailto:idimitrova@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The primary academic and research objective of the course is to trace the genesis and historical development of the principles, political practices, and the rule of law underpinning democracy across the centuries. The course provides an analytical perspective on the political sociology of modern societies, with a particular emphasis on the formation and functioning of Bulgarian modern democracy throughout the country’s sovereign history. It also examines the initial attempts at the emergence of Bulgarian civil society

**Course content:**

The lecture course explores and debates national doctrines involved in establishing the foundations of modern democracy. It analyzes the processes through which democratic principles become firmly embedded within society. A central component of the course is the examination of the national constitution in relation to the formation and operation of political systems.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

Instruction is delivered through lectures supported by multimedia tools. Emphasis is placed on active student participation and the application of acquired knowledge in practical contexts. Assessment of students' performance is conducted in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). It includes continuous assessment based on participation, practical assignments, and tests, as well as evaluation of independent (out-of-class) work. The final grade is determined at the end of the course, based on the results of a written examination covering the lecture material and the continuous assessment. This comprehensive evaluation approach is



designed to measure both theoretical knowledge and analytical thinking, as well as the ability to apply acquired competencies in real-world scenarios.

## **PSYCHOLOGY OF SEXUALITY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Form of knowledge assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assist. Prof. Nikolay Ivanchev, PhD, Department of Psychology

E-mail: [nikyart@swu.bg](mailto:nikyart@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** Written

### **Annotation:**

This course aims to broaden students' understanding of the diverse nature and structure of human sexuality, including sexual dysfunctions, identity, and culture. It emphasizes biological, psychological, and social factors. The course adopts a multidimensional perspective because sexuality is a fundamental drive that plays a central role in our intimate behavior and interpersonal interactions. Students will be introduced to the broad spectrum of human sexuality and related topics such as the development of sexual behavior and its changes throughout the lifespan, historical and contemporary views on the psychology of sex, the role of sexuality in daily life, interactions between individuals, and attitudes related to sexual preferences. They will also learn how psychologists study human sexuality, as well as how theories and public attitudes towards sexuality and human sexual behavior develop.

### **Course content:**

1) Introduction to the subject; emergence and development of sexuality. 2) Mental and psychological aspects of gender. 3) Features of child and adolescent sexuality. 4) Characteristics of sexuality in adulthood. 5) Sexuality during involution and old age. 6) Psychopathology of sexuality and types of sexual disorders. 7) Quantitative and qualitative sexual dysfunctions. 8) Personal characteristics associated with the occurrence of sexual dysfunctions. 9) Sexual education and upbringing.

### **Teaching and Assessment Methods:**

The training in the elective course Psychology of Sexuality is carried out through lectures and assignment of independent extracurricular projects. The lecture course is traditional and includes group work, use of interactive teaching methods and multimedia. The course lasts one semester, and students are evaluated based on their participation during classes and the results of independent work. The final grade combines scores from individual contributions and written assignments and is awarded after successful completion of a written examination.

## **BUSINESS PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Ivan Krastev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [iv.krestev@swu.bg](mailto:iv.krestev@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written



**Annotation:**

The discipline „Business Psychology“ aims to familiarise students with the areas of application of business psychology, with the psychological aspects in the various spheres of business relations, advertising, business communication, business motivation, etc.

**Course content:**

It studies the peculiarities of the personality of the manager and the entrepreneur as organizers and innovators in economic activity. In addition, business psychology deals with the regularities and practical guidelines of business negotiations with business partners, emphasizing various training with a particular psychological focus.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES AND COUNSELING

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assis. Prof. Iva Koprinkova-Ilieva, PhD., Department of Psychology

Email: [ivakoprinkova@swu.bg](mailto:ivakoprinkova@swu.bg)

**Annotation:**

The academic discipline “Psychotherapeutic Techniques and Counseling” is a branch of applied psychology. The goal of the course is for students to:

1. Acquire knowledge of the main types of psychotherapeutic techniques – their essence, similarities and differences, as well as their areas of application;
2. Understand the main stages involved in every therapeutic process and develop skills for the practical application of psychotherapeutic methods in general, and of specific therapies in particular, in modern society.

