



## **Module Specification**

### **Mental Health, Crime and Criminal Justice**

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 13 Jul 2023

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Mental Health, Crime and Criminal Justice

**Module code:** UZSYGE-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 offers a critical and multidisciplinary exploration of the issue of mental health as it relates to crime and criminal justice. Starting with the construction and presentation of mental health in the context of sociological constructivism, this module moves to explore how mental health diagnoses and interventions impact upon patterns of crime and victimisation, how such issues present themselves in the field of applied criminal justice, and, how unconscious bias may manifest at the intersection between mental health and criminal justice

institutions. Resultantly, the module explores particular sites of tension and debate in the criminal justice system such as policing, the courtroom and the prison, in turn taking account of how institutional processes and responses to mental health, wellbeing and vulnerability impact the experiences of those being processed through the Criminal Justice System.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** In its broadest sense, the aims of this module are to critically explore the issue of mental health and mental health disorders as they relate to a range of contemporary criminal justice issues.

Through a theoretically informed lens that takes account of the inconsistencies, sensitivities and controversies of mental health and mental disorder, this module seeks to acknowledge and explore the political, sociological and philosophical challenges of mental health as they manifest and present themselves in the field of criminal justice studies.

More specifically, this module aims to offer a critical platform for students allowing them to explore issues of accountability, systemic pressures and the challenges of responding to mental health in a criminal justice context

**Outline syllabus:** Topics will vary from year to year in line with contemporary developments, but an indicative summary may be presented as:

The sociology of mental health: crime and social exclusion

Mental health issues and matters of perpetration and victimisation: age, gender and ethnicity

Mental health and the criminal law

The precarious rights of mentally disordered offenders

The interface between drug use/addiction, mental health and crime

Mental health and the court system

Mental health and Human Rights

Trauma informed approaches to the needs of women in the criminal justice system

Mental health crisis and the pains of imprisonment and incarceration

Historical perspectives on punishment and mental health

Strategies for working with mentally disordered offenders

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** Teaching and learning methods: 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.

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.

TEL: A culture of continuous learning will be developed through the implementation of regular on-line discussion groups which discuss identified topics in-depth.

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

**MO1** To critically discuss the extent to which the concept of mental health is embedded in our understandings of crime and of criminal justice practices

**MO2** To critically analyse and review the responsibilities, initiatives and obligations of the criminal justice system with respect to issues concerning mental health

**MO3** To evaluate the linkages between criminological theory and mental health/mental illness

**MO4** To critically analyse and review how mental health and crime are often co-partnered within the criminal justice system

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 103 hours

Face-to-face learning = 47 hours

Total = 150

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/F3256367-1B82-1F54-7C0D-1B89D0974241.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/F3256367-1B82-1F54-7C0D-1B89D0974241.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

## Part 4: Assessment

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

The assessment is designed around the learning outcomes; specifically to test the students' ability to research, and to produce an evaluative commentary on issues of mental health as they relate to crime and criminal justice, with a focus on policy and practice.

The assessment strategy has been designed as such to enable students to develop transferrable graduate skills aligned to UWE's 2030 strategy.

The assessment has been designed to ensure QAA Criminology benchmarks are met and that appropriate level five descriptors are applied.

Our Learning and Teaching Strategy positions us as the leading University for outstanding practice-led and problem-based education, fostering the development of ready and able graduates who are ambitious, collaborative, innovative, inclusive and enterprising.

This is to be attained through:

Practice-led, research informed, inclusive learning  
and teaching

Digitally enabled, problem based education

Championing teaching excellence

The assessment strategy is informed by the learning outcomes as outlined and will require students to complete a report on

**Summative Assessment:**

1. Individual 2500 word Report: Students will be required to develop a written report examining how mental health issues can impact on a specified criminal justice institution and how that institution responds to the issue of mental health in the context of its responsibilities and obligations to clients and/or service users.

**Formative Assessment:**

Formative assessment will be embedded throughout the module. Students will have an opportunity to submit a report plan outlining what they will consider in their summative assessment. Feedback will be provided.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Report (First Sit)**

Description: Individual Report (2500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

### **Report (Resit)**

Description: Individual Report (2500 words)

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:

Sociology with Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology with Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology with Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Psychology with Criminology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Law with Criminology [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22