Module Specification

Missing People: Lost Identities and Social Harm

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 30 Jun 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Missing People: Lost Identities and Social Harm

Module code: UZSYC4-15-3

Level: Level 6

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: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This 15-credit module, to run in TB1 of Year 3 (L6), engages with key areas of research, policy and practice in the relatively new study of missing people. The module will engage with wellbeing strands and identity and belonging issues.

Missing People represent a wide-ranging and complex area for society in preventing social harm, stretching beyond the criminal justice setting. 380,000 missing reports are filed with the police in England & Wales each year (NCA, 2020). One person goes missing every 90 seconds. Implications for safeguarding are significant.

Outline syllabus: A typical syllabus might include:

Children – the nature of "runaways", children within social care, risky behaviour, child sexual exploitation, child abduction and County Lines

"Repeats" – People who go missing more than three times. Harms and significant police resources diverted to such cases.

Vulnerable adults – Circumstances adults go missing. Fears and embarrassment . "Dysfunctional escape behaviour". Life events and crisis.

People Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery – lost identity and illegal movement of people. Deaths of immigrants other and high profile disasters.

Fatal outcomes – Many murder investigations begin as a missing person investigation. Local and national case studies might be explored.

Mental Health – The way addressed by police and their partners is evolving. The module explores, for example, dementia.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM. Few UK convictions. Affects diverse communities (in 30 countries). Tradition over religion?

Critical Theory – History of research and practice. Definitions. Academic thinking. "Missingness" is explored. Lost identities and invisible people are other issues.

Honour-Based Violence (HBV) - Some orthodox cultures "punish" family members

who "dishonour" the community. Trailblazers in challenging practice in the UK.

Police Investigation Practice – The way police tackle missing reports, categorise them with risk assessments, and then complete an investigation, with case studies.

Returning Home – how police and their partners manage (or miss-manage) the return of missing people, to prevent repeat episodes.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Lectures and seminars will be delivered to students, covering a particular theme. The lecture will introduce the topic, main theories and policies or events. It will signpost to further ideas to explore and challenge the students to think about how missing people are defined, identified, assessed and supported. The seminar will build on the lecture, requiring the student to engage on a deeper level with specific issues arising from the lecture, such as reading a journal article or digesting a video piece.

A reading list will be provided to students via Blackboard at the start of the module. This reading list will act as a guide to student reading throughout the module making clear by when and for what purpose students are expected to read specific items. This reading list will be updated regularly and is subject to change as the focus of lectures change depending on the latest issues impacting upon the police service and being focused upon by academic research.

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

MO1 Discuss and debate the role and function of the police and their partners in investigating missing people

MO2 Evidence a detailed knowledge and understanding of contemporary developments and debates in missing people

MO3 Evaluate and discuss different complex areas of missingness, such as people-trafficking/modern-day slavery and dementia issues.

MO4 Demonstrate a sound understanding of research and policy and apply it within a broad theoretical framework of understanding

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://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/3E7EB20A-89AA-041A-0DFD-F7FB91CE3777.html?draft=1&lang=en-US&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Summative Assessment for this module will comprise of one component which will enable students to evidence they have achieved the learning outcomes of the module.

Assessment One: A 2000-word safeguarding report will enable students to explore a chosen topic from the module. The report will require students to engage with government and police policy, data and research on the topic and develop and apply this knowledge to create a detailed analysis of it.

Formative feedback will be practiced during the module, such as quizzes and knowledge checks, as well as opportunities to structure the summative assessment.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: 2000-word report on a safeguarding issue

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: 2000-word report on a safeguarding issue

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Criminology and Law [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Law [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Law with Criminology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] LLB (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Law [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Law [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Criminology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20