

SPECIALTY: PSYCHOLOGY

MASTER'S PROGRAM: FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

Educational and Qualification Degree: Master

Professional Qualification: Master in Forensic Psychology

Duration of Study: 2 years

Form of Study: Full-time Full-time, in Bulgarian and English

QUALIFICATION PROFILE

1. General Overview and Educational Objectives of the Master's Program

The Master's Program in Forensic Psychology aims to prepare qualified professionals with specialized knowledge, skills, and competencies for psychological assessment and counseling of various participants in judicial proceedings. Through diverse academic and didactic methods and practices, the program equips students with expertise that contributes to the efficiency of judicial processes and the objective adjudication of offenses by providing psychological insights into criminal behavior and its underlying causes.

During their studies, students acquire advanced theoretical and applied knowledge in areas such as the psychology of crime, the causes of criminal behavior, psychological characteristics of offenders, the motivations behind criminal acts, and the psychological patterns relevant to criminal prosecution. Practical competencies include preparing expert evaluations of the psychological state of offenders, victims, or witnesses, offering expert opinions in divorce proceedings, conducting psychological expert assessments, and compiling forensic psychological histories.

2. Professional Competencies and Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program develop both personal and professional competencies necessary for effective practice in the field of forensic psychology. These include: Application of general and specialized psychological knowledge through scientific principles, methods, and procedures for assessment, diagnosis, prevention, and counseling of judicial process participants. Conducting both fundamental and applied psychological research within the domain of forensic psychology. Independently developing psychological profiles. Participating in expert teams alongside other professionals to develop complex forensic psychological evaluations. Additionally, graduates gain practical skills for: Psychological assessment of criminal offenders. Evaluation of candidates for positions within specialized governmental agencies. Psychological consulting on organizational and management issues within such agencies. Consultation on investigative, preventive, and judicial activities. Conducting forensic psychological studies and compiling expert reports.

3. Structure and Organization of the Program

The curriculum is designed in alignment with contemporary academic trends in applied psychology, incorporating both national and international standards. It adheres to accepted professional training standards for master's degree holders.

The duration of study is two years (four semesters) for students holding a Bachelor's or a Master's degree from a different field. The program is structured to ensure coherence, progression, and thematic integration among the academic disciplines.

The curriculum provides a total of 120 ECTS credits, evenly distributed over four semesters. It includes 509 hours of lectures, 250 hours of practical exercises, and 90 hours of internship during the final semester.

The Forensic Psychology Master's Program comprises compulsory and elective courses in a 70% to 30% ratio, alongside optional courses and a mandatory professional internship. The

compulsory courses provide in-depth theoretical and specialized training for psychological diagnostics, counseling, and expert activities. Elective courses enable students to expand and deepen their specialization in specific applied fields. Optional courses allow students to explore topics from related scientific disciplines in accordance with their individual interests.

Graduation is achieved through a state examination based on a pre-approved syllabus or a defense of a master's thesis, awarding an additional 15 ECTS credits (as per Article 10 of Ordinance No. 21/30.09.2004).

The mandatory internship involves practical fieldwork during which students observe and engage, under supervision, in psychological diagnostics and forensically-oriented psychological counseling activities with individuals across various age groups: children, adolescents, and adults.

4. Alignment with the Mission of South-West University “Neofit Rilski”

The implementation of the Forensic Psychology Master's Program aligns with the mission of South-West University “Neofit Rilski” and the Faculty of Philosophy. It reflects their strategic goals and the broader transformation of higher education in Bulgaria, ensuring alignment with international educational standards and practices. The program meets both national and European academic criteria and is tailored to the specific socio-cultural needs of the region in which the university operates.

The Qualification Profile for the Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology is a foundational document guiding the development of the curriculum and individual course syllabi. It is fully compliant with the Higher Education Act, the National Classification of Fields of Study and Professional Fields, the Ordinance on State Requirements for the Acquisition of Higher Education at the Bachelor's, Master's, and Specialist levels (State Gazette No. 76/06.08.2002), the National Classification of Occupations and Positions, the regulations of South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, and other relevant institutional documents.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

