



Module Specification

Sexual Offences and Offending: Criminal Justice Responses

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Sexual Offences and Offending: Criminal Justice Responses

Module code: UJUJW-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law Undergraduate (Programmes)

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: Not applicable

Features: Module Entry Requirements: 75 credits including 30 credits in Law

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: Indicative content –

Rape within the Criminal Justice System:

Societal attitudes and their impact on rape law enforcement

Police and prosecutorial decision-making

Courtroom treatment of complainants, including cross-examination

Sentencing

Strategies for improving conviction rates

Child Sexual Abuse within the Criminal Justice System:

Examination of the specific needs of child complainants

“Special measures” to assist child and vulnerable witnesses

Consideration of how these measures have operated in practice

Investigation/prosecution of cases involving child pornography

Sex Offenders: Criminal Justice Responses:

The problems posed by sex offenders – public protection, rehabilitation and the rights of convicted sex offenders

Imprisonment/supervision in the community

Use of specific measures, including civil orders, castration, registration and public notification, use of lie detectors, various behavioural restrictions on high-risk offenders

What works and what does not in preventing re-offending by sex offenders

Policing of prostitution, pimps and clients

Policing of consensual sexual offences

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be taught by means of weekly two hour lectures and fortnightly one hour seminars. Contact is also achieved by means of a module-specific Twitter account. The account is used as a means of communicating updates of relevant articles, research, case law etc. and provides an excellent means of facilitating student access to online materials.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, and workshops.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated below.

The module will be taught by means of weekly lectures and fortnightly seminars designed to enable students to achieve the learning outcomes outlined above. The subject matter discussed in lectures will be examined in detail within the seminars, thus allowing students to deepen their understanding and address any areas with which they have difficulty. Students will be expected to spend approximately 6-8 hours preparing for each seminar.

In addition, the module will be supported by on-line materials which will enable students to pursue their particular interests through the use of digitised materials and those available via the module Twitter account. The module Blackboard site contains an extensive collection of reports, articles and other materials that are intended to assist students in their coursework and examination preparation.

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

MO1 Understand how sexual offences are investigated, prosecuted and sentenced by criminal justice agencies, including the police, Crown Prosecution Service and the courts

MO2 Analyse strengths and deficiencies in the criminal justice response to sexual offences and offending and how any deficiencies might be addressed

MO3 Ascertain the role, function and performance of all relevant criminal justice agencies in dealing with particular offences, such as rape

MO4 Recognise areas of particular controversy within the criminal justice system, for example, how sex offenders within the community should be monitored and controlled

MO5 Identify both the strengths and weaknesses in the existing research evidence on the criminal justice system's treatment of sexual offences and offending

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 0

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujuijw-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujuijw-30-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module is assessed on the basis of an online examination (up to 2500 words) to be completed within a 24 hour window, and one 2.500 word essay (60%).

The coursework constitutes the formative assessment for the module and enables students to engage in an analysis of issues discussed and researched in the first

semester.

The seminar programme prepares the students for both forms of assessment by including questions that have been used in prior assessments thus enabling the students to understand the structure, analysis and research necessary to answer the assessed questions to a high standard.

The exam constitutes the summative assessment for the module and assesses knowledge and understanding gained over the academic year.

In broad terms, the coursework and exam assess student understanding of the criminal justice system's responses to sexual offences and offending using a range of legal and extra-legal material. Students will be expected to show an understanding of relevant case law and statute and to be able to comment on relevant policy debates and the desirability of specific reforms, as well as the limitations of legal/policy change.

For the coursework, students are provided with detailed written feedback. In addition, appointments are made available to any student wishing to discuss feedback and raise queries with module tutors.

Prior to both assessments advice is given on how to achieve high grades and what to avoid. General feedback is also provided after the coursework has been marked explaining what was done well and how improvements can be made in the examination.

If a student is permitted a retake of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Coursework

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Online examination (2500 words)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Coursework

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Online examination (2500 words)

Weighting: 40 %

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:

Criminology and Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology with Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Law with Criminology [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

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

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

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

Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Law [Frenchay] - Withdrawn LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Law [UCW] LLB (Hons) 2023-24