

Module code	C	NQF level	5
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

Criminology

This module aims to:

- Consider and critically assess criminological, legal and statistical definitions of crime
- Introduce a range of historical and contemporary criminological perspectives on crime
- Discuss and critically evaluate a range of biological and psychological perspectives on the causes of criminality
- Identify and interpret current and historical perspectives on the function of punishment and the penal system

Learning outcomes

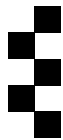
On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- identify and differentiate between a variety of definitions of crime
- understand and evaluate key historical and contemporary criminological theories of crime
- understand and analyse biological and psychological theories of crime
- recognise and critically assess a number of perspectives related to the role of punishment and the penal system
- identify, evaluate and critically analyse various feminist theories of criminology
- identify, evaluate and critically analyse both postmodern and cultural theories of criminology.
- consider the part played by reductivism, incapacitation, retribution, deterrence and rehabilitation as by – products of the perceived need for the criminal justice system to punish offenders.
- consider how political policies and other ideologies affected the emphasis on the need to punish offenders.

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 criminology:
 - definition of criminology
 - historical perspectives
- Criminology and crime:
 - measuring crime
 - official crime statistic
 - victimisation survey
 - crime trend
 - self-report measures of offending
- Theories of criminality – criminological approaches - A:
 - classicism and positivism
 - Durkheim, Anomie and Strain
 - the Chicago School
- Theories of criminality – criminological approaches - B:
 - labelling and subcultural theories
 - control theories
 - radical and critical criminology
 - contemporary classicism
- Theories of criminality – biological approaches:
 - genetic factors in criminality
 - biochemical factors in criminality
- Theories of criminality – psychological approaches:
 - psychoanalysis and crime
 - learning theories of criminality
 - cognitive theories of criminality
 - intelligence and offending
- Theories of criminology – criminological approaches:
 - intersectionality
 - feminist pathways research on gender
 - feminist theory of criminology
- Theories of criminology – criminological approaches:
 - postmodern criminology
 - cultural criminology
- Crime and punishment – the role of the penal system:
 - penology
 - crime prevention and community safety
 - sentencing and community penalties
- Prison and the ‘what works’ debate:
 - prisons and imprisonment
 - restorative justice
 - treatment of offenders and ‘what works’

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Discussion contributions	Fortnight	Unit 2 and Unit 3	10%
Mid-module assignment	2,000 words	Unit 6	40%
Journal entries	500 words (each)	Unit 4 and Unit 8	10%
End of module project	2,000 words	Unit 9	40%