



## **Module Specification**

### **Law and Order: Criminal Justice**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Law and Order: Criminal Justice

**Module code:** UZSYGD-15-2

**Level:** Level 5

**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 critically interrogates the principles of justice considering, in particular, those underpinning criminal justice and the aims of institutions which claim to deliver, and operate according to such principles. Through a series of case studies, criminal justice will be scrutinised: firstly, to evaluate how coherent and desirable the principles of criminal justice are; secondly, to assess the extent to which these principles are embedded in contemporary legislation; thirdly to consider whether agencies of the Criminal Justice System uphold their stated principles

(whether their aims, objectives, policies, procedures and practices are in alignment); and lastly, to reflect on whether criminal justice principles should be upheld and if not, on what basis and in what context they could be revised or abandoned.

**Features:** Content is designed to enhance critical and ethical considerations of legislation and the legal process, bridging gaps between the legal and social sciences disciplines to create an holistic appreciation of law and practical application of criminology in shaping real world criminal justice policy. The transferrable graduate skills employability components of the module are accredited/certified by ILM.

**Educational aims:** The aims of this module are to develop students critical understanding of the principles of criminal justice and issues for the Criminal Justice System in applying these in practice.

**Outline syllabus:** Topics are likely to vary year on year depending upon contemporary actions and situations but an indicative list of topics that will be addressed are as follows:

Moral Philosophies (e.g. utilitarianism / retributivism) & The Social Contract

Principles and Systems of Law and Justice (e.g. adversarial / restorative)

Intersections between criminology/law, theory and practice

'Modernisation' of CJS (e.g. net widening)

Civil liberties & The State (e.g. policing protest)

Crime Control as Industry

The Politics of Risk

The Security State (e.g. wars on terror / drugs)

Politics of Legislation

Culture of Control

Public Engagement, Social Justice and Social Change (e.g. reformation/abolition of the CJS)

Ethics: theories and operationalisation

Conducting literature reviews

Linking criminological theory/concepts to 'real world' situations and future careers

Communication skills, including presenting to diverse audiences (e.g. what makes a successful presentation, and how to improve written and verbal communication skills)

### SWOT analysis of skills

Setting up an Inquiry investigating the merits of an example of a contentious contemporary piece of criminal legislation: planning a strategy, setting up clear objectives, setting out roles and responsibilities and conducting an inquiry.

## Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

**Teaching and learning methods:** This module is a work based learning module, whereby all students will be required to complete a total of 20 hours work experience. Here, students will be afforded the opportunity to conduct a group investigative political inquiry into a contemporarily contested example of legislation as their work experience. The hours will be utilised by: developing an investigative strategy; setting out individual roles and responsibilities; familiarisation with history of specific law/s from green paper to Government legislation; researching academic arguments critically considering the specific legislation, it's application, support and opposition; contacting relevant Think Tanks / Activist Organisations to fully consider political oppositions relevant to their inquiry; launch and conduct a political inquiry; reflect upon the successes and challenges of the investigation. Beyond this, the module will enable students to engage with the subjects of criminology and law beyond the classroom, appreciating their interdisciplinary nature and enabling students to apply social enterprise skills. For example, students will conduct a political inquiry that seeks to tackle Civil Rights and Social Justice Inequalities within criminal justice matters and by adopting an Ethical Practice Model to promote Human Rights and Civil Liberties facilitate they will apply social enterprise skills. The module will introduce students to the public criminology agenda and debates and they will be able to draw upon broader criminological learning and knowledge in order to explain the importance of their inquiry. In addition to this, setting up and launching a political inquiry will allow students to apply 'real world' skills that are transferable beyond the realm of Higher Education. These skills will include but are not exclusive to the following: Networking (including Think Tanks, Activist Campaigns and social media), communication skills, advocacy skills, team work, organisation and time management, confidence building, marketing and promotion and research skills.

A variety of approaches will be used with the aim of maximising the active engagement of students. These may include:

Lectures

Seminars

Workshops

Showcase events

Master Classes

Live Briefs

ICT Based Platforms

Problem Solving Approaches

Directed and Independent Learning

Formative Assessment Opportunities

Independent learning: Students will be expected to engage in substantial and focused independent work in this module. This will include hours engaged with: essential reading, library-based and external research, engagement with government and media sources e.g. think-tanks, NGOs and activist groups.

