



University of the
West of England

BRISTOL

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: UPSNLE-30-1 **Title:** Introduction to Criminal Justice **Version:** 4
Level: 1 **UWE credit rating:** 30 **ECTS credit rating:** 15

Module type: Standard

Owning Faculty: HLS **Field:** Sociology & Criminology

Faculty Committee approval: CAC **Date:**

Approved for Delivery by: *(indicate name of affiliated institution if module will only be delivered by them)*

Valid from: 01/09/2010 **Discontinued from:**

Contributes towards: Degrees up to the award of BA (Hons)

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Entry requirements: N/A

(If the module is offered as CPD or stand alone, indicate the entry requirements)

Excluded combinations: None

Learning outcomes:

Students on completing the course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the various institutions that make up the criminal justice system. (Components A1, B1, B2, & B3)
2. Show an awareness of how 'crime' is processed, the role of discretion in decision making and the impact this has on who is criminalised and who escapes the penal system's embrace. (Components A1, B1, B2, & B3)
3. Evaluate the operation of the criminal justice system. (Components A1, B1, B2, & B3)
4. Demonstrate an ability to research independently and work in groups with their peers; (Components A1, B2, & B3)
5. Show an appreciation of the insights that criminological theory can offer to understanding the operation of the criminal justice system. (Components A1, B2, & B3)

Syllabus outline:

1. An introduction to the criminal justice system including examinations of Victims and Youth Justice
2. The role of policing, social control and regulation focusing on how individuals become involved in the criminal justice system.
3. How are alleged criminals prosecuted? Including an examination of the roles of the Crown Prosecution Service, the judiciary and juries.
4. Examination of the punishment available to sentencers and how the probation service and others manage offenders in the community.
5. Consideration of distortions of justice through examined miscarriages in justice and how race, class and gender can impact on the operation of criminal justice.

Teaching and learning methods:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminars/workshops. The lectures will provide an introduction to the various topics placing them in a theoretical context and providing links to a range of possible avenues of future research available to the students. For each topic students will be

expected to carry out their own independent research, this will include reading a short academic piece, carrying out an activity (e.g. observing a court case), watching a TV or radio programme or searching for relevant recent news stories in newspapers or on the internet. Seminars will be highly participative and based on students working together on specific tasks. Students will be supported in developing independent study skills and presentation skills.

Reading Strategy

Essential Reading will be made accessible to students by ensuring that all texts are available through blackboard either as digitalised texts, as journal articles with embedded urls or within the courses two core textbooks. Further reading will include a mix of chapters from books held in the library, internet resources, electronic journals and government reports. As part of the course students will be required to undertake search engine exercises designed to allow them to obtain access to up to date material relevant to the course. The reading strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure all essential reading remains easily accessible and that the most up to date and relevant materials are available for students.

Indicative Reading List: (see guidance notes)

The following list is offered to provide validation panels/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification. However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via other more frequently updated mechanisms.

Carlen, P. (2002) *Women and Punishment: The Struggle for Justice*. Cullompton: Willan.

Gibson, B., & Cavadino, P. (2008) *The Criminal Justice System: An Introduction*, (3rd edition) . Hook: Waterside Press.

Hucklesby, A., & Wahidin, A. (2009) *Criminal Justice*. Oxford: Oxford university Press.

Newburn, T. (2007) *Criminology*. Cullompton: Willan.

Newburn, T. (2009) *Key Readings in Criminology*. Cullompton: Willan.

Scott, D. (2008) *Penology*. London: Sage.

British Journal of Criminology online at <http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/>

Criminology and Criminal Justice online at <http://crj.sagepub.com/>

Punishment and Society online at <http://pun.sagepub.com/>

Assessment

Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: 35% B: 65%
ATTEMPT 1

First Assessment Opportunity

Component A

Description of each element

1 Individual Contribution to a Group Presentation

Element weighting

35%

Component B

Description of each element

1 500 Word Report

2 1500 Word Report

3 2000 Word Essay Final

Element weighting

10%

25%

30%

Second Assessment Opportunity (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1 Individual Contribution to a Group Presentation	35%

Component B

Description of each element	Element weighting
1 500 Word Report	10%
2 1500 Word Report	25%
3 2000 Word Essay	30%

EXCEPTIONAL SECOND (OR SUBSEQUENT) ATTEMPT: Attendance at taught classes is required.

Specification confirmed byDate
(Associate Dean/Programme Director)