

Module title: Prisons and Penology

Module code:	PP	NQF level:	Level 5
Credit value:	15 credits	Study duration:	9 weeks

Module description

This module will examine various aspects of the penal system, from sociological theories, to punishment, sentencing and the growing concern surrounding the 'penal crisis'.

Aims

- To consider and evaluate sociological theories underpinning penology
- Provide students with an understanding of key legislation and policy that relate to prisons and offenders
- Analyse what is meant by the term 'penal crisis'
- Examine the impacts of class, race and gender in relation to offending and sentencing
- Explore the option of the rehabilitation of offenders

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the penal system
- Understand the sociological perspectives informing punishment and justifications for punishment
- Critically assess key legislation, reports and policy documents that have guided the development and reforms of the prison system
- Evaluate the options available to reduce the prison population and reduce the 'penal crisis'

Syllabus

- Is there a crisis in the penal system?
- Justifying and explaining punishment
- Sentencing - The crux of the crisis
- Punishment in the community
- Prisons and the penal crisis
- Early release - The penal system's safety valve

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%