First year			
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
Optional discipline /first group/	3	Optional discipline /second group/	3
	30 total		30 total
Optional discipline/ First group/ Students choose one course	ECTS credits	Optional discipline/ Second group/ Students choose one course	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
TOTAL FOR 1 ACADEMIC YEARS: 60 CREDITS			
Second year			
First semester	ECTS credits	Second semester	ECTS credits
Introduction to Forensic Psychology	5	Psychology of Mediation	2
Judicial System and Human Rights	5	Forensic Psychiatry	2
Institutions	5	Visual Psychodiagnostics	2
Psychology of Delinquent Behavior	5	Elective Course	3
Forensic Psychological Expertise	4	Elective Course	3
Psychological Profiling of Offenders	3	Practical Internship	3
Elective Course			
	30 total		30 total
Optional discipline/ First group/ Students choose one course	ECTS credits	Optional discipline/ Second group/ Students choose one course	ECTS credits
Criminology	3	Psychology of Business Communication	3
Resocialization of Incarcerated Persons	3	Legal Consciousness	3
Communication with Accused, Victims, and Witnesses	3	Working with Victims of Serious Crimes	3
Psychology of Mass Phenomena	3	Against Persons	3
Communication with Incarcerated Persons	3	Legal English	3
Preventive Psychology Psyche and Health	3	Police Psychology	3
TOTAL FOR 2 ACADEMIC YEARS: 120 CREDITS			

ANNOTATIONS OF COURSES

COMPULSORY COURSES

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

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.

Content of the course:

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 Summary: (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

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.

Content of the course:

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

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

Email: b_iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures + 10 seminars

Type of exam: written

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.

Content of the course:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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 Psychology

Email: 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 guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: 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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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

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

Email: b_iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures + 10 seminars

Type of exam: written

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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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 PsychologyEmail: b_jordanova@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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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

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

Hours: 20 lectures + 10 seminars

Type of exam: written

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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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

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

Hours: 20 lectures + 10 seminars

Type of exam: written

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.

Content of the course:

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 FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS Credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide: Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Asst. Prof. Dr. Iva Dimitrova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: idimitrova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Introduction to Forensic Psychology" consists of several thematic modules. The aims of the course are: to clarify the main theoretical approaches, categorical apparatus, and methods of forensic psychology; to develop a nuanced understanding of the psychological sources and mechanisms underlying criminal activity; to provide a comprehensive overview of the psychological characteristics of professionals involved in investigative, judicial, police, penitentiary, and probation functions; to form a detailed view of the practical applications of forensic psychological research; and to improve personal skills for timely identification of deviant criminal activity and risk prevention related to it.

Content of the course:

The first part covers topics such as: Subject and scope of forensic psychology; Methods of forensic psychology; Tasks of forensic psychology; History of forensic psychology development. The second part includes: Subject and tasks of criminal psychology; Subject and tasks of judicial psychology; Forensic psychological expertise; Subject and tasks of penitentiary psychology. The third part discusses psychological aspects of deviant and unlawful behavior;

psychological aspects of alcoholism and alcohol dependency; theories on homicide and suicide as legal problems; psychological aspects of group crimes. The fourth part analyzes criminal activity at the individual and group levels. Included topics are: Psychological patterns in forming unlawful attitudes and values; Motives for committing property crimes; Motives for committing violent crimes; Motivation for crimes committed by organized groups; Motivation behind crimes by representatives of organized crime.

Teaching and assessment methods:

Student achievements are assessed according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The final grade is based on a combination of continuous assessment and the exam result.

FORENSIC SYSTEM AND HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

ECTS Credits: 4

Assessment method: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide: Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Asst. Prof. Dr. Iva Dimitrova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: idimitrova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Forensic System and Human Rights Institutions" is a compulsory subject in the Master's program in Forensic Psychology and covers three main modules: 1) Organization and functions of the forensic system; 2) Role and structure of human rights institutions; 3) Interaction between the judiciary and human rights protection institutions. The course aims to familiarize students with the main components of the forensic system in the Republic of Bulgaria and the functions of key institutions responsible for safeguarding citizens' rights. Emphasis is placed on the legal framework, structure, and mechanisms of control and accountability within the forensic system, as well as the role of national human rights bodies such as the Ombudsman and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination. International law aspects related to the operation of the European Court of Human Rights, and interactions between national and international human rights mechanisms are also included.

