Module Descriptor

Title	Criminology Foundations		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	CRIM08012	**SCQF Level**	8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	K Hammond		

Summary of Module

The aim of this module is to provide an overview of key criminological approaches in the study of crime and criminal behaviour. A brief synopsis of the module content is as follows:

Criminological perspectives including strain theory, social disorganisation theory, cultural criminology, and feminist criminology will be covered.

Throughout the module, reference is made to movies and other types of media to help students engage with the theories covered on the module.

This module provides a link between the module criminal behaviour and deviance at L7 and Crime and Inequality [for Criminology and Criminal Justice students] in term 2 of L8.

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	Examine crime and criminal behaviour from individual, sociological and political perspectives.
L2	Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different theories in terms of their ability to aid an understanding of crime in society.
L3	Demonstrate an ability to critically analyse a criminological theory through the use of film.
L4	Demonstrate an ability to respond to feedback
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 8** Demonstrating a broad knowledge of the scope, defining features, and main areas of criminology. Understanding of core theories, principles and concepts
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 8** Interpreting and explaining criminological theories and their contributions to our understanding of criminal behaviour. Retrieving, interpreting and manipulating primary and secondary information from a variety of sources including electronic database sources.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 8** Undertaking critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues which are within the common understandings of the subject.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 8** Students will develop their ICT skills through the use of online research engines and tools such as Aula. They will practise their oral communication skills by interacting with peers during the seminars.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Students will exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in carrying out learning activities. Students will take responsibility for own work and contribute to the collective learning activities of the group.

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 and teaching will take place via lectures and interactive seminars that will introduce key ideas and debates. Films will be used in lectures and seminars to stimulate discussion about the representation of theories in popular culture and to help students visualise the theories in action. In addition to class discussion, students will be encouraged to make use of the VLE site to take part in online activities such as discussion boards. Students will be provided with formative feedback on their input to the seminars and online discussion boards.

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	12
Asynchronous Class Activity	14
Independent Study	150
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Rafter, N. and Brown, M. (2011) Criminology Goes to the Movies. New Work: New York University Press.

Newburn, T. (2017) Criminology. Routledge.

(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:

The university is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that activelyfacilitates student success. In this module, there is a high degree of student-led flexibility. You are academically engaged if you are regularly engaged with scheduled live sessions on-campus, learning activities in your own time, course-related learning resources,

and withtimely completion and submission of assessments. Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participationchallenging, for you to gain the most from this module it is recommended that you participatein all scheduled live classes and complete your self-directed learning activities in a timely manner. It may be difficult to pass the assessment associated with this module if you are not regularlyengaging with the module work and live classes. We may reach out to check how things are going and offer support if we observe that you have not been attending sessions orcompleting online activities.

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. In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations.
(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
Moderator	S Gallacher Graham
External Examiner	M Tartari
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	23.2

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
ASSESSMENT PLAN 30%
Assessment 2
CRITICAL FILM REVIEW 70%
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**
Assessment and Analysis Plan	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	30%	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Critical Film Review	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	70%	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		0
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
new template	Mar 25	K Hammond
change to assessment one, new formative assessment and change to weighting to 30%	Mar 25	K Hammond
change to assessment two, return to previous film review and change to weighting, 70%	Mar 25	K Hammond