

Module title: Introduction to Criminology

Module code:	ITC	NQF level:	Level 4
Credit value:	15 credits	Study duration:	9 weeks

Module description

The objective of this module is to introduce students to the discipline of Criminology and examine the classic question 'why do people commit crime?' This module presents a multi-disciplinary approach to explain crime through drawing upon criminological, psychological, biological and sociological explanations of crime.

Aims

- To provide students with a critical understanding understandings of crime and criminal behaviour
- Introduce a range of historical and contemporary criminological perspectives on crime
- Explore the role of criminogenic factors which may trigger criminal behaviour
- Identify and reflect upon public's views of criminal justice

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module students will be able to:

- Identify and differentiate between a variety of definitions of crime
- 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

Syllabus

- Introduction to Criminology
- First theoretical developments in Criminology
- Biological and Psychological positivism
- Sociological Criminology
- Social Research in Criminology
- Feminist Criminology
- Public opinion, crime, and criminal justice

Learning and teaching methods

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the UoEO Learning Platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly online question and answer sessions (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility). Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students. The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the Tutors. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students will be given direction on required and indicative reading.

Assessment

Description of unit of assessment	Length / Duration	Submission Date	Weighting
2 x Assessed discussion activities	2 weeks	Unit 3 & Unit 7	20%
Mid Module Assignment	1500-2000 words	Unit 5	30%
End of Module Assignment	1500-2000 words	End of module	30%
Reflective report	1500-2000 words	End of module	20%