Content of the course:

The course covers the following lecture topics: Rule of law and supremacy of law; Structure and functions of the judiciary; Types of courts – general and specialized jurisdiction; Constitutional Court – powers and significance; Prosecutor's office and investigation – role in criminal proceedings; Bar and legal aid – institutional framework; Ombudsman – functions and significance for human rights protection; Commission for Protection against Discrimination – mechanisms and procedures; National and international legal protection mechanisms; European Court of Human Rights – structure, competencies, and cases against Bulgaria; Institutional interaction in human rights protection; Transparency and accountability of the forensic system.

Seminar exercises include analysis of the structure of the Bulgarian forensic system; comparison between national and international human rights institutions; practical cases: complaints to the Ombudsman and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination; simulated trials: roles of lawyer, prosecutor, and judge; discussion of real decisions of the European Court of Human Rights related to Bulgaria.

Teaching and assessment method:

Student performance is evaluated based on the ECTS system. The final grade results

from a combination of continuous assessment and the exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR

ECTS Credits: 4

Assessment method: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide: Department of Psychology
Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Emelina Zaimova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Psychology of Delinquent Behavior" is a core subject in the Master's program in Forensic Psychology. It aims to familiarize students with the main characteristics of criminal behavior in children and adolescents.

The course includes 30 academic hours of lectures and 15 hours of seminar exercises. Its objective is to provide systematic knowledge about the main aspects of delinquent behavior, motives for criminal activity among children and adolescents, as well as factors and causes of such behavior. The psychological issues addressed in this course overlap with other subjects such as forensic psychology, criminal psychology, psychology of deviant behavior, and preventive psychology.

Content of the course:

The course includes lectures and seminars focusing on the unlawful behavior of children and adolescents. Topics include: Psychology of delinquency – nature and development; Theories of delinquent behavior; Classifications of delinquent personalities; Theories on group delinquency during adolescence; Motives for delinquent behavior; Aggression and delinquency; Correction of delinquent behavior in various social environments. Seminars involve analysis of delinquent behavior and the development of delinquent personality profiles.

Teaching and assessment methods

Student achievements are assessed according to the ECTS system. The final grade is based on the combination of continuous assessment and the exam.

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERTISE

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment : exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide:
Department of Psychology
Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoil Mavrodiev, Department of Psychology

E-mail: stoil_m@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Forensic Psychological Expertise" is a mandatory discipline in the Master's program in Legal Psychology. Its content focuses on the practical framework for structuring and conducting forensic psychological expertise for judicial proceedings. The main emphasis

is on the organization and structure of forensic psychological expertise, the types of forensic psychological examinations, and the specific characteristics of such expertise. The course includes 30 academic hours of lectures and 15 hours of exercises.

Content of the course:

The course includes lectures and seminar exercises. Topics covered during the course include: Tasks, methods, and sources of forensic psychological expertise; Legal regulation of forensic psychological examinations; Types of forensic psychological expertise; Forensic psychological expertise of affective states in criminal proceedings; Expertise on mental retardation in juvenile defendants; Expertise to determine probable helplessness of the victim; Postmortem forensic psychological expertise to establish the psychological state of a person predisposed to suicide; Expertise on the role of the accused in committing group crimes; Expertise on individual psychological characteristics; Expertise on psychological impact. The goal of the seminars is to enable students to develop expert evaluations based on acquired knowledge from lectures and practical case studies.

Teaching and assessment method:

Student performance evaluation is conducted according to the credit transfer and accumulation system. The final grade is based on the ratio of continuous assessment and exam results.

PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILING OF OFFENDERS

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment form: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Senior Assistant Dr. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Department of Psychology

E-mail: emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

This course is designed to train professional psychologists who will work directly with offenders of various crimes. It is a compulsory course in the Master's program "Legal Psychology" and consists of 30 lectures. The main objective is to familiarize students with the main offender types and their personality traits that have influenced their criminal behavior. This knowledge will assist students in easily orienting themselves regarding typological features of individuals who committed specific crimes.

Content of the course:

The course consists solely of lectures. Topics include: Subject and tasks of psychological profiling; Methodology of psychological profiling of offenders; Personality profile of juvenile and adolescent offenders; Personality profile of women convicted of crimes; Personality profile of men who committed various crimes; Personality traits of repeat offenders; Personality traits of murderers; Profiles of rapists; Profiles of thieves by age and gender; Traits of fraudsters; Psychological profiling of crime victims; Personality traits of members of organized crime groups; Psychological characteristics of perpetrators of traffic accidents; Personality traits of terrorists.

Teaching and assessment methods:

Evaluation follows the credit transfer and accumulation system. Final grades are based on a combination of continuous assessment and exam results.

PSYCHOLOGY OF MEDIATION

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Natasha Angelova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Psychology of Mediation" is a compulsory discipline in the Master's program in Legal Psychology. It aims to familiarize students with the role of the psychologist-mediator in resolving disputes and managing conflicts in judicial processes to help the parties reach mutually beneficial agreements. After completing the course, students should acquire the knowledge and competencies for acting as mediators in the legal process, crafting agreements in compliance with national and international legislation governing mediation.

Content of the course:

The course consists of lectures covering: Legal framework of mediation; Nature and preparation of the mediation process; Psychological aspects of mediator behavior; Psychological analysis of legal frameworks and interpersonal relationships during mediation; Main stages of mediation – preparation, meeting organization, analysis of psychological barriers and their effects; Moral and ethical norms in mediator practice; Professional competencies of the mediator – working with cognitive and behavioral opposition; Role of the mediator throughout the judicial process and its development; Relationship between mediator, prosecutor, and judge.

Teaching and assessment methods:

Student evaluation is based on the credit transfer and accumulation system. Final grading is based on continuous assessment and exam performance.

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoil Mavrodiev, Department of Psychology

E-mail: stoil_m@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Forensic Psychiatry" is taught in the second semester of the first year as a compulsory subject in the curriculum of the Master's program in Legal Psychology. The course aims to familiarize students with mental disorders and their connection to criminal, civil and family law. The acquired knowledge assists investigations and courts in dealing with mentally ill persons involved in various roles – witnesses, victims or perpetrators of crimes. The subject is directly related to legal sciences, forensic medicine, criminology and psychology.

Content of the course:

The course includes lectures only The content covers: Introduction to forensic psychiatry Organization of psychiatric and forensic psychiatric practice in Bulgaria Legal procedural and organizational foundations of forensic psychiatric practice Types of forensic psychiatric examinations Working with clients hospitalized in specialized psychiatric institutions Ethical issues in working with clients subject to forensic psychiatric examination Content of forensic psychiatric examination Forensic psychiatric significance of main mental disorders Forensic psychiatric significance of the concepts “criminal responsibility” – “insanity” Forensic psychiatric significance of the concepts “capacity” – “incapacity” and guardianship

Teaching and assessment method:

Assessment of students’ results during the learning process is carried out according to the credit transfer and accumulation system The final grade is formed on the basis of the ratio between continuous assessment and exam grade

VISUAL PSYCHODIAGNOSTICS

ECTS credits: 2**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** IV**Methodological guide:**

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof Dr Stanislava Stoyanova, Department of PsychologyE-mail: avka@swu.bg**Hours:** 15 lecture hours + 5 seminar hours**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The course “Visual Psychodiagnostics” is included as a compulsory subject in the Master’s program in Legal Psychology The course includes 15 academic hours of lectures and 5 seminar hours The course builds upon students’ knowledge from other psychological courses such as Cognitive Psychology Social Psychology Personality Psychology Differential Psychology Criminal Psychology Legal Psychology Psychology of Communication

Content of the course:

The aim of the course is to provide professional information to students about the nonverbal signals sent by a person in communication situations These signals are related to psychophysiological characteristics and help better analyze the content of the testimony The course content covers topics aimed at recognizing facial expressions and gestures of persons with criminal behavior and their victims as well as the behavior of participants in judicial proceedings The essence of visual psychodiagnostics Physiognomy in the past Nonverbal communication – body language (expressiveness of movements relationship between movement and emotion language of the eyes and face) Observation as a main method of visual psychodiagnostics Diagnosis of nonverbal communication. The lectures are conducted using modern technical means and interactive methods Seminar exercises take place in laboratories Students’ active independent work includes preparation and presentation of scientific research projects conducting psychological tests summarizing articles and book chapters essays on issues based on their personal observations and experience case analysis

Teaching and assessment method:

Assessment of students’ results during the learning process is carried out according to the credit transfer and accumulation system The final grade is formed at the end of the course

based on the grade obtained on a written essay about the course content and the student's independent work Grading scale: six-point scale is used where grade 6 Excellent equals grade A in the European grading system grade 5 Very Good equals B grade 4 Good equals C grade 3 Satisfactory equals D grade 2 Fail equals E

PRACTICAL INTERNSHIP

ECTS credits: 3

Hours: 90 practical hours

Assessment: continuous assessment
during the first and exam during the second semester

Type of exam: written

Semester: IV

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Dr. Simona Nikolova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

Students enrolled in the Master's program must complete a mandatory practical internship during the first and second semesters The purpose of the practical internship is to acquaint students with the work of practicing professionals in a real professional environment and to enable them to carry out supervised activities in accordance with their training in the Master's program Essence of the practical internship:

- The internship supervisor gives instructions before the start of the internship;
- The internship supervisor assigns students by order of the Rector to institutions with which there is an institutional agreement;
- Each student must validate the internship booklet at the educational department inspector;
- The base mentor prepares a program and schedule which is coordinated with the internship supervisor;
- During the internship each student keeps a diary of practical tasks performed;
- The base mentor monitors the student's attendance and engagement and gives an overall evaluation at the end.

After completion of the internship the student prepares a portfolio report including a detailed description of the activities and practical tasks performed during the internship

Teaching and assessment method:

Students who successfully complete the practical internship are admitted to the exam The final grade includes the evaluation of the base mentor the submitted portfolio report and is formed after an interview with the internship supervisor including defense of acquired knowledge and competencies during the internship The internship booklet contains two feedback forms for the student and the base mentor in which they enter their evaluation opinion and recommendations for improving the internship.

ELECTIVE COURSES

EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Hours: 15 lectures

Assessment: exam

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

Annotation:

The course in Evolutionary Psychology includes the following content modules:

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

Content of the course:

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 method:

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

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: 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.

Content of the course:

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**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodological guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assistant Professor Dr. Blagovesta Dafkova, Department of Psychology**Email:** bl.dafkova@swu.bg**Hours:** 15 lectures**Type of exam:** written**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.

Content of the course:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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 method:

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:

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

o) 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:

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

o) 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.krestev@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.

Content of the course:

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

Hours: 15 lectures

Type of exam: written

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: stoil_m@swu.bg

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.

Content of the course:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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**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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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:****Department of Psychology****Faculty of Philosophy****Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Ivan Krastev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology**Email:** iv.krestev@swu.bg**Hours:** 15 lectures**Type of exam:** written

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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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.

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

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.

Content of the course:

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:

Hours: 15 lectures

Type of exam: written

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: avka@swu.bg

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.

Content of the course:

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

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

Content of the course:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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 PsychologyEmail: 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.

Content of the course:

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**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** II**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assis. Prof. Iva Koprinkova-Ilieva, PhD ., Department of PsychologyEmail: ivakoprinkova@swu.bg**Hours:** 15 lectures**Type of exam:** written**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.

Content of the course:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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 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 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

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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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 Summary: (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

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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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

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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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

Hours: 15 lectures

Type of exam: written

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

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.

Content of the course:

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 and assessment method:

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.

CRIMINOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment form: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assistant Prof. Dr. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Department of Psychology

E-mail: emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Criminology" includes modules on criminological methodology and methods, main criminological theories, and the personality of the offender. It consists of 20 academic hours of lectures. The course aims to introduce the foundational principles of criminology methodology, foster understanding of criminal behavior mechanisms as presented in various theoretical frameworks, and develop competencies concerning offender personality.

Content of the course:

The course covers the subject and tasks of criminology; methods of criminological research; history of criminology as a science and practice; the biological perspective in criminology including Cesare Lombroso's theory; the sociological perspective with theories of learned criminality; psychological theories and typologies of offenders; evidence supporting psychological conclusions about crime typology; Gestalt psychology and the relationship between offender and social environment; social and personal aspects of victimological behavior; victimological typology by gender, age, and social role; personality of the offender and its relation to the criminal event; typologies of offenders; mechanisms of criminal behavior; antisocial personality orientation; research on crime and offender personality; criminological forecasting; and crime prevention.

Teaching and assessment method:

Lectures are delivered traditionally with multimedia support. Independent work includes completing assignments and preparing theoretical essays. The final grade is based on the combination of continuous assessment and a written exam.

