

PSYCHIAT 746

Research Topic in Forensic Psychiatry

15 Points
Semester 2, 2008

Course Prescription

A detailed research study of key issues in forensic psychiatry.

Goals of the Course

The aim is to expose the student to key questions of a methodological and informational type in the field of forensic psychiatry, and facilitate student directed research and inquiry on an issue of greatest interest to the student.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the paper students will be able to:-

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of research/audit issues in the field of forensic psychiatry, and related disciplines
- Understand the manner in which differing research methodologies and audit techniques may inform understanding of key issues.
- Show sensitivity to the ethical issues that research ideas may generate in both the conducting of studies, producing insights into a particular area and how data may inform debate about forensic psychiatric controversy.

Learning and Teaching

The course will be comprised of 4 one day seminars. The first will introduce you to the course, and allow you to raise key questions and orientate you to research and audit methodologies. Following that, you will define your own question through a literature review and present that to the group.

Following that, further sessions on research methods and controversies will lead to your presentations. They should be 15 minutes in length, with 5 minutes for questions.

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Teaching Staff

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Campus Teaching Dates in 2008

Tuesdays 9:30 – 4:30pm on July 22, August 12, September 16, October 14

Learning Resources

The basic text is:

Brookbanks, W. & Simpson, S. (eds) (2007). *Psychiatry and the Law*. Wellington: Lexis Nexis.

Also highly recommended is Bell S. and Brookbanks W. (2005), 'Mental Health Law in New Zealand' (2nd Edition). Thomson Brookers: Wellington (especially in relation to the detail of mental health law).

Alternative short texts such as Faulk "Basic Forensic Psychiatry", now in its 3rd edition is more superficial and not NZ specific. Gunn J and Taylor PJ (1993) "Forensic Psychiatry: clinical, legal and ethical issues" Butterworth and Hienemann is highly recommended and Bluglass R and Bowden P. (1990). "Principles and Practice of Forensic Psychiatry" Churchill Livingstone is vital for more in depth research.

For research techniques, you may wish to consult a short textbook on clinical research, such as Curran S and Williams CJ "Clinical Research in Psychiatry: a practical guide". Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford, 1999; or Tsang M et al "Textbook in Psychiatric Epidemiology" Wiley, New York, 1995.

Assessment

One essay worth 5000 words - 60% of the final mark

Presentation of the initial question and literature review to the group, plus a 400 word statement at the time of the second seminar – 10% of the final mark

Presentation of complete topic and research proposal to the group at the final seminar - 30% of the final mark

Programme and Course Advice

This course is optional for a number of Faculty of Medical and Health Science programmes.

The course is primarily aimed at professionals working in the health, corrections and justice sectors.