**Module Descriptor**

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| **Title** | Criminal Justice Dissertation | | |
| **Session** | 2025/26 | **Status** | |
| **Code** | CRIM10004 | **SCQF Level** | 10 |
| **Credit Points** | 40 | **ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)** | |
| **School** | **Education and Social Sciences** | | |
| **Module Co-ordinator** | K Cooper | | |

**Summary of Module**

This module is designed to provide students with the opportunity to engage in substantial self-directed research and analysis within a structured framework of independent study. Building on research method classes completed in past study years, the students undertake a dissertation on a topic of their choice which is related to their degree programme.

The dissertation may involve empirical data collection or a literature-based review. For their first assessment students choosing the latter approach submit a methodology chapter and students conducing empirical research submit a literature review chapter. This is followed by the full 8,000-10,000 word dissertation as the final submission for Assessment 2.

The dissertation allows students to demonstrate all of the skills they have acquired during their studies on the programme to date, and to display their grasp of the subject matter of their chosen area of research.

| **Module Delivery Method** | **On-Campus[1]** | **Hybrid[2]** | **Online[3]** | **Work -Based Learning[4]** |
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| | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

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| **Campuses for Module Delivery** | ☐ Ayr<br>☐ Dumfries | ☐ Lanarkshire<br>☐ London<br>☒ Paisley | ☐ Online / Distance Learning<br>☐ Other (specify) |

[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

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| **Terms for Module Delivery** | Term 1 | ☐ | Term 2 | ☐ | Term 3 | ☐ |
| **Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term** | Term 1 – Term 2 | ☒ | Term 2 – Term 3 | ☐ | Term 3 – Term 1 | ☐ |

| **Learning Outcomes** | |
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| **L1** | Critically identify, define and conceptualise an appropriate topic for research within criminal justice. |
| **L2** | Undertake a review and analysis of relevant and appropriate primary and secondary sources. |
| **L3** | Undertake a defined research project using appropriate research methodologies and techniques of enquiry |
| **L4** | Critically evaluate evidence and methods used in the dissertation. |
| **L5** | Use appropriate and acceptable academic writing and referencing conventions |

| **Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills** | |
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| **SCQF Headings** | **During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:** |
| **Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)** | **SCQF 10**<br>Demonstrating knowledge that covers and integrates the principle areas, features, boundaries, terminologies and conventions of their chosen dissertation topic;<br>A critical understanding of the key theories, concepts and principles of associated with their chosen topic. |
| **Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding** | **SCQF 10**<br>Conducting a defined project of research and in identifying relevant outcomes and how they might be implemented in policy, theory and practice. |
| **Generic Cognitive skills** | **SCQF 10**<br>Critically identify, define, conceptualise and analyse complex problems and issues.<br>Offer interpretations and insights into literature, policy issues and topical social problems.<br>Demonstrate some originality and creativity in discussions around identified issues.<br>Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in the chosen topic.<br>Make judgements where data/information is limited or comes from a range of sources. |
| **Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills** | **SCQF 10**<br>Use a wide range of methodological and academic skills for completing a criminal justice dissertation, including to:<br>Present or convey, formally and informally, information about the chosen topic to informed audiences; |

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| | Communicate with other students, academics, and potential specialists on a professional level;<br><br>Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose;<br><br>Interpret, use and evaluate a wide range of data to set and achieve agreed goals and targets. |
| **Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others** | **SCQF 10**<br><br>Exercise autonomy and initiative in all activities associated with the completion of a dissertation;<br><br>Work, under the guidance of a supervisor, to reach agreed aims and objectives;<br><br>Manage complex ethical and professional issues in accordance with current ethical codes and practices;<br><br>Recognise the limits of these ethical codes and seek guidance where appropriate. |

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| **Prerequisites** | **Module Code**<br>SOCY09056 | **Module Title** Designing Your Dissertation Project |
| | **Other** | |
| **Co-requisites** | **Module Code** | **Module Title** |

| **Learning and Teaching** | |
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| 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**<br><br>During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below: | **Student Learning Hours**<br><br>(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities) |
| Lecture / Core Content Delivery | 12 |
| Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity | 16 |
| Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop | 8 |
| Personal Development Plan | 24 |
| Independent Study | 340 |
| Please select | |
| **TOTAL** | 400 |

| **Indicative Resources** |
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| **The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:**<br><br>Harding, J. (2022) Criminological Research. A Student's Guide. Sage Publications Ltd |

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| Clark, T., Foster, L., Sloan, L. & Bryman, A. (2021) Bryman's Social Research Methods (6th Ed). Oxford: Oxford University Press. |
| **(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** |
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| **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.**<br>**For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:**<br>Adherence with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure. |

| **Equality and Diversity** |
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| **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**

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| **Divisional Programme Board** | **Social Sciences** |
| **Overall Assessment Results** | ☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded** |
| **Module Eligible for Compensation** | ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**<br>**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** | Criminal Justice |
| **Moderator** | H Myles |
| **External Examiner** | C Rhodes |
| **Accreditation Details** | |
| **Module Appears in CPD catalogue** | ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** |
| **Changes / Version Number** | |

| **Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)** |
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| **Assessment 1** |
| Submission of a first dissertation chapter (2,000 words). Students conducting a literature-based dissertation submit a Methodology chapter and students conducing empirical research submit a Literature Review chapter. |
| **Assessment 2** |

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| Submission of the full 8,000-10,000 word dissertation. |
| **Assessment 3** |
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| (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.<br>(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** | | | | | | | |
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| **Assessment Type** | **LO1** | **LO2** | **LO3** | **LO4** | **LO5** | **Weighting of Assessment Element (%)** | **Timetabled Contact Hours** |
| First Dissertation Chapter | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | 15 | |

| **Component 2** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Assessment Type** | **LO1** | **LO2** | **LO3** | **LO4** | **LO5** | **Weighting of Assessment Element (%)** | **Timetabled Contact Hours** |
| Completed Dissertation | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | 85 | |

| **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 | Mar 25 | C Wilson |
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