RESOCIALIZATION OF PRISONERS

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment form: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Associate Prof. Dr. Emil Madzharov

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Resocialization of Prisoners" covers issues and methodology of resocialization, resocialization of different categories of offenders, and specialized correctional programs. The course consists of 20 academic lecture hours. The aim is to present core principles of resocialization methodology, understand the challenges and mechanisms of resocialization interventions for various offender categories, and enhance competencies regarding specialized correctional programs.

Content of the course:

Lectures address problems related to individuals preparing for release; resocialization in the context of cognitivism, behaviorism, and psychoanalysis; diagnostic and counseling techniques for prisoners pending release; standards for measuring the effectiveness of resocialization; training of personnel involved in resocialization activities; challenges in resocializing juvenile offenders; key issues in female prisoner resocialization and approaches for overcoming them; resocialization of first-time male offenders; approaches for sexual offenders; work with recidivists; specialized programs for juvenile offenders; and programs for offenders convicted of negligent acts.

Teaching and assessment method:

The course is taught using traditional lectures and multimedia. Independent work includes completing assignments and essay writing. The final grade combines written exam results with continuous assessment.

COMMUNICATION WITH ACCUSED, VICTIMS, AND WITNESSES

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assistant Prof. Dr. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Department of Psychology

E-mail: emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Communication with Accused, Victims, and Witnesses" includes modules on methodology and methods of communication with accused persons, victims, and witnesses, specifics of communication with various categories of accused persons, and communication characteristics of different victim and witness groups. It consists of 20 lecture hours. The course aims to present fundamental communication methodologies, promote understanding of communication challenges with different accused categories, and enhance competencies related to working with victims and witnesses.

Content of the course:

The course covers social psychology principles relevant to interpreting communication with accused, witnesses, and victims; psychological interpretation of legal typologies of these groups; methods for studying communication in professional interactions; specifics of interviewing accused persons; interview techniques with witnesses and victims; communication with juvenile accused persons; communication with female accused; first-time accused offenders; communication challenges with accused sexual offenders and recidivists; working with manipulative, unreliable, and demonstrative witnesses; and communication with juvenile victims.

Teaching and assessment method:

Lectures are delivered traditionally with multimedia support. Independent work includes assignments and theoretical essays. The final grade is based on continuous assessment combined with a written exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF MASS PHENOMENA

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment form: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Natasha Angelova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Psychology of Mass Behavior" includes four substantive modules related to the assessment of individual behavior as part of a crowd or audience. The discipline consists of 20 academic hours of lectures. The aim of the course is to provide systematic information on the psychology of mass phenomena concerning large social groups: typical forms of interaction in large groups—suggestion, imitation, contagion—and the development of phenomena such as propaganda, fashion, panic; mass psychological phenomena influencing individual criminal

behavior.

Content of the course:

The course consists solely of lectures covering the following topics: the science of crowds—causes of emergence and main themes in crowd analysis according to Le Bon, G. Tarde, and S. Freud; suggestion and propaganda and their influence on criminal behavior; mechanisms of imitation and fashion as forms of standardized mass behavior; socio-psychological characteristics of contagion and panic in the context of aggressive and rescuing crowds; public mood—factors for emergence, dynamics, and research approaches; mechanisms for the emergence and functioning of rumors and gossip; analysis of the phenomenon of public opinion; terrorism—psychological aspects.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lecture course is delivered in the traditional manner, utilizing multimedia. Independent preparation includes solving control tasks and developing theoretically oriented topics. The final grade is based on a combination of continuous assessment and the exam grade.

COMMUNICATION WITH INCARCERATED PERSONS

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment form: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emil Madzharov

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The purpose of the discipline "Communication with Incarcerated Persons" is to acquaint students in the Master's program "Legal Psychology" with the specifics of communication and its methodological support when working with convicted individuals. The course content covers research-applied and practical aspects. Through the course, students become familiar with the main content and procedures for communication with various groups of incarcerated persons, their specific problems, attitudes, and motives for communication with penitentiary staff and experts. The goals include gaining understanding of communication issues and methods used with incarcerated individuals, learning communication styles of different offender categories, and informing about communication techniques applied in standard and crisis situations.

Content of the course:

The course includes 20 hours of lectures. Topics covered include isolation and communication with incarcerated persons; forced cohabitation and communication among inmates; the impact of total control on communication; characteristics of verbal and non-verbal communication with inmates; communication specifics with juvenile offenders; communication with female inmates; communication with offenders convicted of property crimes (theft, fraud, embezzlement); communication with offenders convicted of violent crimes (murder, attempted murder, bodily harm, sexual assault); communication with repeat offenders and organized crime members; handling conflict situations initiated by violent offenders; overcoming conflict situations provoked by female inmates; communication as a negotiation technique during hostage situations involving inmates.

