

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

Youth Crime and Justice

This module aims to:

- Examine the relationship between ‘youth’ and ‘crime’
- Analyse both historical and contemporary criminological theories associate with ‘youth crime’
- Discuss the role of the media and its power to influence ‘moral panic’ on the public perception of ‘youths’
- Consider if and how ‘youth victimisation’ and ‘youth culture’ impacts on ‘youth crime’
- Determine the significance of social exclusion, social control and social causation on ‘youth crime’
- Examine the limitations of both welfare and the justice system on youth crime

Learning outcomes

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

- outline the ‘youth crime problem’ and evaluate historical and contemporary criminological debates around youth justice
- summarise both the positivist and sociological theories of criminology and evaluate their relevance to youth crime
- recognise the difference between social causation and social construction youth crime
- evaluate the role of ‘culture’ on youth crime
- explain how youth victimisation impacts on youth crime
- discuss the impact of interventions on re-offending by young people

Learning and teaching methods

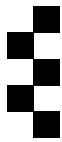
The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, 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.

Syllabus

- The relationship between ‘youth’ and ‘crime’:
 - the image of ‘youths’ and why they are considered a threat
 - the role of the media and how young people are represented
 - the reliability of statistics when measuring youth crime
 - risk factors associated with young people’s involvement in crime
 - the role of gangs and drugs
- Histories of ‘youth’ and ‘crime’:
 - consider how children were treated in the medieval period
 - explore the development of ‘childhood’
 - identify pertinent acts of parliament
 - understand the history of terminology associated with troublesome youths
- Explaining youth crime through positivist criminology:
 - explore the theories of individual positivism including anthropology, genetics, biochemical factors and the adolescent personality
 - consider the theories of sociological positivism from the perspectives of Durkheim, Sutherland and Merton
- Explaining youth crime through radical and realist criminological theories:
 - examine labelling theory
 - explore the effect of ‘moral panic’
 - consider the implications of power and class to social theories of deviance and crime
- Youth victimology:
 - explore the extent of youth victimisation and child abuse
 - appreciate the problems of child trafficking, child soldiering and child exploitation
- Youth lifestyle and culture:
 - explore the various youth cultures and sub-cultures that influence young people
 - consideration will be given to counter-cultures and post sub-cultural ideas such as rave culture
 - finally, the effect of emotion and pleasure will be considered as an additional theory of youth crime



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- Regulations and social policies affecting youths:
 - explore ways that young people are subject to particular forms of regulations and policies
 - examine the relationship between criminal justice and social policy
 - identify new modes of youth governance in the 21st century
- Youth welfare and justice:
 - consider the implication of Doli Incapax
 - analyse youth justice and welfarism
- Youth justice and punishment:
 - examine situational and social crime prevention
 - analyse community safety, interventions and initiatives
 - evaluate the changes to anti-social behaviour orders in the white paper 'putting victims first'
 - evaluate the benefits of restorative justice, prison reform and intermediate treatment
- Global trends to youth justice:
 - examine global perspectives to youth justice
 - analyse pertinent areas of the united nations conventions for the rights of the child
 - discuss the problems of integrating international strategies

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%