Student cohorts will also be provided with a face-to-face and virtual meeting spaces that they will be able to fully utilise independently for the purposes of peer support, collaboration and discussion, in order to foster a sense of learning community and complete their group work.

The university supported learning portal and virtual learning environment will be used to support students' learning, conduct activities, organise and communicate learning materials. Students will be able to engage with the material, other students and members of staff through these systems and make use of the various functionalities built into them (e.g., blogs, journals, audio, video, discussion boards, wikis, etc.) as appropriate and useful for the module learning. A culture of continuous learning will be developed through the implementation of regular on-line discussion groups which discuss identified topics in-depth.

See educational aims.

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

**MO1** Understand and appraise the principles of the criminal justice system and critically evaluate the moral and philosophical tensions with their contemporary interpretations and applications.

**MO2** Identify aims of the criminal justice system and apparent disparities in how it operates when dealing with different groups and how this relates to current social justice issues.

**MO3** Explain why the self-image of the criminal justice system and its substantive practices often diverge as evidenced by the creation and exercise of contemporary legislation, considering critical explanations for the production and application of such laws.

**MO4** Critique the limits of the criminal justice system and its wider functions in contemporary society and the potential for political policy and legislation to create unintended negative consequences.

**MO5** Cultivate transferrable graduate skills and active citizenship including the ability to disseminate criminal justice outcomes for diverse audiences and through a variety of formats.

**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://uwe.rl.talis.com/lists/BD7A1BC6-120E-58C6-3DB5-CEC0E79C024C.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/lists/BD7A1BC6-120E-58C6-3DB5-CEC0E79C024C.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The module assessment has been designed to underpin students' learning and skills acquisition on the module.

The assessment has been designed around the learning outcomes which test the students' ability to research, in depth, the production and application of an example of controversial contemporary legislation, presenting this in the form of a sustained substantiated argument which critically considers the merits and efficacy of said legislation in relation to the principles and aims of criminal justice.

The assessment strategy aligns to UWE's 2030 strategy in that it has been designed to enable students to develop transferrable graduate employability skills, in particular: communication, professionalism, critical thinking, digital fluency, enterprise and forward-looking social engagement. The assessment meets the QAA Benchmarks for the subjects of Law and Criminology and appropriate level two descriptors have been applied.

This will be achieved through an assessment strategy which not only allows students to apply these skills but also to reflect upon their individual skill set in order to build on their strengths and address weaknesses (see Educational Aims for above for the type of skills students will apply). Alongside this, the assessment strategy will aid students in developing the link between critical criminological theory, legal theory and the application of these in developing and implementing policies and practice.

The assessment strategy is informed by the learning outcomes outlined below and will require students to complete the following two components:

Summative Assessment:

Press Briefing (group presentation): Students will apply their criminological and legal knowledge and understanding to 'real world' situations. They will be required to develop their leadership, team building and collaborative skills to work together create a group presentation setting out their collective examination of ideals of justice and how these relate this to an area of contemporary law. (Assessment One, learning outcomes 1, 2, 5).

Individual 1,500 word Investigative Report: Students will be able to incorporate feedback from Assessment One to develop a written report of their own investigation of the rationale behind and exercise of an example of contemporary legislation and the extent to which this delivers justice. This will include an evaluation of the success of their work experience and identify and evaluate the skills they have developed as a result of this and reflect on how skills can be further enhanced. (Assessment Two, learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

#### Formative Assessment:

Formative assessment will be embedded throughout the module, students will be required to participate in interactive workshops whereby they will feedback to their peers on their investigative inquiry. This will enable the students to complete their 20 hour work experience (students will also be encouraged to seek work experience beyond the campaign and through discussions with the module leader will be able to draw on this for the assessment) and will also be formatively assessed with feedback to help students prepare for their presentations and produce their reports.

#### **Assessment tasks:**

##### **Presentation** (First Sit)

Description: Presentation

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5

##### **Report** (First Sit)

Description: Individual Investigative Report (1,500 words)

Weighting: 80 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5



**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Presentation

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5

**Report (Resit)**

Description: Individual Investigative Report (1,500 words)

Weighting: 80 %

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: