



## **Module Specification**

### **Organised Crime**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Organised Crime

**Module code:** UZSYC5-15-3

**Level:** Level 6

**For implementation from:** 2021-22

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**Faculty:** Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

**Department:** HAS Dept of Social Sciences

**Partner institutions:** None

**Delivery locations:** Frenchay Campus

**Field:** Sociology and Criminology

**Module type:** Project

**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 module will enable students to deepen their understanding of organised crime, building on the basic theoretical knowledge gained in the underpinning core module (International Crime and Criminology). It will explore key

questions surrounding the conceptual challenges posed by organised crime and the difficulties inherent to categorising and defining such a complex and varying global phenomenon. Students will explore a range of key topical issues in the field of organised crime, engaging with key areas of research, policy and practice.

**Outline syllabus:** A key focus of the module concerns the conceptual challenges posed by organised crime, and the theoretical dilemmas this poses. Students will therefore be introduced to a wide range of topics which enable them to explore this in detail, including but not limited to:

What is a mafia? Categorising organised criminal groups

Fighting the mafia: lessons from Italy

Organised crime and Africa: key conceptual challenges

Organised crime and the environment

Sport and organised crime

Counterfeiting

Harm reduction approaches in organised crime

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The module teaching will be supplemented by other arrangements such as tutorials and drop in sessions. Materials will be available ahead of the teaching sessions and take the form of questions, real-world case studies, vignettes and problem solving exercises based upon essential reading. Students will work collaboratively and independently to develop and critically apply their knowledge using these materials in the seminars. To help students prepare for assessments a lecture and a seminar will focus on the assessment.

#### **Module Learning outcomes:**

**MO1** Critically evaluate differing definitions of organised crime

**MO2** Analyse the policy implications of a range of different definitions of organised crime

**MO3** Evidence a detailed knowledge and understanding of key theoretical concepts in the field of organised crime

**MO4** Demonstrate a sound understanding of contemporary developments and debates in organised crime

**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](https://readinglists.uwe.ac.uk) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/033E5BF5-A3DE-17E3-81BB-CE39ADFA09D2.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment for this module consists of one component.

Component A: 3,000-word written portfolio.

Students will select their own case studies, enabling them to develop and showcase their research skills, as well as applying the theoretical knowledge and critical skills developed during the course of the module.

This portfolio task will also explicitly enable students to achieve the module learning outcomes, through its focus on critical comparison, policy implications, and contemporary debates.

This portfolio assessment has been selected as it offers a variation from the standard essay format, thus enhancing the variety offered by the programme as a whole.

Formative assessment opportunities will be provided regularly through the course of the module, in the form of verbal feedback and peer group discussions facilitated by

the lectorial-style teaching format. The module will feature a dedicated session on assessment advice and support.

**Assessment components:****Portfolio - Component A (First Sit)**

Description: 3,000-word written portfolio

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

**Portfolio - Component A (Resit)**

Description: 3,000-word written portfolio

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: