Module Descriptor

Title	Victimology		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Full Time
Code	CRIM10012	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	S Gallacher-Graham		

Summary of Module

Victimology is the study of the victims of crime. Victims are often forgotten about when examining theories associated with criminology or the reasons behind why people commit crime. Within this module, a number of areas are explored that go some way toward rectifying this knowledge gap as well as analysis of multi-agency responses to victims (e.g by the police, courts, media and social media) which have been found to often contribute to secondary victimisation. Both historical and contemporary aspects of victimology and victimisation are examined and analysed throughout the module through a combination of theoretical lenses and approaches. Furthermore, by adopting a critical lens, we explore victimisation as a social construct, and consider victims of harms which are not considered criminal or illegal.

The nature of the Victimology and the research dominant in this field, means that this module deals with topics which are of a sensitive and emotive nature. Victimisation of various types of crime are explored, including (but not limited to) interpersonal and sexual violence, rape, domestic violence, hate crime, gender-based violence including trans victimisation, and abuse against children, the elderly and victims with a disability. We will also explore topics of mass victimisation, including genocide. This module is therefore developed through the lens of trauma and feminist victimology, mirroring trauma informed practice within the module teaching and assessment design.

Areas covered include but are not limited to:

• Theories of victimology including a critique of positivist theories (e.g. victim culpability, victim proneness, victim precipitation theory), radical theories, critical theories (e.g. feminist victimology, ideal victim theory) and narrative victimology

• Types of victims

• Impact of victimisation

• Victim needs and rights

• Sexual Violence

• Domestic abuse

• Hate Crime

• Language and stigma around the 'victim' label

• Victimisation and intersectionality of race, social class, gender, sexuality, age and disability

• Mass victimisation

• Multiple victimisation

• Trauma informed victim support

• Responding to victims in the Criminal Justice system

• Secondary victimisation

• The media and social media response to victims

The module is taught through a series of lectures and seminars, with Aula as a VLE used as both an information repository and a method for further engaging students with discussion and activities.

In consideration of the sensitive nature of the module, various steps are taken to manage this in the classroom, including advanced and repeated notice of the content of each class, provision of resources and support, and choice of assessment topics, readings and case studies. Further information on the content and approach to the sensitive nature of the module will be explored in detail in the introductory lecture, and students are encouraged to speak to Lecturers as early as possible with any concerns or questions about any of the topics.

Assessments include conducting research on media articles which report on a case of victimisation to identify key victimology theories and concepts, and analysis of responses to victims in a vignette (fictionalised scenario).

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

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate critical knowledge of relevant theories and concepts which aid understanding of the processes and impacts of victimisation as well as the lived

[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

	experiences of victims, such as risk and vulnerability, respectability, intersectionality and trauma
L2	Deploy a range of advanced research skills, such as applying specialist methodologies, conducting data analysis and presenting sophisticated findings in suitable formats
L3	Demonstrate critically evaluative and analytical thinking when engaging with the lived experiences of victims and the social and criminal justice responses to them
L4	Demonstrate sophisticated command of the range of communication approaches necessary for generating and presenting collaborative scholarly work in a sensitive field of research
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 10** Knowledge that covers and integrates the principle areas, features, boundaries, terminologies and conventions from within the discipline of victimology and; A critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts, and principles of associated with victimology and types of victimisation. A key focus of knowledge and understanding is also on the lived experience of victims, the impact of victimisation and therefore the needs of victims in the criminal justice system
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 10** Applying knowledge, skills and understanding of the impact of victimisation, and diverse needs of victims to analyse responses by multiple agencies involved in the support and response to cases of victimisation Application of research skills to conduct qualitative research in exploring a case of victimisation
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 10** Critically identify, define, conceptualise and analyse complex / professional problems and issues. Offer insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues. Demonstrate some originality and creativity in suggesting solutions to identified issues. Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in the chosen assessment areas. Make judgements where data / information is limited or comes from a range of sources
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 10** Present or convey, formally and informally, information about the chosen topic to informed audiences; Communicate with other students, academics, and potentially specialists on a professional level; Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose;

	Interpret, use and evaluate a wide range of data to include within assessed work
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 10** Work, in conjunction with peers, to reach agreed aims and objectives in a trauma-informed way Work in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities; Work with others to suggest change, development, or new thinking in response to identified areas of concern relating to the role of victims within a chosen area of the criminal justice system and society more generally

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	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	8
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	6
Independent Study	162
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Spencer, D. and Walklate, S. (2016) Reconceptualizing Critical Victimology: Interventions and Possibilities. Lexington Books: Lanham Duggan, M., Christie, N. (2018) Revisiting the 'Ideal' Victim: Developments in Critical Victimology. Policy Press: Bristol. Clevenger, S., Kelley, S. and Ratajczak, K. (2024) Queer Victimology: Understanding the Victim Experience. Routledge: New York.

(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:** Attendance and engagement at lectures Attendance and engagement at seminars Making use of assessment support available e.g. drop in sessions and additional workshops Engaging with VLE content and discussion Attendance at Victimology symposium and engaging with guest speakers Submission of assessments Engagement in group work Communication with Lecturers

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	**Social Sciences**
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	Criminology and Criminal Justice (Policing)
Moderator	Karen Hammond
External Examiner	Claire Rhodes
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
In small groups, conduct a content or thematic analysis on a range of media sources provided then present the results in the style of a conference style research poster with reference to victimological theory (50%)
Assessment 2
An individual OR group assessment to present your findings and analysis of a vignette which will be chosen from a range of topic options. A vignette is a fictionalised scenario which relates to the topic being studied, which can be in written or video form. In small groups of 4/5 you will agree on a vignette which is based on the topics studied in the module. The vignette will include an example of victimisation as well as the response(s) from agents of the criminal justice system or social responses. You will analyse the response and present your findings, research and discussion.
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**
Conference Poster	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	50	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Oral Presentation of analysis of vignette	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	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	S Gallagher Graham
