Module Specification

Researching Crime and Society

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 19 Jul 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Researching Crime and Society

Module code: UZSY7F-15-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Sociology and Criminology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module provides a grounding in the link between theory and research, and introduces students to the key research strategies that underpin criminological research.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module aims to equip students with a foundational understanding of the distinction between quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and methods of data collection.

Outline syllabus: The main topics that will be covered by this module would include:

The Research Process

Ways of 'knowing' and understanding the social world: Ontology(ies) and Epistemology(ies)

Quantitative and Qualitative Methodologies

Surveys and Questionnaires

Interviewing

Focus groups

Observation

Secondary data analysis

Content analysis

Participatory action research

Case studies

Sampling methods

Research Ethics

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Students will learn about designing social research, the ethical considerations involved in conducting social research, and the appropriateness of a range of data collection methods as applied to different criminological problems. This provides students with a framework for engagement with the module 'Nature and Use of Research' at Level 2, as well as their dissertation at Level 3.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Understand and distinguish between a range of quantitative and qualitative research strategies and methods of data collection

MO2 Recognise the strengths and weaknesses of using different research strategies and data collection methods in gaining criminological knowledge

MO3 Consider the applicability of relevant research methodologies and apply these appropriately to different criminological problems

MO4 Understand the ethical dimensions of research into criminological problems and identify ethically appropriate action when conducting research

MO5 Demonstrate the ability to synthesise and summarise key topic areas relating to research methods and methodology

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsy7f-15-1.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment for this module comprises a single submission or portfolio of work containing the session summaries and case study, which includes:

2 x 500 words summaries of the students' learning experiences from seminar sessions (such as a particular research approach or method). This will be both formative and summative in nature. Students will be able to submit a number of reflections throughout the semester, for which they will receive feedback. Students can then act upon this feedback and then resubmit two reflections of their choice (40%).

1200 words case study evaluation. Students will be asked to consider the appropriateness of, or develop an appropriate approach and design for, a piece of research as set out in the case study provided (60%).

The assessment strategy for this module was selected in order to contribute to the development of key L1 skills and module learning outcomes, and to contribute to the diversity of assessment methods on the programme as a whole. The module adheres to the UWE Academic Regulations and Assessment Cycle Policy, and assessment and feedback will form a critical aspect of the students learning process in line with UWE's Assessment Cycle Policy and will follow UWE's inclusivity guidance. As the case studies are individualised each assessment will unique to students.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Portfolio
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21