

Crime and Society

Module Code	CS	NQF level:	4
Credit Value	15	Study duration:	9 weeks

This module aims to:

- Make students aware of criminal liability and the key definitions associated with criminality
- Introduce students to a number of specific types and categories of crime and to several key indicative defences to a criminal offence
- Ensure that students are aware of the influences upon criminal behaviour and their social contexts, including substance abuse, common causes of anti social behaviour and selected case studies
- Enable students to understand and assess the social and economic effects of criminal behaviour upon local communities and the state
- Identify and evaluate the impact of scientific and technological developments within the criminal justice arena
- Raise awareness of the growing internationalisation of crime and the issues which this raises

Learning outcomes

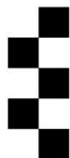
On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Understand what constitutes and can be identified as a crime, and recognise the scale of criminality
- Through the use of case studies and other models identify the key elements of several specific crimes and several key defences
- Identify and evaluate the key issues associated with the social contexts of crime, including substance misuse and anti-social behaviour
- Recognise the key issues involved in any relaxation of the current laws relating to particular types of criminal activity, for example prostitution or substance abuse
- Understand and assess the impact of the increasing internationalisation of crime and its contexts

Learning and teaching methods

The Learning and Teaching Methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and Tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The live lectures will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the Tutors. At pre-arranged and regularly agreed points, on specified days and times in advance of each lecture (typically two to three days prior to the lecture) there will be a 'drop in' telephone or online preparatory learning liaison session conducted between the student(s) and tutor, typically lasting for 20 to 30 minutes. These sessions are designed to provide students with an introductory preview of the week's work and give them an opportunity to ask specific and general questions related to that week's learning opportunities and to enable them to contextualise their learning experience. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students are given weekly direction on required and indicative reading.



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Syllabus

- What is Crime?
 - Look at some of the definitions of crime
 - Explore social and political constructions of crime
- Understanding the Historical Context of Crime in Britain
 - Look at a brief overview of the history of crime
 - Consider how ideas have changed over time
 - Examine the development of the area of youth crime
- Crime and Statistics
 - Look at how crime statistics are selected
 - Consider the purpose of collecting crime statistics
 - Explore how information regarding the crime rate is used
- Crimes of 'Everyday Life'
 - Look at what types of crime are the most prevalent
 - Examine property crime
 - Consider the conditions that promote volume crime
- Crime and Substance Misuse
 - Consider the nature and extent of drug and alcohol use
 - Assess the link between drug and alcohol use and crime
 - Explore ways of reducing drug and alcohol-related crime
- Violence - Causes and Responses
 - Consider who is most likely to be a victim of violent crime
 - Investigate the different forms of violence recorded
 - Explore the reasons for this type of crime
- Sexual Offences and Social Responses
 - Consider the question of consent
 - Explore the different types of sexual offence
 - Investigate the criminal processes involved in sexual offences
 - Examine the issues surrounding, and effectiveness of, civil measures taken to reduce re-offending by known sex offenders
- The 'Invisible' Crime – Corporate Crime
 - Look at the size of the problem of corporate crime
 - Explore the definitions of corporate crime
 - Consider some of the ways this type of crime is investigated and punished
- The Impact of the Economy on Crime
 - Consider the types of economic conditions that could affect crime rates
 - Explore the evidence for a link between the economy and crime
 - Investigate the link between poverty and crime

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission Date	Weighting
Discussion contributions	Fortnight	Unit 2 and Unit 3	10%
Mid-module assignment	2000 words	Unit 6	40%
Journal entry	500 words (each)	Unit 4 and Unit 8	10%
End of module project	2000 words	Unit 9	40%