

SPECIALTY PSYCHOLOGY

MASTER'S PROGRAM „CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY”

Educational and qualification degree: MASTER

Professional qualification: MASTER'S DEGREE IN CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

Duration of training: 1 year

Mode of study: FULL-TIME

QUALIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

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

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

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

Graduates of the master's program have:

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

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

- make an adequate estimation in situations characterized by incomplete or limited information and unpredictability, develop new and varied skills in response to emerging knowledge and practices, demonstrate the free application of innovative methods and tools, distinguished by innovation in solving complex tasks and unpredictable problems in the specialized field of work, find and maintain arguments when solving problems of an interdisciplinary nature;
- show initiative in working and learning in a complex and unpredictable environment, requiring solving problems with multiple interacting factors, have skills to create and lead networks or teams, allocate time and manage human and financial resources, and solve complex problems through new technological methods and tools;

- quickly find, retrieve, arrange, synthesize, and evaluate the necessary information from various sources; possess skills to solve and overcome critical problems in the field of research and/or innovation; quickly learn new qualities and skills to anticipate technological and creative development;
- possess skills such as entrepreneurship, demandingness, adaptability and intellectual flexibility, independence, and responsibility, which are acquired during training and the implementation of the tasks set in the master's program.

Professional competencies:

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

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

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

3. Organization and structure of training:

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

Curriculum for one year /two semesters/:

The curriculum provides 60 ECTS credits, distributed equally over the two semesters, with the total classroom employment being 555 hours. The compulsory training takes place in a practical internship, during which students get the opportunity to observe and carry out expert activities under supervision in the field of criminal psychology in specialized institutions. In terms of structure, the master's program includes compulsory and optional subjects (in the ratio of 70%: 30%), optional subjects, and compulsory study practice in the specialty. Compulsory academic disciplines ensure the acquisition of in-depth theoretical and specialized training to implement effective preventive, diagnostic, advisory, and therapeutic activities. The optional study disciplines provide expansion and upgrading of the theoretical

and specialized training in the specialty by mastering specific knowledge, skills, and competencies. Optional courses provide the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills from various scientific fields in accordance with the interests of students. Students graduate after defending a thesis (master's thesis) or a written state exam, for which they acquire 15 credits (Article 10 of Ordinance No. 21/30.09.2004).

4. Compliance with the mission of the SWU “Neofit Rilski“

The curriculum and curricula of the master's program "Criminal Psychology" have been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Higher Education, Regulation No. 21/30.09.2004. on the implementation of a system for the accumulation and transfer of credits in higher education institutions (GG No. 89/12.10.2004), Ordinance on the state requirements for the acquisition of higher education at the educational qualification degrees "bachelor," "master" and "specialist" " (GG No. 76/06.08.2002), the National Qualification Framework (adopted by the Council of Ministers with Decision No. 96 No. 02.02.2012) and Ordinance No. 29/04.10.2006 on the professional competence of persons who have graduated from higher education in the field of Psychology, issued by the Ministry of Health (GG No. 84/17.10.2006). The qualification characteristic of the "Criminal Psychology" program for the educational qualification degree "Master" with the professional qualification "Master in Criminal Psychology" is a basic document that determines the development of the curriculum and study programs. It complies with the Ordinance on the state requirements for acquiring higher education for the educational qualification degrees "bachelor," "master," and "specialist," with the Ordinance on the professional competence of persons who have completed higher education in the specialty of Psychology, with the Regulations of the SWU "Neofit Rilski " and with the National Qualification Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria.

CURRICULUM

First year			
First semester	ECTS credits	Second semester	ECTS credits
Introduction to criminal psychology	3	Lie detection methods	2
Psychological analysis of criminal behavior	4	Psychological strategies and tactics for influencing the interrogation of suspects	2
Typology of violent crimes perpetrators	4	Negotiating critical incidents and crisis management	2
Psychological profiling of violent crimes perpetrators	4	Psychology of organized criminal groups	2
Psychology of aggressive behavior	4	Elective discipline from the second group	2
Psychodiagnostics of personality in pre-trial and court practice	4	Elective discipline from the second group	2
Elective discipline from the first group	2	Practical intreship	3
Elective discipline from the first group	2	State exam or diploma thesis defense	15
Practical intership	3		
	Total 30		Total 30
Elective disciplines /first group/ Students choose two disciplines	ECTS credits	Elective disciplines /second group/ Students choose two disciplines	ECTS credits

Psychological support for corporate security	2	Victimology	2
Criminalistics	2	Psychopathology and character accentuations of the personality	2
Factors and dynamics of criminal motivation	2	Psychology of juvenile offenders	2
Visual-linguistic psychodiagnostics	2	Psychology of the cybercrime	2
Psychology of terrorism	2	Forensic psychological expertise	2

TOTAL FOR 1 ACADEMIC YEAR: 60 CREDITS

COMPULSORY DISCIPLINES

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical lectures guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical lectures guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Hours: 30 lectures +15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, D.Sc. Assist. Prof. Velina Vladimirova,, Ph.D.,
Department of Psychology
Email: stoil_m@swu.bg; vladimirova@assess.bg

Annotation:

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

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

TYOLOGY OF VIOLENT CRIMES PERPETRATORS

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Emil Madzharov, Ph.D., Assist. Prof. Daniel Genkov,

Department of Psychology

Email: e.madzharov@abv.bg; genkov@assess.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 10 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILING OF VIOLENT CRIMES PERPETRATORS

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical lectures guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Assist. Todor Todorov., Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg; todorov@assess.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

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

PSYCHOLOGY OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Chief Assist. Prof. Emelina Zaimova, Ph.D.,

Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg, emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

PSYCHODIAGNOSTICS OF PERSONALITY IN PRE-TRIAL AND COURT PRACTICE

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

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

Email: avka@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Psychodiagnostics of personality in pre-trial and court practice" is studied in the 1st semester as a mandatory course in the curriculum of Masters in Criminal Psychology - specialists. The schedule is 30 hours of lectures, 90 hours of extracurricular work and 4 credits.

