Module Descriptor

Title	Comparative Penology		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	
Code	SSPG11012	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	K Cooper		

Summary of Module

This module examines the landscape of contemporary comparative penal practice by exploring penal systems and attitudes to punishment across different cultures and countries/continents (e.g. Latin America, Scandinavia, North America). Using evidence and examples from the different regions, students explore the application of punishment systems, their effectiveness in penal practice, and the ongoing trends, innovations and challenges facing penal systems today. The module provides opportunities to examine life inside prisons and prison culture, and to understand the relationship between penal systems and the broader cultural, historical, economic and social contexts in which these systems are located.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]** ☒	**Hybrid[2]** ☐	**Online[3]** ☐	**Work -Based Learning[4]** ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate a significant critical understanding of the theories, concepts and principles of comparative penology.
L2	Demonstrate some originality and creativity in dealing with complex problems and issues through selection of innovative practice in penal practice.
L3	Engage in and demonstrate a significant capacity for independent study and self-directed learning through choice of comparative penal countries in written assessment.
L4	Communicate complex ideas, concepts and information related to the study of comparative penology.
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 11** An overall appreciation of a range of theories and approaches to understanding penal practice and punishment in international contexts.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** Identify and analyse penal practices and policy-related challenges, trends and innovations in contemporary societies.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** Critically identify, review, conceptualise and analyse complex issues relevant to the study of comparative penology. Offer insights and creativity by identifying innovative changes to address problems and issues. Make judgements where data/research is limited or comes from a range of sources.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Understand theories and data presented in various formats and to convey, formally and informally, information about the chosen topic to other students and academics. Communicate information effectively using a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level. This includes oral and written presentations, in line with the assessment strategy.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** Demonstrate levels of autonomy by preparing for learning and teaching: participating in group class activities, providing short oral presentations to facilitate discussions, and completing all assessed work.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	

Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	Student Learning Hours (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	20
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	4
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	4
Asynchronous Class Activity	14
Independent Study	158
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Cavadino, M & Dignan, J. (2006) Penal Systems: A Comparative Approach. London: Sage Dreisinger, B. (2016) Incarceration Nations. Other Press: NY. Jewkes, Y (2016) Handbook on Prisons. Cullompton: Willan
(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. **For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:** Adherence to the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure.

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Please select**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Social Sciences - PG
Moderator	C Atkinson
External Examiner	M Ketola
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Assessment 1 A 10-minute pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation on an innovative penal practice that students believe has the potential to make a contribution to penal reform in any country of the world.
Assessment 2
Assessment 2 A 3,000-word comparative essay exploring the approaches to punishment and the use of prison as an institution in two different countries. The essay must incorporate the overall approach, along with the broader cultural, historical, economic, and social aspects underpinning the practices in each country.
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
PowerPoint Presentation	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	50	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Comparative Essay	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	50	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
new template, no changes 25/26	Mar 25	K Cooper