



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: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Sociology and Criminology

Module type: Standard

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:

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 = 300

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: Assessment on this module consists of Component A (60%) 2 x 1250 word short essays and Component B (40%) 1500 word skills assignment.

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.

Component A: 2 x 1250 word short essays

Component B (Coursework) is 1x 1500 Word Skills Exercise (Annotated Bibliography).

Resit students will be required to complete:

Component A: 2 x 1250 word short essays

Component B (Coursework) is 1x 1500 Word Skills Exercise (Annotated Bibliography).

Note: Assessment Criteria are outlined in the module handbook. This is pertinent to all assignments on both components. 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 components are designed to align with learning outcomes.

Component A tests Learning Outcomes 1-5

Component B tests Learning Outcomes 1-5

Note: The content of Component A and Component B assessments (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 components:**Written Assignment - Component B (First Sit)**

Description: 1500 word skills assignment (annotated bibliography)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

Written Assignment - Component A (First Sit)

Description: 2 x 1250 word short essays

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Written Assignment - Component A (Resit)

Description: 2 x 1250 word essays

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)

Description: 1500 word skills assignment (annotated bibliography)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

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

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

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

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

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