



## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *cognitive biases in the law enforcement system - 61050*

*Last update 12-10-2021*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)*

*Responsible Department: Criminology*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Rotem Kadosh Nussbaum*

*Coordinator Email: [KADOSHROTEM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KADOSHROTEM@GMAIL.COM)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. rotem kadosh

Course/Module description:

*In the course we will learn about studies in the field of psychology which indicate systematic gaps between the model of rational action and actual human behavior. The cognitive ability available human beings is limited in scope. To exhaust it, we run mental shortcuts and use rules of thumb (heuristics). We will focus on Kahneman and Trabsky's studies, in which it was found that due to the use of heuristics when performing inferences under conditions of uncertainty, systematic deviations from rational behavior are revealed.*

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- 1. Know the different thinking biases.*
- 2. Be exposed to how thinking biases influence decision-making in the law enforcement system.*
- 3. Familiarize yourself with the various studies conducted in the field of thinking biases in the law enforcement system.*
- 4. Acquire tools for a critical examination of the law enforcement procedure.*

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

*course topics, course requirements and introduction  
The Law Enforcement Assumptions and the Behavior Theory  
The discretion of the police officer  
Thinking biases - Kahneman and Tversky  
Availability bias  
Effect of priority, approval bias and herd thinking  
The illusion of validity and consultation with experts  
Anchoring biases and risk aversion  
Attribution of causality*

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*The bias of representatives*  
*Aura effect and emotion bias*  
*Preparation for a home test*

Required Reading:

*Lesson 1: Introducing the course topics, course requirements and introduction*  
*Joshua Stern, S. (2016). The Shadow Kingdom of the Law Enforcement System False Convictions: Psychological Aspects in the Work of a Police Investigator in Israel. Israeli Criminology and, 65-72.*

*Lesson 2: Assumptions of the Law Enforcement System and Behavioral Theory*  
*Ben Nun, H. (2009). Cognitive biases and judgmental decisions: intuition and orderly thinking in the judge's work. Shaarei Mishpat 5, 178-182, 189-194, 229-231.*

*Fisher, T. (2016). The law of evidence in the light of theory. Legal Studies Lat, 107.*

*Lesson 3: Discretion of the Officer*

*Compulsory reading:*

*Zelig, E. and Nachshon, Y. (2012). Bias thinking in a police investigation. In Peled - Laskov, R. Shoham, A. and Carmon M. (Eds.), False Convictions - Philosophical, Psychological and Organizational Aspects, 177.*

*Worden, R.E., & McLean, S.J. (2014). Police discretion in law enforcement. Encyclopedia of criminology and criminal justice, 3596-3607.*

*Cordner, G., & Scott, M. (2014). Police discretion and its control. Encyclopedia of criminology and criminal justice, 3875-95.*

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 90 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 0 %*

*Project work 0 %*

*Assignments 10 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

Additional information: