Module Descriptor

Title	Comparative Justice		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	CRIM10003	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	Cléssio Moura de Souza		

Summary of Module

This module introduces the student to comparing criminal justice traditions around the globe. It considers the theoretical and practical difficulties in studying and understanding other criminal justice systems. It explores different jurisdictions of criminal law, criminal justice agencies and other stages of the criminal justice process including sentencing and punishment. The inquiry-based nature of the student-centred module allows the students to compare and contrast other aspects of criminal justice and/or countries outside of these examples after agreement with the module coordinator. It will also explore concepts of criminal justice policy, political and social forces and how these influence criminal justice in different countries around the world.

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	Critically identify the criteria that distinguish different criminal justice systems.
L2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of various aspects of criminal justice systems worldwide.
L3	Evaluate aspects of at least two criminal jurisdictions outside Scotland.
L4	Critically compare and contrast contemporary criminal justice systems.
L5	Demonstrate professionalism when presenting specialist information to an informed audience.

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** Demonstration of a broad and integrated knowledge and understanding of criminal justice and the way in which the concepts within criminal justice are socially constructed; Demonstration of a critical understanding of a range of theoretical perspectives and approaches relating to the social scientific engagement with comparative criminal justice.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 10** Retrieval and interpretation of specialised knowledge and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources which examine criminal justice outwith Scotland; Conception, development and production of a substantial piece of work evaluating some key aspects of theoretical approaches to the study of comparative criminal justice.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 10** Reasoned argument, synthesising relevant information and exercising critical judgement in the analysis of complex or abstract ideas and perspectives; Critical engagement with learning through the employment of self-identified media to deliver assessment output.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 10** Effective use of electronic information retrieval technology; Communication of complex ideas in writing using electronic assessment platforms.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 10** Exercising of autonomy and initiative in planning and delivering the assessment, developing the capacity for independent work; Provision of constructive criticism through the critical discussion of ideas in seminars.

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	12
Asynchronous Class Activity	24
Independent Study	140
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

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

Glenn, H. P. (2014). Legal traditions of the world: Sustainable diversity in law (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Head, J.W. (2011). Great Legal Traditions: Civil Law, Common Law, and Chinese Law in Historical and Operational Perspective. Carolina: Carolina Academic Press.

Reichel, P.L. (2022). Comparative Criminal Justice Systems: A Topical Approach (7th Edition). New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Shahidullah, S.M. (2012). Comparative Criminal Justice Systems. Massachusetts: Jones and Bartlett.

Terrill, R.J. (2023). World Criminal Justice Systems: A Survey (10th Edition). Massachusetts: Anderson.

(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 actively facilitates 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 with timely completion and submission of assessments. Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participation challenging, for you to gain the most from this module it is recommended that you participate in 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 regularly engaging 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 or completing 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	UG Criminal Justice
Moderator	Heather Myles
External Examiner	C Rhodes
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1.1

	No changes for 2025/26

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Student-facilitated seminar
Assessment 2
Essay – 2000 words
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 1	☒	☐	☒	☐	☒	40	1

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Assessment 2	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	60	0

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 2025	C Moura de Souza
Updated according to ILQR	Jun 2026	Cléssio Moura de Souza