



CRIME101x

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

FILE: CRIME101x

TIME: 1 TO 2 HOURS PER WEEK

DURATION: 8 WEEKS

COORDINATORS:

BLAKE MCKIMMIE

MARK HORSWILL

BARBARA MASSER

SUMMARY:

This course systematically explores the effectiveness of the law and justice system from a psychological perspective. By experiencing a fictional case first hand, you will learn about the psychology of law and some of the misconceptions commonly held about criminal justice. You will follow the fictional crime from when it is committed, during the investigation phase, through to the trial. You will take on various roles throughout the case—including acting as an eyewitness, an interviewer, and a juror.



COURSE TOPICS

We have filmed a recreation of a crime and the subsequent investigation and trial for this course.

Each episode will start with a part of this drama, and include a series of video lectures from the course coordinators.

We will also be conducting polls, quizzes, and activities to reinforce the course content.

- EPISODE 1:** The crime / finding the suspect
- EPISODE 2:** Interviewing witnesses
- EPISODE 3:** Photofits and line-ups
- EPISODE 4:** Questioning the suspect
- EPISODE 5:** Getting ready for trial
- EPISODE 6:** The trial
- EPISODE 7:** The jury deliberates
- EPISODE 8:** The verdict


Information about extra learning resources will be made available for each episode.

Please also use the discussion board to talk about the weekly question.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- a) Identify some of the myths about how the criminal justice system works from a psychological perspective;
- b) Understand some of the empirical evidence that can inform our understanding of criminal justice and how to improve how justice is administered.



CONFIDENTIAL

ASSESSMENT

In this course we make use of a special type of quiz based on the principles of confidence-based assessment. We will not only ask you to say what you think is the correct answer, we get you to rate how confident you are in this answer.


By giving you immediate feedback about whether you were actually correct or not, we hope to help you identify any confidently held but incorrect knowledge, and also when you should be more confident in what you know.

Research suggests that people learn more effectively with this type of quiz, and we're hoping it will help challenge some misconceptions that people have about the criminal justice system.

You will also earn marks by completing the various activities and polls, and by contributing to the weekly discussion topic.

It's worth attempting the assessment even if you are auditing the course, because it is a very good way to consolidate your learning.

JENKER MURDER INVESTIGATION
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