Criminal Victimisation

Module Code: CV
NQF level: 7
Credit Value: 20
Study duration: 12 weeks

Module description:
This module brings together academic research and professional practice in a way that helps students consolidate their learning but also understand how their knowledge can be used within real life practical application. The status of the victim throughout criminal process, from pre-planning, through commission, investigation and prosecution, will be paramount to the student’s learning. It will explore in depth the concept of criminal victimisation, the recent re-balancing of the criminal justice system to take better account of the victim of crime and the challenges of measuring and predicting victimisation and vulnerability. There will be a detailed examination of the application of strategies to tackle repeat victimisation. The module will closely explore gendered victimisation by analysing feminist perspectives on rape, domestic violence and homicide as well as considering the emerging risks of victimisation according to faith and radicalism. The module has been designed and developed by a former Detective Chief Superintendent who led the Homicide and Major Crime Teams in one of the largest police forces in the UK.

This module aims to:
- develop advanced understanding in students of the concept of victimology, particularly as it applies to the status of the victim throughout the processes of crime and its investigation, and criminal victimisation
- describe and critically evaluate the theory of crime victimisation, paying particular attention to the concept and measurement of vulnerability
- develop advanced understanding of the theory, and practical application of, repeat victimisation strategies
- explore victimisation from a ‘gendered’ perspective and to analyse strategies to tackle the prevalence of sexual offences and homicide in at-risk female groups
- develop advanced understanding of policy and service delivery application of criminal victimisation in a criminal justice system context, describing relevant influential developments in human rights law

Learning outcomes
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
- define, describe and critically assess the theory and practical application of victimology and criminal victimisation in a criminal justice context, considering in particular the impact throughout the process on the status of the victim
- critically evaluate theories of gendered criminal victimisation and provide examples of its targeted application within the criminal justice system
- describe the impact of crime victimisation theory upon the general working practices of various agencies within the criminal justice system, including anti-radicalisation strategies
- critically assess the challenges inherent in measuring victimisation including repeat victimisation and its application to crime reduction strategies
- critically assess the challenges presented by the assessment of vulnerability to criminal victimisation
- critically assess the methods by which victim evidence might be suitably gathered and presented

Syllabus
- Advanced victimology
  - The changing status of the victim
  - Theory of criminal victimisation
  - Evidence Gathering
  - Measurement of victimisation and vulnerability
- Feminism and victimology
  - Rape
  - Domestic Violence
  - Homicide
  - The ‘gender agenda’
  - Male victims of sexual crime
- Policy and service delivery in the light of emerging victimology theory
  - The Victim Code
  - Criminal Justice Agencies
  - The Voluntary Sector
  - Repeat victimisation
  - The challenges of radical extremism
  - The legal response to victimisation, led by developments in human rights law

Learning and teaching methods
The module will be delivered by reading materials available on the learning platform supported by discussion forums and online lecture-casts. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant web-based resources. Self-directed learning will supplement the lecture-casts and discussions and tutors will provide students with direction on required readings.

Description of unit of assessment | Length/Duration | Submission Date | Weighting |
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2 Assessed Discussion Activities | Two weeks | Q1 and Q3 | 20% |
Mid-module assignment: Essay | 2,500 words | Mid term | 40% |
End of module project: Essay | 2,500 words | End term | 40% |