**Course content:**

The theoretical nature of the course “Psychotherapeutic Techniques and Counseling” requires the lecture material to be organized into the following main modules:

1. Fundamental aspects of the therapeutic process;
2. Coping techniques;
3. Application of the psychotherapeutic method in contemporary society.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved in the training process is consistent with the system for accumulation and transfer of credits. The continuous assessment, required for admission to the final exam, includes attendance at least two-thirds of the lectures, participation in discussions and role-playing exercises (in-class activities), as well as the completion of practical tasks such as case analyses, preparation and presentation of coursework – written assignments (in-class and extracurricular activities).

Students who do not meet the specific requirements must take a remedial exam directly and develop more questions on the exam. Additional assignments may be given during the semester to allow students to participate in the regular exam session.



The exam is written and includes questions from the syllabus. The final grade in the course is based on the sum of the continuous assessment and the final exam grade.

## FOUNDATION OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Department involved:**

**Department „Psychology“**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Gergana Popova, Ph.D., Department “Philosophical and Political Sciences”

E-mail: [gerp@swu.bg](mailto:gerp@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

"Foundation of Psychoanalysis" is an elective course, scheduled for the second semester of the Master's program for non-specialists. It deals with the most general problems of psychoanalysis: directions in psychoanalysis; basic concepts of the Oedipus complex, defense mechanisms, forms of manifestation of the unconscious.

### **Course content:**

Main directions in psychoanalysis; Freud: basic concepts and problems, structure of personality, phases of sexuality, Oedipus complex, defense mechanisms, neuroses, psychoanalysis as a treatment method, ideas about cultural-historical development; A. Adler: individual psychology; complex theory; K. Jung: analytical psychology, theory of archetypes; child psychoanalysis: Anna Freud, Melanie Klein; neo-freudianism: Herbert Marcuse, Erich Fromm..

### **Teaching and assessment:**

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lecture course, and the grade from the student's individual (extracurricular) work.

## PSYCHOLOGY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [natasha\\_v@swu.bg](mailto:natasha_v@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

The study discipline „Psychology of family relationships“ covers the problems of the emergence and establishment of the family as a social unit. As an object of scientific research, study and substantive analysis of the academic discipline are the place, meaning, and functions of the individuals (elements) in the family, tracked in an onto- and phylogenetic plan.

### **Course content:**

Through this discipline, students have the opportunity to rediscover -in a new way- their life knowledge about the essence of the family and the family interactions that take place in it. Through ongoing topics and life situations, students are introduced to and get familiar with the importance of



the mental processes, qualities, and peculiarities of each of the parties in the „family“ system; on the importance of psychological skills characterizing the relationships between:

- spouses, seen as persons of different gender and age;
- between the man and the woman from the position of parents;
- between parents and their children;
- between the children themselves, taking into account their gender and place in the family in the order of their birth.

At the end of the course, students will not only receive the necessary theoretical knowledge about interpersonal relationships in the family but will also have formed enough habits and skills to work with various test questionnaires for psychological research on marriage satisfaction, the attitude of parents towards children and family relations, sexual satisfaction as a factor for effective interpersonal relations, etc.

Through relevant topics and exercises specially organized for the purpose, students will be able to acquire knowledge and form psychological skills in themselves, to reveal the interrelationship between mental processes and temperament, character, anxiety, aggressiveness, and other personal characteristics, which are essential internal determinants of mental regulation and self-regulation of personal behaviour and family relations in general.

#### **Teaching, learning, and assessment:**

The evaluation of the discipline is formed by the sum of the evaluations of the participation in classroom work and out of classroom work during the semester.

