

## Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2019/20 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Module name	Memory and the Law
Module code	PS3028
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Psychology
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	6

### MODULE SUMMARY

#### Module outline and aims

This module is about scientific research on memory and its application to the law. Although it builds on knowledge and skills acquired in 2nd year (cognitive) psychology, this is not a prerequisite for the module. The module will provide you with the opportunity to develop your knowledge of current research and theories in the psychology of memory area while applying it to practical situations involving the law. The aims of the module include:

- To develop your knowledge and understanding of the some of the current research issues in the field of human memory and its development.
- To develop your ability to think critically when considering memory theories and models.
- To provide you with an opportunity to develop your understanding in a recent and relevant area of applied memory research, namely, when memory serves as evidence in legal proceedings.

#### Indicative Content

Topics covered in this module include:

The importance of memory in legal proceedings  
 The nature and development of autobiographical memory  
 The nature and development of true and false memories and its relation to the legal field  
 The nature and development of suggestibility and its relation to the legal field  
 Stress, trauma, and memory  
 Case studies of memory and the law

### WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

**On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:**

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically evaluate how memory operates, behaviourally and neurobiologically.

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- Explain and critically evaluate how memory develops and the factors that influence its reliability.
- Analyse the role of memory in forensic contexts including in the courtroom.

### Skills:

- Independently formulate research questions relating to memory and the law.
- Critically evaluate scientific research papers.
- Carry out independent web-based and library research.

### Values and attitudes:

- Recognise the importance of a scientific approach to the study of memory in the legal setting

### **HOW WILL I LEARN?**

The module is organised around a series of lecture topics. The format involves lectures and some student presentations. The lecturer will provide explicit guidance in terms of what the basic concepts and literature are through the lectures. From time to time you will be expected to present some empirical research from the literature and participate in discussions about how such research may have implications for the law.

#### *Teaching pattern:*

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lecture	Lecture	20	130	0	150
Totals		20	130		150

### **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

#### Assessments

A 2500-word essay, the topic of which students select.

#### *Assessment pattern:*

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass / Fail?
Essay	Written assignment	100	40	N/A

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### Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes students need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes students need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to students prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

### Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given your marks and feedback in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

### Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

### **INDICATIVE READING LIST**

#### **Specific references will be provided during lectures and tutorials**

Other relevant and particularly helpful references include:

Howe, M. L. (2011). *The Nature of Early Memory: An Adaptive Theory of the Genesis and Development of Memory*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Howe, M. L., Goodman, G. S., & Cicchetti, D. (Eds.)(2008). *Stress, Trauma, and Children's Memory Development: Neurobiological, Cognitive, Clinical, and Legal Perspectives*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Nadel, L., & Sinnott-Armstrong, W. P. (2012). *Memory and law*. New York: Oxford University Press.



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