



Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Shri Vaishnav Institute of Forensic Science

GENERIC ELECTIVE UG

SEMESTER – IV
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY IN COURTROOM

COURSE CODE	CATEGORY	COURSE NAME	TEACHING & EVALUATION SCHEME								
			THEORY			PRACTICAL		L	T	P	CREDITS
			END SEM University Exam	Two Term Exam	Teachers Assessment*	END SEM University Exam	Teachers Assessment*				
GEUFS403	GE	Forensic Psychology in Courtroom	60	20	20	0	0	4	0	0	4

Legends: L - Lecture; T - Tutorial/Teacher Guided Student Activity; P – Practical; C - Credit.

***Teacher Assessment** shall be based on following components: Quiz/Assignment/ Project/Participation in Class, given that no component shall exceed more than 10 marks.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course aims to provide the students with

1. The basics of the practice and science of psychology in a forensic setting.
2. The basics of how the court system functions.
3. Usual forensic issues that a forensic psychologist assesses.
4. Various controversies that are related to the use of expert witnesses in the court.
5. The overview of forensic psychology and its applications.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

After studying this course, the students will

1. Understand knowledge of forensic psychology.
2. Know about the research methods in Forensic Psychology.
3. Be familiar to criminal profiling.
4. Be able to understand the various factors of crime.
5. Be able to know ethical and legal aspects of courtroom testimony.

UNIT I: Basics of Forensic Psychology

Definition, Historical Development of the Forensic Psychology, Need & importance, Difference Between Legal Forensic and Forensic Psychology, Psychology and Law, Role of Forensic Psychologist in Civil and Criminal Cases.

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UNIT II: Forensic Psychology in Criminal Justice

Forensic Psychologist in the Role of Child Custody Cases, Expert Opinions on Mental Health Cases, Loftus and Palmer theory, Halo Effect in Courtroom, Eyewitness Testimony, Jury Decision, Administration of Justice, Courtroom Trial Process.

UNIT: III: Courtroom Psychology

Amicus Curiae (Friend of court), Prosecutor, Psychology of Prosecutor, Defendant, Psychology of Defendant, Psychological Ambivalences Surrounding the Courtroom, Fear of Approaching Court.

UNIT: IV: Law of Evidence and Psychology

Direct Evidence, Material evidence, Circumstantial evidence, Parole, Prima facie, Judicial evidence, Exculpatory Evidence, Inculpatory Evidence, Conclusive Evidence, Documentary Evidence, Expert Evidence.

UNIT: V: Psychological Test

Polygraph, Initial Interrogation, Pre – Test Phase, Control Question Test (CQT), Guilty Knowledge Test (GKT), Concealed Information Test (CIT), Narco Analysis Test, Admissibility of Psychological Evidence in Court of Law.

Suggested Reading:

1. Baron, R.A. and Byrne, D (2000). Social Psychology, 8th Edition, Prentice Hall of India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. Kuppaswamy, B (1980).
2. An Introduction to Social Psychology, 2nd Revised edition, (reprinted, 2004), Asia Publishing House, Mumbai.
3. Myers, G. David (2008), Social Psychology, 9th edition, The McGraw Hill Companies, Inc.
4. Santrock, J.W. (2011). A topical Approach to life-Span Development. New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill Edition.

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5. Jackson, A. F., & Bolger, D. J. (2014). The neurophysiological bases of EEG and EEG measurement: A review for the rest of us. *Psychophysiology*, 51(11), 1061–1071.

6. Cropley, A. J. (2019). *Qualitative research methods: A practice-oriented introduction for students of psychology and education*. 2nd updated, revised, and enlarged edition. Riga, Latvia: Zinātne. (Open access – Doi: 10.13140/RG.2.1.3095.6888).

7. Creswell, J. W., and Poth, C. N. (2017). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

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