Students who

- have attended at least two-thirds of the lectures;
- they appeared for a test or control (with a grade of more than „poor“), and
- have developed a Annotation: (example topics are attached at the end of the program), will be allowed to participate in the final exam.

Those who do not meet these requirements:

- will appear directly for a remedial exam;
- develop more exam questions;
- or they are given extra assignments within the semester to attend the regular first session.

The exam is written. It includes two questions from the outline. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment of ongoing control during the semester and the final exam assessment.

## **PSYCHOLOGY OF CREATIVITY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [b\\_iordanova@swu.bg](mailto:b_iordanova@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

#### **Annotation:**

The Psychology of Creativity discipline covers basic knowledge of the psychological constructs and theories underlying creativity as a special field of psychology emerging in the 21st century. The topics examine creative activity: 1) in terms of abilities, qualities, traits, attitudes, motivations, emotions, cognitive styles, and structures that belong to the subjective world and 2) in the space of the personality's relationship with the sociocultural context. This expanded understanding of creativity opens up possibilities for making sense of creativity in a much broader context in which the individual dimension is only one of the possible ones. The understanding of creativity is based on



a systemic approach that overcomes the attempt to confine creativity to the boundary of the individual.

**Course content:**

Students learn to interpret creativity as necessary for life in modern society, the main characteristic of which is change, because through creativity, individuals are able to perform adequate actions when the surrounding world changes and when problems arise. Moreover, creativity allows one not only to react flexibly but also to turn the personality into an active generator of changes (for practical needs or for pleasure) - a quality inherent only to man. The effective function of creativity is to transform the world through it, and in it the person's development also takes place. Creative manifestations may not lead to a new and socially significant product in the absolute sense of the word. However, they are important for developing personality because they develop the prerequisites for creativity in solving problems in everyday life and work and for innovation in science and art.

**Teaching, learning, and assessment:**

The training in the elective discipline „Psychology of creativity“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

## **PSYCHOLOGY OF FASHION**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief. Assis. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [simona.nikolova@swu.bg](mailto:simona.nikolova@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The discipline " Psychology of Fashion " provides knowledge reflecting various areas of cognitive psychology. It includes explanations of the perception of the fashion process in the context of psycho-social terms of the historical and contemporary dimensions of fashion trends. The course contributes to familiarization with the psychological aspects of fashion such as non-verbal communication and symbolic interaction.

**Course content:**

Through the lecture course, students have the opportunity to become familiar with the basic concepts, theories, tasks and methods of fashion psychology; to acquire theoretical knowledge and skills for recognizing emotions, group affiliation, culture, and identity; to acquire knowledge and form skills for revealing the relationship, on the one hand, between cognitive and emotional mental processes, on the other - between them and society, updated in the fashion trend; to acquire knowledge about the cognitive and socio-psychological aspects of decision-making in the search for fashion products; to master the movement of changes in the fashion environment and the factors that drive these changes; to expand theoretical knowledge and discover the impact of fashion on society; to build skills for analysis and synthesis of the main characteristics determining trends in fashion; studying the uniqueness and specificity of the psychology of fashion.

**Teaching learning and assessment:**

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of learning in the various disciplines is carried out according to the transfer and accumulation of credits system. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving



tasks, tests, control and coursework. Training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the course material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic average of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the grade from the ongoing control during the semester and the grade from the final exam.

## **INTERCULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 3

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** II

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief. Assis. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [simona.nikolova@swu.bg](mailto:simona.nikolova@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 15 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

The discipline of Intercultural Psychology aims to decipher the complex ways in which cultural factors influence human behavior and cognition. This field offers a deep understanding of the diversity and universality of psychological processes, providing valuable insights into how people from different cultural backgrounds perceive, think, and interact. This includes, but is not limited to, the study of culture-related differences in personality, emotion and emotional expression, self-esteem, cognitive styles, and so on. The range of research topics within cross-cultural psychology is vast and multidimensional, reflecting the crucial role it plays in addressing the complexity of human behavior in today's increasingly globalized world. By exploring these topics, researchers and students can shed light on the nuanced interactions between culture and psychology, contributing significantly to the advancement of psychological science and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding. With the growing need for psychology and mental health worldwide, cross-cultural psychology is becoming an increasingly recognized discipline. Focusing on communication and collaboration between people around the world in teaching, research, practice, and public service.

