SES's L.S. RAHEJA COLLEGE OF ARTS and COMMERCE (AUTONOMOUS)

BOARD OF STUDIES: Psychology
PROGRAMME: MA Psychology (with Counselling Specialization)
SEMESTER: I
NOMENCLATURE OF THE COURSE: FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
NEP Vertical: ELECTIVE
Credit: 4

(As Per Choice Based Credit System (under NEP 2020) with effect from the academic year 2025-26)

Programme:	**MA Psychology (with Counselling Specialization)**
Nomenclature of the Course	**Forensic Psychology**
Course Code	**PGMACOIEL26**
Total Marks	**100**
Semester:	**I**
Academic year	**2026-27**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: This paper aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of forensic psychology, including its theoretical foundations, assessment practices, and applications within the legal system. It also aims to develop critical and ethical competencies required for applying psychological principles in forensic and criminal justice settings.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. Analyse foundational concepts, theoretical models, and ethical principles in forensic psychology to understand its role within the legal system. Critically evaluate the professional competencies required for effective practice in forensic contexts.
2. Analyse and apply principles of forensic psychological assessment, including interviewing, testing, and report writing, in legal settings. Evaluate issues related to competency, criminal responsibility, malingering, and the use of expert testimony.
3. Analyse the psychological aspects of criminality and special populations, including personality disorders, juvenile delinquency, and sexual offending. Critically evaluate the impact of crime on victims and integrate victimological perspectives in forensic understanding.
4. Analyse and evaluate the application of forensic psychology in correctional, legal, and mental health settings. Formulate informed perspectives on rehabilitation, intervention strategies, and ethical challenges such as dual-role conflicts.

Unit	Course Content	Andragogy	No of Lectures
Module I	**1. Foundations of Forensic Psychology** 1.1 Definition, scope, and history of forensic psychology 1.2 Theoretical models in forensic psychology 1.3 Place of psychology in forensic science 1.4 Ethical principles and professional competencies	Interactive lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Case studies, Group discussions Applied learning through case analysis	**15**
Module II	**2. Forensic Assessment** 2.1 Principles of forensic psychological assessment 2.2 Interviewing techniques in forensic settings 2.3 Competency to stand trial, Criminal responsibility and insanity defense, Malingering and deception	Interactive lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Case studies, Group discussions Applied learning	**15**

	2.4 Use of psychological tests in forensic contexts 2.5 Report writing and expert testimony	through case analysis	
Module III	**3. Criminality and Special Populations** 3.1 Personality disorders and criminality 3.2 Juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice system 3.3 Sexual offending and assessment of sexual offenders 3.4 Victims of crime: psychological impact and victimology	Interactive lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Case studies, Group discussions Applied learning through case analysis	**15**
Module IV	**4. Applications and Contemporary Issues** 4.1 Correctional psychology and rehabilitation programs 4.2 Psychological interventions in prisons and probation settings 4.3 Child custody evaluations and family court assessments 4.4 Forensic mental health services 4.5 Ethical dilemmas and dual-role conflicts	Interactive lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Case studies, Group discussions Applied learning through case analysis	**15**

SUGGESTED READINGS

1. Ackerman, M. J. (2010). Essentials of forensic psychological assessment (2nd ed.). John Wiley & Sons.
2. Bartol, C. R., & Bartol, A. M. (2019). Introduction to forensic psychology: Research and application (6th ed.). Sage Publications.
3. Bull, R. (2011). Forensic psychology (4-volume set). Sage Publications.
4. Crighton, D., & Towl, G. (2015). Forensic psychology. The British Psychological Society & John Wiley & Sons.
5. Cutler, B. L., & Zapf, P. A. (Eds.). (2015). APA handbook of forensic psychology (Vols. 1–2). American Psychological Association.
6. Davies, G., & Beech, A. (2012). Forensic psychology: Crime, justice, law, interventions (2nd ed.). BPS Blackwell & John Wiley & Sons.
7. Donohue, W. T., & Levensky, T. R. (2004). Handbook of forensic psychology. Elsevier.
8. Douglas, J. E., Burgess, A. W., Burgess, A. G., & Ressler, R. K. (2013). Crime classification manual: A standard system for investigating and classifying violent crimes (3rd ed.). John Wiley & Sons.
9. Goldstein, A. M. (Vol. Ed.), & Weiner, I. B. (Series Ed.). (2003). Handbook of psychology: Forensic psychology (Vol. 11). John Wiley & Sons.
10. Heilbrun, K., Marczyk, G. R., & DeMatteo, D. (2002). Forensic mental health assessment: A casebook. Oxford University Press.

11. McCaffrey, R. J., Williams, A. D., Fisher, J. M., & Laing, L. C. (1997). The practice of forensic neuropsychology. Plenum Press.
12. McCann, J. T., & Ewing, C. P. (2003). Minds on trial: Great cases in law and psychology. Allyn & Bacon.
13. Scott, A. (2010). Forensic psychology. Palgrave Macmillan.
14. Walsh, A., & Ellis, L. (2007). Criminology: An interdisciplinary approach. Sage Publications.
15. Weiner, I. B., & Otto, R. K. (Eds.). (2013). The handbook of forensic psychology (4th ed.). John Wiley & Sons.

QUESTION PAPER PATTERN

(A) FOR CONTINUOUS EVALUATION

20 Marks Class Test	(MCQ/QUIZ) ---------- 20 MARKS

(A-1)

(A-1) RUBRICS FOR CONTINUOUS EVALUATION

20 Marks	ASSIGNMENT ---------- 10 MARKS
	VIVA-VOCE ---------- 10 MARKS

(B) QUESTION PAPER PATTERN FOR SEMESTER END EXAMINATION

60 Marks	Q1. Answer in brief (1/2)-------- 15 marks
	Q2. Answer in brief (1/2)-------- 15 marks
	Q3. Answer in brief (1/2)-------- 15 marks
	Q4. Answer in brief (1/2)-------- 15 marks