



Module Specification

Drugs, Crime & Society

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Drugs, Crime & Society

Module code: UZSNR8-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2025-26

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: This module aims to provide students with a critical understanding of significant criminological and sociological perspectives on illegal drugs.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Students will acquire insights into the changing patterns of drug use, the social and legal challenges associated with drug-related issues, and the complexities of both national and international drug markets.

Outline syllabus: The module draws on a range of theoretical and conceptual ideas to understand the nature of illegal drugs, their use and control. While the specific lecture programme may vary year to year, the main topics that will be covered by the module would likely include:

Criminological and sociological theories of drug use

The influence of gender, age, class and ethnicity in drug use, culture and markets

The drug-crime debate

Local, national and international drug markets

Drug cultivation, production and trafficking

Narco-terrorism and narco-states

National and international drug policy

Policing of drug markets

The treatment and social control of drug users

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module consists of a combination of lectures and seminars, which equates to a minimum of 72 hours over 24 weeks.

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

MO1 Demonstrate a broad awareness of illegal drug use, drug control and drug-related problems within cultural, historical, social, and political contexts.

MO2 Apply and evaluate key conceptual and theoretical frameworks to analyse illegal drug use, drug markets, and related issues.

MO3 Assess and propose evidence-based policy responses to drug-related problems at local, national, and international levels.

MO4 Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to present ideas clearly, structure arguments logically, and use appropriate academic language and referencing.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsnr8-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsnr8-30-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy has been designed to enable students to meet the learning outcomes of the module, which include both subject-specific knowledge and skills and also transferable skills.

Summative assessments:

Assessment Task 1: Essay (2000 words maximum). The essay provides an effective means of evaluating a range of essential academic skills relevant to the module and allows students to engage in independent research, demonstrate critical thinking, and apply key theoretical perspectives to topics.

This format encourages students to develop and strengthen their research abilities, referencing skills, academic writing and their ability to synthesise, summarise and evaluate information.

Assessment Task 2: Recorded Presentation (10 minutes maximum). This assessment method will allow students to demonstrate their understanding of relevant issues by examining a drug market problem and proposing a policy solution. This format helps develop skills in research, critical thinking, and clear communication. It also supports students in organising their ideas effectively. Additionally, the recorded format encourages digital literacy and confidence in delivering spoken academic work.

Assessment criteria used for each assessment strategy will be provided for students via Blackboard.

Plagiarism strategy:

The module will address plagiarism by directing students to UWE study skills online resources which address plagiarism. A link to the Library website will be made available through the module handbook available to all students on the module. Students will also be directed to use SafeAssign UWE's online plagiarism software before submitting their work so that any potential issues can be identified and addressed before work is submitted. Finally, the module teaching team will also be able to use Safe Assign to check any plagiarism concerns they have with any student work.

The module adheres to UWE Academic Regulations and Assessment Cycle Policy, and assessment and feedback will form a critical aspect of the students learning process in line with UWE's Assessment Cycle Policy and will follow UWE's inclusivity guidance.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Recorded presentation (10 minutes maximum)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Essay (2000 words maximum)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Recorded presentation (10 minutes maximum)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Essay (2000 words maximum)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

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

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Law and Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

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

Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

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

Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

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

Criminology and Law [Frenchay] - Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2024-25

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

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Law and Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

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

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

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Law and Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

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

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

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

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

Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

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

Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21