



Module Descriptor

Title	Contemporary Studies in Criminal Justice		
Session	2025/26	Status	
Code	CRIM09021	SCQF Level	9
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	C Moura de Souza		
Summary of Module			
<p>The module is designed to allow students optionality and flexibility in what they study. Rather than have multiple option modules, this module replaces that approach but still encourages student choice. Students choose from a suite of topics relevant to Criminal Justice. These topics are designed by staff and focus on their specialist research areas. Therefore, this module also contributes to the research-led teaching agenda. The topics run for a maximum of six weeks and students would select two options across the trimester.</p> <p>Topics might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video Games, Crime and Culture• Women, Drugs, and Creative Research Methods• The Global Underworld of Informal Economies, Organized Crime and Criminality• Hate and Extremism• Junkie Thieving Scumbags: A Critical Exploration of Drug-related Crime• Football Policing• A Criminology of Star Wars• Border Criminology• The Enterprises, Gangs, and People of the American Drug Trade• Action Against Stalking			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hybrid² <input type="checkbox"/>	Online³ <input type="checkbox"/>	Work -Based Learning⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>
Campuses for Module Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 – Term 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 – Term 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate thorough knowledge of the specialist topics pursued.
L2	Engage critically with theoretical and conceptual debates pertinent to their elected specialist topics.
L3	Synthesise convincingly the arguments and evidence advanced in topic-specific literature.
L4	Explain the links between debates within relevant specialist topics and broader criminological contexts/paradigms.
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 9 Students will develop an extensive, detailed and critical knowledge and understanding of specialist area in criminology, concepts and methodologies informed by research at the forefront of present knowledge.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 9 Students will apply criminological theories to critically explain new developments in criminal justice policy and practice. This will enable students to understand policies and practice in the criminal justice field in the future.

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

Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 9 Students will apply critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis to complex issues at the forefront of the study of criminological theory.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 9 Students will develop their ICT skills through the use of online research engines and tools such as Moodle. They will practice their oral communication skills by interacting with peers during the workshops.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 9 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 Activities	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(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	24
Independent Study	140
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
<p>The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:</p> <p>Garland, D. (2001) <i>The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society</i>. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.</p> <p>Hagan, F.E., (2011) <i>Essentials of Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology</i>. Pearson Higher Ed.</p>

Hill, M. (2014) Policy Process: A Reader London:Routledge

Maguire, M., Morgan, R., and Reiner, R. (eds)(2007) The Oxford Handbook of Criminology OUP

Newburn, T.(ed) (2009) Key Readings in Criminology Willan Publishing

(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:

All students are required to attend all scheduled classes and participate with all delivered elements of the module as part of their engagement with their programme of study. Consideration will be given to students who have protection under the appropriate equality law.

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](#).

Aligned with the overall commitment to equality and diversity stated in the Programme Specifications, the module supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and with different learning needs. Using Aula, learning materials will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content. The module complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations.

Our partners are fully committed to the principles and practice of inclusiveness and our modules are designed to be accessible to all. Where this module is delivered overseas, local equivalent support for students and appropriate legislation applies.

(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	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass / Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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	UG Criminal Justice
Moderator	R. V. Gundur
External Examiner	C Rhodes
Accreditation Details	

Module Appears in CPD catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Changes / Version Number	1.1 No changes for 2025/26

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Assessment 1 – Students will submit one essay of around 1,500 words in week 7.
Assessment 2
Assessment 2 – Students will submit one essay of around 1,500 words in week 15.
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
Essay 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Essay 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
new template, no changes	Mar 25	C Moura de Souza
