

SYLLABUS
FACULTY OF SCIENCES & ARTS

Course Code	Course Title		Credits	ECTS Value
PSY 264	PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIME		3 (3-0-3)	5
Prerequisite Courses:	None			
Course Language:	English	Course Delivery Mode:	Face to face	
Course Type and Level:	Elective/2nd Grade/Spring Term			
Instructor's Title, Name, and Surname		Course Hours	Office Hours	Contact
AYŞE ŞENAY KOÇ, PhD		Tuesdays 10:00-12:20	Wednesdays 14:00-16:00	aysesenaykoc@cag.edu.tr
Course Coordinator:	---			
Course Objectives: The Psychology of Crime course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the psychological foundations of criminal and deviant behavior by integrating theoretical, empirical, and applied perspectives. It seeks to develop students' ability to critically evaluate major psychological theories explaining crime, including cognitive, behavioral, social, developmental, and biological approaches. The course also encourages the analysis of offender behavior through the lens of personality, psychopathology, and situational influences, while highlighting the impact of family, community, and societal factors on criminal conduct. Furthermore, it emphasizes the application of psychological principles to legal, forensic, and correctional contexts, fostering ethical awareness regarding justice, rehabilitation, and victims' rights. By engaging with contemporary research and real-world case studies, students are expected to strengthen their analytical, reflective, and research-based thinking skills in the field of forensic and criminal psychology.				
Course Learning Outcomes	Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to;		Relations	
			Program Outcomes	Net Contribution
	1	Explain the fundamental concepts, theories, and psychological models that explain criminal and antisocial behavior.	1, 3, 4, 7	5, 3, 3, 2
	2	Compare and evaluate different perspectives on human nature that have shaped theoretical and empirical developments in criminal psychology.	1, 3, 4, 7	5, 4, 3, 2
	3	Apply and critique research methodologies commonly used in the study of criminal behavior within a biosocial and psychological framework.	1, 3, 4, 7	4, 3, 3, 4
	4	Identify and differentiate types of antisocial behavior across developmental stages, recognizing key risk and protective factors that influence their emergence.	1, 3, 4, 7	4, 4, 3, 3
	5	Integrate interdisciplinary knowledge from fields such as Forensic Medicine, Law, Clinical Psychology, Criminology, and Sociology to interpret complex cases.	1, 3, 4, 7	5, 5, 4, 3
	6	Conduct basic personality and behavioral assessments relevant to offenders and victims, and analyze findings within ethical and psychological principles.	1, 3, 4, 7	3, 4, 4, 5
	7	Develop informed and creative perspectives for improving policies, interventions, and rehabilitation services related to crime, punishment, and victim support.	1, 3, 4, 7	4, 5, 5, 3
Course Content:	This course explores the psychological foundations of criminal behavior, integrating perspectives from social, cognitive, developmental, and clinical psychology. It examines how biological, environmental, and psychosocial factors interact to shape antisocial behavior.			

criminal decision-making, and rehabilitation. Topics include personality and psychopathy, aggression, moral development, substance abuse, trauma, victimology, and the psychology of criminal justice processes. Emphasis is placed on applying psychological theory to real-world contexts such as offender profiling, prevention, and correctional interventions.

As a certified course, students are required to meet the following requisites to receive certification:

- Completion of 5 pop quizzes throughout the semester
- Submission of 2 reflection papers (critical analysis of selected cases or readings)
- Attendance of at least 80% of classes
- A final average grade of 80 or higher in the spring term

Course Schedule (Weekly Plan)

Week	Topic	Preparation	Teaching Methods and Techniques
1	Introduction to the Psychology of Crime: Scope, Concepts, and Historical Development	Review course syllabus and key definitions in criminal psychology	Lecture, interactive discussion, overview of course requirements
2	Biological and Genetic Foundations of Criminal Behavior	Read assigned article on neuropsychology and aggression	Lecture, short video, Q&A
3	Personality, Temperament, and the Psychopath: Theories of Antisocial Personality	Read Cleckley's and Hare's typologies of psychopathy (Quiz 1)	Lecture, case discussion, reading-based group task
4	Cognitive and Behavioral Explanations of Crime	Review Bandura's social learning theory and Skinner's behaviorism	Lecture, applied examples, class debate
5	Moral Development, Empathy Deficits, and Moral Disengagement	Study Kohlberg's stages of moral reasoning and Bandura's concept of moral disengagement (Quiz 2)	Lecture, video analysis, guided reflection
6	Social and Environmental Factors in Criminal Behavior: Family, Peers, and Culture	Review ecological and social control theories; prepare to discuss media influence (Quiz 3)	Lecture, case studies, breakout discussions
7	Psychological Theories of Aggression and Violence	Read Berkowitz and Anderson on frustration–aggression hypothesis (Reflection Paper 1)	Lecture, short film analysis, peer feedback
8	Midterm Exam	---	---
9	Midterm Exam	---	---
10	Victimology and the Psychology of Victims	Review readings on trauma and secondary victimization	Guest lecture, small group analysis, empathy exercise

11	Gender and Crime: Female Offenders and Masculinity Norms	Read articles on gendered patterns of offending (Quiz 4)	Lecture, critical discussion, media analysis
12	Substance Use, Addiction, and Crime	Review DSM-5 criteria for substance use disorders	Lecture, class dialogue, brief literature review
13	Mental Disorders and Criminal Responsibility	Review case studies on insanity defense and criminal liability (Quiz 5)	Lecture, ethical discussion, legal-psychological analysis
14	Forensic Assessment, Profiling, and Interrogation Psychology	Read about offender profiling methods (FBI vs. UK models)	Lecture, profiling exercise
15	Rehabilitation, Prevention, and Restorative Justice Approaches	Read articles on cognitive-behavioral rehabilitation programs	Lecture, discussion, course review
16	Integrative Case Studies: Linking Theory, Practice, and Policy	Prepare a group presentation case integrating at least two theoretical perspectives (Reflection Paper 2)	Group presentations, feedback session
17	Final Exam	---	---
18	Final Exam	---	---

Course Resources

Textbook:

Abrahamsen, D. (2019). *The Psychology of Crime*. Columbia University Press

Recommended References:

Canter, D. (2020). *Suç Psikolojisi*. D. Yazıcıoğlu (Çev.). İstanbul: Sola Unitas.

Canter, D. (2019). *Cinayeti Çözmek*. D. Yazıcıoğlu (Çev.). İstanbul: Sola Unitas.

Canter, D. (2018). *Seri Katillerin Zihninden Suç Gölgeleleri*. S. Bataklar (Çev.). İstanbul: Sola Unitas

Schmallegger, F. ve Bartollas, C. (2017). *Çocuk Suçluluğu*. Ankara: Nobel Akademik Yayıncılık

Canter, D. ve Žukauskienė, R. (Ed.) (2008). *Psychology and Law: Bridging the Gap*. Ashgate Publishing Limited

Canter, D. (2010). *Forensic Psychology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press Inc.

Canter, D. (Ed) (2009). *The Faces of Terrorism: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Chadee, D. (Ed.) (2017). *Psychology of Fear, Crime, and the Media: International Perspectives*. New York: Routledge

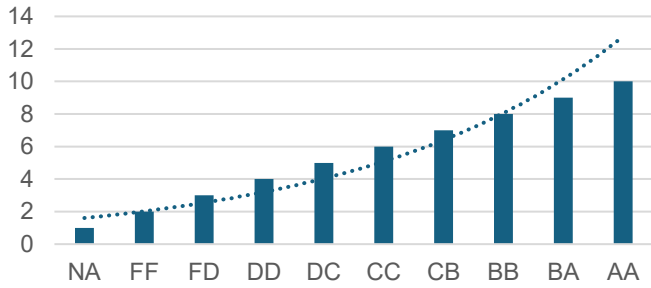
Feldman, P. (1993). *The psychology of crime: A social science textbook*. Cambridge University Press

Course Assessment and Evaluation

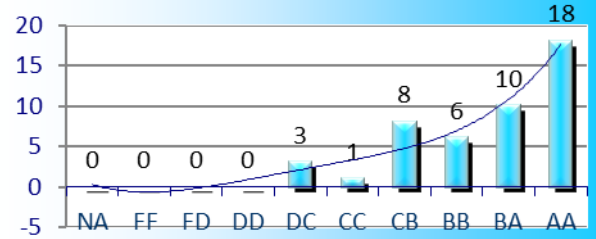
Activities	Number	Percentile	Notes
Midterm Exam	1	20%	A written exam administered in the middle of the semester, designed to measure knowledge and understanding of the topics covered up to that point.
Pop Quiz	5	15%	A short assessment activity consisting of multiple-choice questions.
Assignment	2	15%	A short-written assignment in which the student reflects on experiences, concepts, and personal views gained during the course with a critical perspective.
Presentation	---	---	---
Portfolio	---	---	---
Final	1	50%	A comprehensive exam covering all course topics.
ECTS Table			
Content	Number	Hours	Total
Course Duration	14	3	42
Out-of-Class Study	14	3	42
Assignment	2	10	20
Pop Quiz	5	4	20
Project	---	---	---
Midterm Exam (Midterm Exam Duration + Midterm Exam Preparation)	1	15	15
Final Exam (Final Exam Duration + Final Exam Preparation)	1	20	20
Total:			159
Total / 30:			159÷30=5,3≈5
ECTS Credit:			5

Past Term Achievements

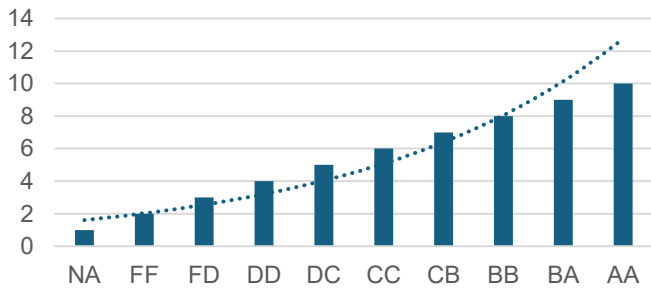
2024-2025 Fall Semester
Course Code and Name



2024-2025 SPRING SEMESTER
PSY 264-PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIME



2025-2026 Fall Semester
Course Code and Name



2025-2026 Spring Semester
Course Code and Name