### **Course content:**

The course content is focused on the development and improvement of professional competence, through the acquisition of theoretical knowledge and practical skills to improve international relations, address global problems, promote social justice, build capacity and assess cultural interdependence, and implement effective professional preparation for future realization.

### **Teaching learning and assessment:**

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of learning in the various disciplines is carried out according to the transfer and accumulation of credits system. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving tasks, tests, control and coursework. Training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the course material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic average of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the grade from the ongoing control during the semester and the grade from the final exam.

## **ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES /THIRD GROUP/**

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR CORPORATE SECURITY**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** III

**Methodical guide:**

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Type of exam:** written



**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D**, Department of PsychologyEmail: [natasha\\_v@swu.bg](mailto:natasha_v@swu.bg)**Annotation:**

The course examines corporate security through the prism of psychology, emphasizing the role of the human factor in the sustainability and effectiveness of organizations. Main topics include psychological aspects of personnel selection, development and improvement, as well as the assessment and optimization of organizational effectiveness. Special focus is placed on the assessment, analysis and development of human potential in a corporate context, professional psychodiagnostics and the prevention of internal abuses and risks. The course prepares students to apply psychological approaches and tools to increase the security and sustainability of modern organizations..

**Content of the course:**

Corporate security - essence and main content. Psychology in corporate security and its application in business. Necessary skills and qualities of the expert providing psychological support for security in corporations. The role of psychodiagnostics in the assessment and selection of employees. The role of managers in ensuring security in corporations. Profiling in cyberpsychology. Behavioral characteristics of cybercrime perpetrators. Detection of fraudulent behavior and non-verbal analysis in a corporate context. Negotiations. Psychology of interaction and influence.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**CRIMINALISTICS****ECTS credits:** 2**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** III**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Prof. Kostadin Bobev, Ph.D**, Department of "Public Law Sciences"Email: [kbobev@law.swu.bg](mailto:kbobev@law.swu.bg)**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The study of the discipline "Forensic Science" is focused on familiarizing students of the master's program "Criminal Psychology" with the basics of the organization, methodology and tools of this criminal law science. The content of the course covers issues in theoretical and practical aspects. Through it, students should become familiar with the main actions and procedures implemented by forensic scientists in connection with the investigation, detection and prevention of various crimes

**Content of the course:**

Subject, system, methodology and tasks of Forensic Science. Emergence and development of Forensic Science in Bulgaria. Material traces of crime. Technical means for detection and fixation. Technical means for studying material traces of crime. Forensic registration, information arrays for comparative analysis. Organizational and methodological issues of forensic expertise. Tactical approaches and rules for planning and organizing the investigation. Methods for proving, collecting and verifying evidentiary material. Methodology for investigating individual types of crimes.



**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**FACTORS AND DYNAMICS OF CRIMINAL MOTIVATION****ECTS credits:** 2**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** III**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Emil Madzharov, Ph.D, Department of PsychologyEmail: [e.madzharov@abv.bg](mailto:e.madzharov@abv.bg)**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The discipline includes the following content modules: Main directions in studying motivation and factors for the formation and development of criminal motivation; Types of criminal motivation. It represents the imbalance in the need sphere of criminal deviants, which determines the formation of their antisocial motives. The role of heightened expectations, self-esteem, egocentrism and emotional instability in structuring motives for various criminal activities is explained. The significance of the unconscious motivation in committing brutal violent acts against the person is outlined. The influence of Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy in the dynamics of criminal motivation is indicated. The dynamics of motivation in the organized and disorganized types of perpetrators of murder have been specially traced. After completing their studies in this discipline, students will have a differentiated understanding of the internal and external factors influencing the structuring of criminal motivation and its dynamics. They will also have a systematic knowledge of the motivational dynamics in the commission of murders by so-called organized and disorganized perpetrators

