



Criminal Behaviour and Deviance

Module Code	CBD	NQF level:	6
Credit Value	15	Study duration:	9 weeks

This module aims to:

- Examine crime from a psychological and sociological perspective
- Investigate the role of violence in relation to specific crimes
- Consider criminal deviance in relation to a variety of factors including age and gender
- Assess the influences on pre-offending and offending violent behaviour
- Explore the pathophysiology of mental disorders including psychopathy and personality disorder
- Review the history of criminal responsibility and mental disorder

Learning outcomes

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

- Understand how psychology and sociology can inform the study of crime
- Recognise the different factors that can influence and exacerbate violent behaviour
- Detail the history of criminal responsibility and mental disorder
- Apply an understanding of a variety of mental disorders to the study of criminal behaviour
- Understand criminally violent behaviour in a variety of contexts

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

- Crime or Deviance?
 - Explore the difference between deviance and criminality
 - Look at some theories of deviance
 - Examine the context of the crime/deviance nexus
- Sociological Explanations
 - Examine what constitutes a sociological theory
 - Explore the relationship between social structure and crime/deviancy
 - Develop an understanding of the limitations of the sociological perspective
- Psychological Explanations
 - Examine what constitutes a psychological theory
 - Explore the relationship between personality and crime/deviancy
 - Develop an understanding of the limitations of the psychological perspective.
- Mental Health and Offending
 - Look at some examples of mental health and its link to crime/deviance
 - Consider the importance context in understanding mental health behaviour
 - Review the limitations of using mental health to explain offending
- Development Factors and Criminal Careers
 - Review some of the key studies associated with developmental criminology
 - Examine the way longitudinal research has identified a range of risk factors associated with later adult criminality
 - Consider a range of developmental factors that could impact upon criminal behaviour
- Youth Crime
 - Discuss why understanding youth crime is important
 - Look at the development of the Youth Justice Board
 - Review the explanations for youth crime
- Violent Offenders
 - Review some of the studies looking at violent crime/homicide
 - Explore the way individual and social factors can combine to explain violence/homicide
 - Consider the limitations of research in this domain
- Sexual Offenders
 - Examine the context of sexual offending
 - Consider the ways in which we can understand the issue of consent
 - Evaluate a range of explanations for sexual crime
- Gender and Crime
 - Explore ways in which gender differences in crime are explained
 - Identify the way in which gender differences in the CJS can be observed
 - Evaluate the way in which females should be dealt with by the CJS

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission Date	Weighting
Discussion contributions	2 weeks	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%