Teaching and assessment methods:

The lecture course is delivered traditionally with multimedia support. Independent preparation involves solving control tasks and developing theoretical topics. The final grade is

based on the ratio of continuous assessment and exam results.

PREVENTIVE PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment form: exam

Semester: III

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Natasha Angelova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline "Preventive Psychology" includes 20 academic hours of lectures. The aim is to provide systematic information on the main research and applied directions of preventive psychology concerning the subject and tasks of crime prevention; deficits and distortions in legal socialization and predisposition to aggressive behavior, which are the object of preventive intervention; psychological characteristics of youth groups with antisocial orientation; psychological support for preventive activities with different categories of offenders. The course aligns with the psychological issues of legal psychology, criminal psychology, and penitentiary psychology.

Content of the course:

The course includes lectures covering: subject and tasks of preventive psychology; deficits and distortions in legal socialization as sources of deviance and targets of preventive intervention; psychological principles of individual prevention; informal youth groups with antisocial orientation; aggressive behavior and its overcoming; grounds for applying individual preventive measures to prevent offenses; psychological support for preventive activities with juvenile offenders; psychological support regarding organized crime; psychological support for preventive measures against corruption crimes; psychological aspects of preventive counteraction to property crimes; psychological support of preventive activities related to traffic accidents.

Teaching and assessment methods:

The lecture course is delivered in the traditional way using multimedia. Independent preparation involves solving control assignments and developing theoretical topics. The final grade is formed based on the ratio of continuous assessment and exam results.

PSYCHOLOGY OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment form: exam

Semester: IV

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Natasha Angelova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures

Exam type: written

Annotation:

This course is divided into two parts. The first part presents the psychological conditions necessary for conducting business conversations. It reveals the specific conditions, ways to establish initial contact, and types of reactions exhibited during problem exposition. It broadly outlines the conditions for perceiving the manager's requirements, while simultaneously analyzing approaches to building and maintaining a positive attitude of subordinates toward the manager. The second part focuses on the specifics of the negotiation process, covering issues related to argumentation, negotiation organization, and emphasizing tactical approaches that negotiators should adhere to. Concurrently, the course analyzes the issue of public speaking, with special attention to its planning, methods of delivering information, structuring speeches, and the role of its individual parts. Additional topics include perception of the speaker, comprehension of the topic, and addressing the audience.

Content of the course:

The course covers the following topics: Characteristics of business communication; The role of business communication within interactions between two or more individuals; Determinants of individual behavior in business communication; The role of intuition, personality traits, reconstructed past behavior, attitudes, beliefs, and activity; Persuasion and its role in changing others' attitudes in business communication (persuasive messages; approaches to the persuasion-attitude-business communication relationship); Business communication as a multifaceted process (perceptual aspects; first impressions; duration of communication; communication acts; communicative aspects; communication barriers); Conversation as a fundamental form in business communication; Requirements for the business conversation leader; Persuasion and tactics in negotiations; Conflicts and methods of conflict resolution in business communication; Psychological aspects of public speaking.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lecture course is delivered in a traditional format using multimedia. Independent study involves completing control tasks and developing theoretical topics. The final grade is based on the ratio between continuous assessment and exam results.

LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment form: exam

Semester: IV

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Asst. Prof. Dr. Iva Dimitrova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: idimitrova@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Exam type: written

Annotation:

The course "Legal Consciousness" is offered as an elective within the Master's program in Forensic Psychology and covers three main thematic modules: 1) Theoretical foundations of legal consciousness; 2) Socio-psychological aspects of legal consciousness; 3) Legal consciousness and legal behavior. The course includes 20 academic hours of lectures. Its aim is to introduce students to the nature, structure, and functions of legal consciousness as a specific form of social consciousness and to clarify its relationship with legal culture and the individual's legal behavior. The course discusses fundamental concepts on the development and

transformation of legal consciousness in contemporary society, including the influence of education, media, and institutional environments.

Content of the course:

The course includes topics such as: Essence and functions of legal consciousness; Structure and levels of legal consciousness; Forms of legal consciousness – individual, group, and societal; Legal culture and its interaction with legal consciousness; Psychological and social factors shaping legal consciousness; Legal attitudes and motivation for legal behavior; Legal nihilism and legal idealism as deviations in legal consciousness; Influence of institutions, education, and media on legal consciousness; Legal consciousness and processes of legal socialization; Current challenges facing legal consciousness in modern democratic societies.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lecture course is delivered traditionally using multimedia. Independent preparation includes solving control tasks and developing theoretical topics. The final grade is based on a combination of continuous assessment and exam results.

WORKING WITH VICTIMS OF SERIOUS CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief Assistant Dr. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Department of Psychology

E-mail: emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Working with Victims of Serious Crimes Against the Person" covers the following modules: 1) Methodology and methods of working with victims of serious crimes; 2) Psychological characteristics of different types of victims of serious crimes; 3) Psychological interventions concerning victims of serious crimes. The objectives are to present the main methodological and methodological approaches in working with victims, to achieve an understanding of the psychological mechanisms and specific features of victims of serious crimes, and to enhance students' competencies regarding practical approaches and techniques for psychological interviewing of victims.

Content of the course:

The course includes lectures on topics such as: Personality and behavioral characteristics of victims of serious crimes; Psychological trauma and stress in victims of violence; Basic approaches to psychological work with victims of serious crimes; Psychological work standards applied to victims; Psychological characteristics of victims of attempted murder; Psychological interventions with victims of attempted murder; Psychological and behavioral features of victims of bodily injury; Psychological interventions with victims of bodily injury; Psychological characteristics of robbery victims; Psychological characteristics of rape victims; Psychological characteristics of victims of lewd acts; Psychological characteristics of extortion victims.

Teaching and assessment methods:

The lecture course is conducted traditionally using multimedia. Independent study includes solving control assignments and theoretical topic development. The final grade is based on the ratio between continuous assessment and exam results.

LEGAL ENGLISH

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Asst. Prof. Dr. Iva Dimitrova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: idimitrova@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Legal English" is an elective discipline within the Master's Program in Legal Psychology, aimed at developing language skills necessary for working with legal documentation and communication in an international legal context. The course includes 20 academic hours of lectures. Its goal is to familiarize students with fundamental legal terminology in English used across various branches of law — criminal, civil, constitutional, and international law. Special emphasis is placed on types of legal texts, legal style and grammar, as well as the analysis and translation of authentic legal documents. The course supports the acquisition of communicative skills for professional correspondence, participation in negotiations, and presentation of legal opinions in English. The content is designed to meet the practical needs of professionals working in multicultural and international environments.

Content of the course:

Introduction to Legal English — features and principles; Basic terminology in public and private law; Structure and language of legal documents (contracts, complaints, rulings, regulations); Grammatical and syntactical features of Legal English; Types of legal systems and judicial terminology; Terminology in criminal, civil, and international law; Translation and analysis of legal texts to and from English; Professional communication — oral and written legal correspondence; Use of English in judicial and institutional settings; Working with bilingual legal sources and dictionaries.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lecture course is delivered traditionally with multimedia support. Independent study includes completing control tasks and developing theoretical topics. The final grade is based on a weighted combination of continuous assessment and exam performance.

POLICE PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodological guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Natasha Angelova, Department of Psychology

E-mail: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lecture hours

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course "Police Psychology" aims to provide students with specialized training related to the psychological aspects of the work of Ministry of Interior employees. It includes a module addressing the assessment and prevention of professional stress among officers. Additionally, the course covers topics introducing the audience to psychodiagnostics and evaluation procedures for candidates applying to the Ministry of Interior, as well as psychological assessments during career advancement.

Content of the course:

The course includes 20 lectures covering: History and subject matter of police psychology; Psychodiagnostics during recruitment for the Ministry of Interior; Psychological assessment for career advancement within the Ministry; Psychological evaluation of risk behavior; Nature and characteristics of professional stress in the Ministry of Interior; Prevention and management of professional stress; Psychological aspects in the security police; Psychological aspects in crime investigation; Psychological aspects of proactive police work; Strategic thinking, initiative, and goal-oriented police activity.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lecture course is conducted in a traditional format, supported by multimedia. Independent preparation involves completing control tasks and theoretical topic development. The final grade is based on the proportion between continuous assessment and exam results.