



## **Module Specification**

### **Introduction to Criminological Theory**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Introduction to Criminological Theory

**Module code:** UZSNLD-30-1

**Level:** Level 4

**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:** 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:** Not applicable

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** The aim of this module is to introduce students to key theoretical approaches in criminology and to explore their policy applications and consequences.

**Outline syllabus:** The module will commence with an exploration of the distinctive ways that crime and criminal justice are social constructions associated with the state and social policy. We shall explore the ways in which crime and criminal justice have been socially constructed in modern and pre-modern societies, and of the socio-historical roots of criminology. The module will then briefly address the debate over whether postwar western societies have experienced a crime explosion or data explosion and how criminological theory can illuminate each side of this debate. The main theoretical paradigms of deviancy theory (sociological and social psychological) will then be investigated and related to selected key social policy issues and contexts of criminal justice. The course concludes by investigating how criminological theory can be applied to making sense of specific issues of social control (for example, mass incarceration and the socio-cultural roots of penal justice).

Topics covered in the lecture programme will include:

Crime and social control in historical context

Modernity and the origins of criminology

Classical criminology

Positivist criminology

Social-psychological perspectives in criminology

Sociological perspectives in criminology (structural and interactional)

Modernity, law enforcement and penal justice: theories of social control.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** See Contact Hours.

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

**MO1** Identify and describe key criminological concepts, criminological theories, their differences and similarities

**MO2** Appreciate the socio-historical roots of criminological theory in modern conditions

**MO3** Apply criminological concepts and theories to concrete examples or issues of crime, criminalisation, and responses to crime

**MO4** Have an understanding of the social and cultural influences on crime, criminalisation and responses to crime

**MO5** Retrieve and employ evidence from authoritative sources to discuss key criminological concepts in written form

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 234 hours

Face-to-face learning = 66 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/uzsnld-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsnld-30-1.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** All assignments on the module are summative and have been designed in such a way as to allow you not only draw upon your knowledge and understanding of criminology theory but to enable you to develop crucial academic skills as well as to engage fully with the learning outcomes of this module.

The assessments in this module consist of:

Assessment 1: 1000 word Skills Assignment (Annotated Bibliography)

Assessment 2: 1500 word Essay

Note: Assessment Criteria are outlined in the module handbook. This is pertinent to all assignments on both assessment tasks. The Criteria specify the skills and

competences that students need to demonstrate in formal assessments to acquire each grade classification.

Examination assessments are utilized on this module because these are suitable for testing certain specific skills – such as, the ability of students to deploy information flexibly.

Coursework assessments are utilised on this module because these are a suitable medium for testing a full range of aptitudes required of the learner – referencing and bibliography, preparatory reading and research, working to deadlines, synthesising summarisation and evaluation skills, self-reflection, organising academic work, ICT.

Both examination and coursework assessments are designed to align with learning outcomes.

Assessment One tests Learning Outcomes 1-5

Assessment Two tests Learning Outcomes 1-5

Note: The content of Assessment One and Assessment Two (such as, the selection of topic-focussed questions in each case) is such that the overall module content is represented. This ensures that learning outcomes 1-5 are met.

Study Skills deficits are addressed in the Skills Assignment that is preparatory for all assignments thereafter. Students are advance-prepared for the demands placed by the assignment.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: 1000 word skills assignment (annotated bibliography)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: 1500 word essay

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: 1500 words

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: 1000 word skills assignment (annotated bibliography)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

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 with Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Psychology with Criminology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Psychology with Criminology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Law with Criminology [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology and Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24  
Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24  
Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24  
Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24  
Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24  
Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24  
Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24  
Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24  
Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24  
Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24  
Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23  
Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23  
Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23  
Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23  
Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23