



Prisons and Penology

Module Code	PP	NQF level:	5
Credit Value	15	Study duration:	9 weeks

This module aims to:

- Equip students with an understanding of the theory of criminal rehabilitation
- Provide students with an overview of both policy developments and legislation related to prisons and the rehabilitation of offenders
- Explain the what is meant by ‘the Penal Crisis’
- Describe a range of approaches to the rehabilitation of offenders
- Clarify the roles of those who work with offenders in the penal system

Learning outcomes

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

- Gain an understanding of the penal system
- Evaluate relevant legislation and map policy developments related to rehabilitating offenders
- Summarise the options available to deal with offenders
- Describe the roles of those who work with offenders in the penal system
- Assess a range of approaches to rehabilitate 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

- The Crisis in the Penal system
 - What do we mean by crisis?
 - Responses to the crisis past and present
 - Radical ideas on the crisis
 - A solution?
- The Justifications for Punishment
 - Is punishment unjust?
 - Reductivism
 - Retributivism
 - Philosophies of punishment
 - Punishment and human rights
- Why punish?
 - The sociology of punishment
 - Marx, Durkheim and Weber
- Decisions in Court
 - A history of sentencing
 - The decision to remand
 - The sentencing decision
- Community punishments
 - Rapid changes
 - Strategic issues
 - The Carter Reforms
- Prisons in crisis
 - An overview
 - Aims and functions
 - The effects of recent policy decisions
- The Privatisations of Prisons
 - History of privatisation in England
 - The theoretical debate
 - Criticisms
- Early Release
 - Is this useful or desirable?
 - Looking at parole
 - Early release
 - An evaluation
- Young Offenders
 - New institutions
 - Prevention in practice
 - Too many excuses?
- Is there bias in the system?
 - Class
 - Race
 - Gender

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