**Content of the course:**

Characteristics of the need-motivational sphere in criminal offenders. The role of self-esteem, aspects, and hypertrophied egocentrism in the formation and functioning of criminal motivation. Unconscious mental traumas and their role in committing violent criminal acts. Contemporary studies of the dark triad and their role in interpreting the emergence and functioning of criminal motivation. Motivational dynamics in organized homicide. Motivational dynamics in a disorganized homicide perpetrator.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**VISUAL-LINGUISTIC PSYCHODIAGNOSTICS****ECTS credits:** 2**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** III**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written



**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoianova, Ph.D,** Department of Psychology

Email: [avka@swu.bg](mailto:avka@swu.bg)

**Annotation:**

The course "Visual-Linguistic Psychodiagnostics" is included as an elective in the Master's Program in Criminal Psychology, majoring in Psychology. The course "Visual-Linguistic Psychodiagnostics" includes: 30 academic hours of lectures.

**Content of the course:**

The aim of the course is to provide students with professional information about the non-verbal signals that a person sends in communication situations. They are related to psychophysiological characteristics and help to analyze the content of the story more correctly. The content of the course "Visual-linguistic psychodiagnostics" includes topics aimed at recognizing the facial expressions and gestures of persons with criminal behavior and their victims, as well as the behavior of participants in the trial; the essence of visual psychodiagnostics; Physiognomy in the past; non-verbal communication - body language (expressiveness of movements; the relationship movement - emotion; the language of the eyes and face); observation - the main method of visual psychodiagnostics; diagnostics of non-verbal communication; verbal and non-verbal indicators of deceptive behavior. Attention is paid to the main channels for transmitting information within the framework of communication and their importance in analyzing behavior.

The lecture course is carried out using modern technical and interactive methods.

Active independent work by students is expressed in the preparation and presentation of scientific research papers, conducting psychological research; completing tests; summarizing articles, book chapters; essays on problems on which students have personal observations and experience; analysis of case studies.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the learning process is carried out in accordance with the credit transfer and accumulation system. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written essay on the content of the course, as well as on the basis of the grade from the student's independent (out-of-class) work.

Grading scale: a six-point grading scale is used, where an excellent grade of 6 is equal to an A grade according to the European grading system; a very good grade of 5 is equal to a B grade according to the European grading system; a good grade of 4 is equal to a C grade according to the European grading system; an average grade of 3 is equal to a D grade according to the European grading system; a poor grade of 2 is equal to a E grade according to the European grading system.

**PSYCHOLOGY OF TERRORISM**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** III

**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer: Prof. Boris Manov, Ph.D,** Department of Philosophic and political sciences

Email: [bmanov@swu.bg](mailto:bmanov@swu.bg)

**Annotation:**

The discipline "Psychology of Terrorism" outlines the essence, motives, goals, and tasks of terrorists and terrorist organizations. The meanings of the terms "terror," "terrorism," and



"radicalization" and their similarities and differences are introduced. A classification of the types of terrorism and methods of combating it is presented, which gives a general idea of terrorism as a mental phenomenon. The psychological characteristics of the terrorist, formed by the social position in society, ethnicity, region, family environment, and upbringing, are considered. The peculiarities and mental characteristics of the terrorist are explained, depending on the peculiarities of his character and temperament. The main reasons for joining a terrorist organization are indicated. The psychological characteristics of the terrorists' personality, motives, logic, and emotional sphere are identified. The characteristics of suicide terrorists are described. The training includes courses on the history of terrorism, the structure of terrorist organizations, and methods and forms of terrorist activity. Students who have gone through training in this discipline will know the psychological characteristics of the personality of terrorists, their motives, logic, and their emotional sphere. They will learn about the classification of types of terrorism and methods of combating it, as well as a general idea of terrorism as a psychological phenomenon.

