Module Specification

Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy

Version: 2024-25, v1.0, 18 Dec 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy

Module code: UZQYN8-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School 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: A module that explores the range of complex historical, political and criminological facets from which the field of terrorism studies has emerged and of which it is comprised.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module aims to explore the range of complex historical, political and criminological facets from which knowledge about modern terrorism has

emerged and of which it is comprised. The module has both a theoretical focus, (for example a genealogical investigation of the origins and transformations experienced by the field of terrorism studies since its inception in the 1970s) and a policy focus that explores how governments have responded to the threat of terrorism.

It will equip students with the capacity to recognise the nature of knowledge claims about terrorism and political violence and will facilitate recognition and understanding of the challenges faced by law enforcement, intelligence and government agencies that seek to counter and/or mitigate its potential and actual impact. It will require students to engage in a consistent, continuing, and detailed assessment of the assumptions instructing both terrorism and the counter-terrorism activities levelled against clandestine organisations and states which resort to violent means.

This module will be of interest to students who wish to pursue careers in security and counter-terrorism but also in various fields such as law, international relations, journalism, public policy, and more, where critical thinking, research, and effective communication are highly valued.

Outline syllabus: The module syllabus delves into a comprehensive exploration of various facets of terrorism studies. Topics covered may encompass theories of radicalisation, Far-right terrorism, the complex relationship between media outlets and acts of terrorism, the meaning of terror in counter-insurgency, the links between counter-terrorism policies and criminological theories of punishment, different rationalities for making sense of terror (Prevention, Regulation, Retaliation and Pre-Emption), historical shifts in the understanding of political violence as terrorism (from the 1972 to the War on Terror), a sociological investigation of the rise of terrorism studies as a field of scientific knowledge, and the question of terrorism and collective trauma (how societies and individuals remember terrorist attacks). The module may adopt a comparative approach to counter-terrorism policy contrasting strategies and policies adopted globally since the War on Terror with domestic counter-terrorism measures, such as the UK's CONTEST program. Additionally, the module addresses the critical issue of terrorism and Human Rights, examining the delicate balance between security measures and upholding fundamental human rights in the context of counter-terrorism efforts.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Delivery will vary depending upon the subjects being covered, incorporating lectures, lectorials, workshops and/or seminars. Lectures will outline the core issues and arguments, and seminars will provide an environment for students to deepen their understanding of the problems and arguments. Workshops and Lectorials will enable students to explore and debate material as it is delivered. Students will be encouraged to take an active role in discussions, aiding in the development of their research, argument and presentation skills, preparing them for their assignment.

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

MO1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the moral and philosophical difficulties involved in the study of terrorism and acts of terrorism

MO2 Critically evaluate a range of theoretical explanations for and knowledge claims about terrorism and the processes of radicalisation.

MO3 Compare, contrast and critique different counter-terrorism policies.

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/uzsnqv-15-3.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment consists of a 2500-word essay. This is designed to test the students' ability to research a critical area of terrorism studies in depth and present their research in the form of a sustained argument that answers the question set. Assessment criteria will be made available to the students in the module guide at the start of the module.

The assessment strategy also aims to equip students with a range of valuable transferable skills. Via this module students will learn to critically analyse and evaluate complex issues, considering various perspectives and arguments related to terrorism and counter-terrorism policies. The module fosters research skills as students engage in in-depth analysis of knowledge claims about terrorism, investigating the challenges of producing objective knowledge about such a controversial topic. Students will enhance their ability to articulate their ideas and findings effectively, which is essential in many professional settings.

Delving into the multifaceted challenges of counter-terrorism encourages students to develop problem-solving skills that can be applied to various real-world situations. The module often involves insights from various academic disciplines (Criminology, International Relations, Law etc.), enabling students to approach complex issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, which can be advantageous in a diverse range of careers. Understanding the motivations behind terrorism and counter-terrorism policies often involves an exploration of cultural, political, and social contexts, fostering cultural awareness.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: 2500 word essay
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: 2500 word essay

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

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

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

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

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

Politics And International Relations [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

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

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

Professional Policing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Law [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Law with Criminology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Law [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

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

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

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

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

Criminology with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

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

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

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

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

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Psychology with Criminology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19