The course "Psychodiagnostics of the Personality in Pre-Trial and Judicial Practice" includes the following content modules: diagnosis of cognitive functions; diagnosis of personality traits in eyewitnesses, perpetrators and victims of criminal acts; diagnosis of personality disorders; diagnosis of relationships between parents and children in pre-trial and judicial proceedings; psychological features of the interrogation of minors who are victims or witnesses of criminal acts, as well as the interrogation of accused persons; methods and criteria for assessing the credibility of testimonies.

Objectives of the course "Psychodiagnostics of the personality in pre-trial and court practice": familiarization with the specifics of diagnostics within the framework of pre-trial and judicial proceedings; formation of skills for establishing the reliability of testimonies; knowledge of the psychological features of the interrogation of minors and underage persons, victims and witnesses of offenses; formation of skills for psychological assessment of offenders. The lecture course is conducted using modern technical means such as multimedia and software, models and interactive methods. Active independent work by students is expressed in the preparation and presentation of scientific research works, conducting psychological studies; solving tests; summarizing articles, book chapters; essays on problems on which students have personal observations and experience; analysis of case studies; adaptation of a test.

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

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

PRACTICAL INTERNSHIP

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Hours: 45 exercises

Type of exam: written

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

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D, Department of PsychologyEmail: simona.nikolova@swu.bg**Annotation:**

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

Essence of the internship:

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

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

LIE DETECTION METHODS**ECTS credits:** 2**Assessment:** exam**Semester: II****Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Prof. Emelina Zaimova, Ph.D., Assist. Prof. Daniel Genkov,
Department of Psychology**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written

Email: emelina_z@swu.bg; genkov@assess.bg

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

Historical information on the origin and development of polygraph examinations. Methodological prerequisites for polygraph examinations. Validity and reliability of polygraph tests. Types of polygraph tests. The procedure of the polygraph examination. Practical use of the polygraph. Legal and ethical aspects of polygraph examinations. Other methods for deception detection – EyeDetect и EyeDetect+, voice analysis, behavioral analysis, statement analysis, etc..

Teaching and assessment method:

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FOR INFLUENCING THE INTERROGATION OF SUSPECTS

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical lectures guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: vladimirova@assess.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course presents the methodological and methodical aspects of the psychological interview and interrogation and their functions in the implementation of various types of criminal investigations. It presents the psychological underpinning of various strategies and tactical techniques for conducting interrogations with suspects, accused, witnesses and victims. The direct and indirect strategies of conducting an interrogation, as well as the combination between them, are analyzed separately. The psychological specifics of the implementation of such interrogation techniques as asking unexpected questions, bringing out contradictions from previous statements, prompting, without making suggestions in the cases of certain memory difficulties and disorders, providing information to a certain degree,

demonstrating that more is known than is actually known. Students who have completed their studies in this discipline will have sufficiently differentiated knowledge of the psychological nature of the interrogation and the interview, as well as the psychological approaches and techniques used in conducting them with suspects, witnesses and victims to ensure reliable information and receive confessions from the guilty parties.

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

NEGOTIATING CRITICAL INCIDENTS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical lectures guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Assist. Prof. Todor Todorov, Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg; todorov@assess.bg

Hours: 20 lectures +10 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

PSYCHOLOGY OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUPS**ECTS credits:** 2**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** II**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Emil Madzharov, PhD, Department of PsychologyEmail: e.madzharov@abv.bg**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

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

PRACTICAL INTERNSHIP

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 45 exercises

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Essence of the internship:

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

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR CORPORATE SECURITY

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D; Chief Assist. Prof. Emelina Zaimova, Ph.D

Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg; emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

CRIMINALISTICS

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Kostadin Bobev, Ph.D, Department of "Public Law Sciences"

Email: kbobev@law.swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The study of the discipline "Forensic Science" is focused on familiarizing students of the master's program "Criminal Psychology" with the basics of the organization, methodology

and tools of this criminal law science. The content of the course covers issues in theoretical and practical aspects. Through it, students should become familiar with the main actions and procedures implemented by forensic scientists in connection with the investigation, detection and prevention of various crimes

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

FACTORS AND DYNAMICS OF CRIMINAL MOTIVATION

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: e.madzharov@abv.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

functioning of criminal motivation. Motivational dynamics in organized homicide. Motivational dynamics in a disorganized homicide perpetrator.

Teaching and assessment method:

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

VISUAL-LINGUISTIC PSYCHODIAGNOSTICS

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: avka@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

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

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

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

to the European grading system; an average grade of 3 is equal to a D grade according to the European grading system; a poor grade of 2 is equal to a E grade according to the European grading system.

PSYCHOLOGY OF TERRORISM

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: bmanov@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

VICTIMOLOGY

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiiev, D.sc., Department of Psychology

Email: stoil_m@swu.bg

Annotation:

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

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

**PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND CHARACTER ACCENTUATIONS OF THE
PERSONALITY**

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Tony Dontchev, Ph.D

Email: tonyd@abv.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

PSYCHOLOGY OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: e.madzharov@abv.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CYBERCRIME

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERTISE

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

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

Email: stoil_m@swu.bg

Annotation:

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

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

Content of the course:

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

Teaching and assessment method:

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