Module Specification

Prisons, Punishment and Human Rights

Version: 2024-25, v1.0, 31 Jan 2024

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Prisons, Punishment and Human Rights

Module code: UZSYNF-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field:

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 explores the rationale behind the use of imprisonment as a form of criminal sanction and the impact of the European legalisation of human rights on its aims, its administration and execution in the UK and from a comparative angle.

Features: Use of real life European Court of Human Rights judgments on issues surrounding imprisonment

Educational aims: The objective of the module is to equip students with a critical understanding of prison as punishment and of the contribution of human rights to a more accountable administration of imprisonment, drawing on the legalisation of human rights in Europe.

Outline syllabus: Indicative content:

theories of punishment

conceptualisations of human rights

the legalisation of human rights in Europe and in the UK

human rights and prisons

prison policy in England and Wales and in Europe

sociology of imprisonment

mentally disordered prisoners and therapeutic prisons

women and imprisonment

life sentences

prison officers, their role and contribution

minimum age of criminal responsibility

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Students will learn through a combination of lectures, seminars, guest talks and audio-visual material prepared by official organisations. An online reading list and group student tutorials led by the module leader will support the student learning journey.

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

MO1 Apply and critically evaluate theories of punishment to the use of prison as a form of punishment and the treatment of prisoners

MO2 Critically evaluate a prison issue, or the treatment of a specific prisoner category with reference to the aims of imprisonment and other factors impacting on the national prison system under investigation.

MO3 Critically appraise the relevance and impact of human rights in relation to the use of prison as a form of punishment and the treatment of prisoners.

MO4 Critically evaluate the treatment of prisoners, drawing upon comparative material from different national prison systems' approaches to those same or similar prison issues.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 234 hours

Face-to-face learning = 66 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy for this module consists of two tasks:

Report (weighted 50%)
A 2500-word evaluative prison report on a current prison issue that is drawn from the UK or any other national prison system.

Plagiarism is designed out as each student can choose for themselves the particular focus and context of the evaluative prison report. There is not a set number of topics that students must choose from.

Written Assignment (weighted 50%)
A 2500-word critical review of a European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) prison related judgment. Students will be able to choose a ECtHR judgment out of a set number of such judgments.

Plagiarism is designed out as the ECtHR prison-related judgments will change yearly.

The assessment strategy for this module is informed by the QAA Criminology Benchmarks (2022), adheres to level 6 descriptors and is designed to complement the criminology programme's learning outcomes. As such, it has been developed in parity with all level 6 modules.

Assessment tasks:

Report (First Sit)
Description: 2500-word evaluative prison report
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: 2500-word critical review of a European Court of Human Rights prison-related judgment
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

Report (Resit)
Description: 2500-word evaluative prison report
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: 2500-word critical review of a European Court of Human Rights prison-related judgment

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

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

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

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

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

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

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

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

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

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

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

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