**Content of the course:**

Nature and definition of terrorism. Specifics of the terrorist's personality. Psychological characteristics of the terrorist formed by their social position in society, ethnicity, and region. Motivation of the individual to become a terrorist. Goals and objectives of terrorist organizations. Structure of terrorist organizations. Methods and forms of terrorist activity. Counter-Terrorism Strategies and Tactics.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **VICTIMOLOGY**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Emil Madzharov, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: [e.madzharov@abv.bg](mailto:e.madzharov@abv.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The academic discipline presents the psychological characteristics of victims of violent acts. The characters of active and passive victims are examined in detail with their typical values, motivation, self-esteem, and character traits. The psychological aspects of the offender's contact with the victim and the techniques he uses concerning her are analyzed. The victim's psychological profile is presented in its entirety, and its individual components are analyzed. A psychological interpretation of Stockholm syndrome is presented, using the approaches developed in separate psychological directions. The role of different behavioral patterns offenders use to manipulate potential victims in specific situations is analyzed.

After completing their studies in this discipline, students will have a richer and more systematic understanding of active and passive victims' values, motivation, self-evaluation, and character traits. They will master the basic psychological approaches to analyzing the behavior of a crime victim and acquire skills to understand the nature of crime victim profiling; To gain insight into the dynamics of the perpetrator-victim relationship. They will know in more detail the psychological techniques that offenders use concerning their victims in order to deceive them, involve them in the



situation, and exercise physical violence on them.

**Content of the course:**

Psychological characteristics of victims of murder, rape, bodily harm, robbery, and kidnapping. Analysis of the value-motivational sphere, attitudes, self-evaluation, and characterological specificity of active and passive victims of criminal acts. A psychological interpretation of the contact between the victim and the perpetrator of a violent criminal act. Preparation of the psychological profile of the victim and its components. Psychoanalytic, cognitive, and behavioral perspectives in explaining the Stockholm syndrome phenomenon. An analysis of the manipulative approaches used by violent perpetrators of criminal acts to involve victims in the criminogenic situation.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND CHARACTER ACCENTUATIONS OF THE PERSONALITY**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Hours:** 30 lectures + 0 seminars

**Assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** H. Assoc. Prof. Tony Doncehv, Ph.D

Email: [tonyd@abv.bg](mailto:tonyd@abv.bg)

**Annotation:**

The academic discipline presents the role of psychopathological deviations and accentuations of character in the realization of violent and certain types of self-interested acts. The specifics of severe mental illnesses and their potential to cause inappropriate, violent behavior is examined. Various accentuations of the character and the increased conflict, aggressiveness, and willingness to exercise violence caused by them are presented in detail. Psychopathic personality traits and their correlation with violent, impulsive acts are described. The violent acts in which the perpetrators are within the limits of the mental norm, but suffer from personal inadequacy and social maladaptation and come close to pathological mental functioning, have been specially analyzed.

Students who have completed their studies through this discipline will have broad and, at the same time, systematized knowledge of the various manifestations of mental pathology and its functional contribution to the realization of the most widespread violent acts.

**Content of the course:**

A brief description of schizophrenia, epilepsy, and psychogenic psychosis and their role in producing physical violence. Hysterical personality accentuation and violence. Narcissistic accentuation and violence. Paranoid personality accentuation and violence. Schizoid personality accentuation and violence. Social maladaptation in mentally healthy individuals and their impaired mental functioning leading to criminal violence.

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade



obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PSYCHOLOGY OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Emil Madzharov, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: [e.madzharov@abv.bg](mailto:e.madzharov@abv.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures + 0 seminars

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

The course presents information on juvenile delinquency and the antisocial behavior of juveniles and juveniles, their modern changes, characteristics, and trends in the globalization of crime. Attention is paid to the marginalization of children and related criminalization and victimization; The general and specific factors determining crime, antisocial behavior, and the juvenilization (rejuvenation) of crime as a global process are indicated. Emphasis is placed on individual psychological factors and the influence of the social environment – family, circle of friends, school, and others. The similarities and differences between deviant, delinquent and criminal behavior are pointed out. Approaches, means, and methods are offered to prevent the offenses of minors, accused, and defendants. Focus is also placed on the topic of protecting children's rights through the participation of public defenders. Students who have completed their studies through this discipline will have broad and, at the same time, systematized knowledge of the psycho-social characteristics of juvenile offenders

### **Content of the course:**

Psychological characteristics of juvenile offenders. Deviant, delinquent, criminal behavior. Psychological features of the adolescent personality. Risk factors. Criminogenic and victimogenic risk factors in children. Psychology of criminal activity: motives and typologies. Prevention of antisocial behavior of minors.

### **Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

## **PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CYBERCRIME**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Chief Assist. Prof. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Ph.D , Department of Psychology

Email: [emelina\\_z@swu.bg](mailto:emelina_z@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

### **Annotation:**

The course presents information on the main psychological aspects of cybercrime, types of



cybercrime, its characteristics, and its primary content. The psychological characteristics and behavioral characteristics of perpetrators of cybercrimes are presented. The personality traits of cybercrime victims and the role of psychology in enhancing cyber security are examined. Students who have completed their studies in this course will have a basic understanding of cybercrime, types of cybercrime, psychological characteristics of cybercriminals, and the use of psychological profiling.

**Content of the course:**

Basic psychological aspects of cyberspace; Cyberspace as a social system; Cybercrime - concepts and features. Types of cybercrimes. Cyberterrorism and information warfare. State, structure, and dynamics of cybercrime. General characteristics of the psychology of the cybercriminal. Behavioral characteristics of perpetrators of computer crimes. Psychological profile of the cybercriminal. Cyberbullying among adolescents and children. Individual differences in susceptibility to cybercrime victimization and their psychological consequences. The role of psychology in increasing cyber security

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERTISE**

**ECTS credits:** 2

**Assessment:** exam

**Semester:** IV

**Methodical guide:**

**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, D.Sc., Department of Psychology

Email: [stoil\\_m@swu.bg](mailto:stoil_m@swu.bg)

**Hours:** 30 lectures

**Type of exam:** written

**Annotation:**

The course "Forensic Psychological Expertise" is included in the MP "Criminal Psychology" as an optional subject. Its content is aimed at the practical possibility of structuring and implementing forensic psychological expertise for legal proceedings. The main emphasis is on the organization and structure of forensic psychological expertise, types of forensic psychological expertise, and specifics of forensic psychological expertise in criminal and civil proceedings.

Students who have completed their studies through this discipline will acquire knowledge of the legal and by-law regulations of forensic expertise in criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings, skills in practical-applied issues related to forensic medical expertise, and attitudes about the critical role of judicial expertise.

**Content of the course:**

Tasks, methods, and sources of forensic psychological expertise. Normative regulation of forensic psychological examinations. Types of forensic psychological examinations. A forensic psychological examination of affective states in criminal proceedings. Forensic-psychological examination of mental retardation in a minor defendant. Forensic psychological examination to establish the probable helpless state of the victim. Postmortem forensic psychological examination to establish the mental state of the person prone to suicide. Forensic psychological expertise to investigate the accused's role in committing a group crime. A forensic psychological examination of individual psychological features. A forensic psychological examination of the psychological impact. Forensic psychological expertise establishes the ability of individuals to perceive and reproduce circumstances significant to



the case. Forensic psychological examination to establish the author of a written document. Complex forensic examinations. Structure of the forensic psychological conclusion

**Teaching and assessment method:**

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.