

Module title: Introduction to Offender Profiling

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

Module description

This module aims to introduce students to the field of offender profiling; throughout the module students will be introduced to the differing methodologies within the field in order to examine their appropriateness for modern day policing. Students will be presented with a hypothetical serial murder case and each differing methodology will be applied to the case in order demonstrate the principles of offender profiling.

This module aims to:

- Explain the origins of offender profiling
- Provide students with an understanding of the theoretical perspectives used in offender profiling
- Explore the myths of offender profiling and highlight the role of offender profiling in the 21st century
- Develop a critical awareness of the potential caveats in offender profiling

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module students will be able to:

- Explain the differing methodologies and perspectives in the discipline of offender profiling.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different psychological and theoretical foundations
- Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the various applications of offender profiling including: Policing, the investigative process, the judicial process, and academic research.
- Critique the appropriateness of offender profiling by referring to academic research.

Syllabus

- The origins of offender profiling
- Understanding crime causation
- FBI profiling, investigative psychology, geographical profiling, and clinical approaches to offender profiling
- Caveats in offender profiling
- Researching offending behaviour

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%