### Introduction to Criminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>IC</th>
<th>NQF level:</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Value</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Study duration:</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
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**This module aims to:**
- Give you the opportunity to develop your understanding of a range of criminological issues.
- Introduce you to various definitions and understanding of crime and criminal behaviour.
- Explore the role of criminogenic factors which may trigger criminal behaviour.
- Introduce you to a range of historical and contemporary criminological perspectives on crime.
- Identify the ‘dark side’ of crime statistics and their meaning.
- Explore the role of media, TV and movies in affecting popular perception on crime and criminality.

**Learning outcomes**
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
- Understand and evaluate key historical and contemporary criminological theories of crime.
- Recognise and critically assess a number of perspectives related to the explanation of crime perpetration.

**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 lecturecasts 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.
Introduction to Criminology

Syllabus

- **Introduction to criminology**
  - Assess definitions of criminality.
  - Consider the scope of criminology and how it differs from forensic psychology.
  - Identify the development of crime and punishment through history.
  - Reflect upon historical perspectives on criminology, particularly those that have had a substantial influence on more contemporary theories.

- **First theoretical developments: classicism and positivism**
  - Understand the classical criminology approach.
  - Explore writings by Beccaria and Bentham.
  - Understand the positivism approach to criminology.
  - Assess writings by Lombroso, Ferri and Goring.
  - Critically reflect upon the impact of these theories.

- **Further developments 1: Biological positivism**
  - Understand the biological approach to criminology.
  - Examine old and modern research findings.
  - Explore the interaction between biological and social-factors in determining criminal behaviour.
  - Critically assess biochemical theories of criminality.

- **Further developments 2: Psychological positivism**
  - Understand the psychological approach to criminology.
  - Assess the connection between psychoanalysis and crime.
  - Understand learning theories and their approach to criminal behaviour.

- **Sociological criminology**
  - Understand Durkheim’s discussion on crime and its influence on criminological writings.
  - Understand the concept of anomie.
  - Examine the strain theory.

- **Social research and criminology**
  - Understand the impact of the Chicago School on criminological thoughts.
  - Assess major theories developed by the Chicago School.
  - Examine the development of culture and subculture sociological theories.
  - Reflect upon the difference between American and British subculture theories.

- **Social interaction and criminology**
  - Understand the interaction between deviate behaviour and crime.
  - Examine the emergence of labelling theory.
  - Reflect upon the theory of stigma.
  - Assess the theory of shaming.

- **Feminist criminology**
  - Understand in which way female offenders were presented and understood in early criminological research and theory.
  - Examine the rise of feminist criminology.
  - Reflect upon some of the variety of work undertaken within feminist criminology.
  - Assess the impact that feminism has had on criminological thoughts.

- **Crime data and crime trends**
  - Identify the different ways of measuring crime.
  - Understand official crime statistic.
  - Understand victimisation survey.
  - Reflect upon crime trend.
  - Critically assess the validity and accuracy of crime statistics in measuring crime trend.

- **Crime and the media**
  - Examine how crime and criminals are portrayed on television and in the press.
  - Identify the impact that crime representation may have on public perceptions.
  - Understand the notion of ‘moral panics’.

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### Description of unit of assessment

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