

University of the West of England

Module Specification

Revised December 2009

Title	Criminology Project Module
New Code	UZSNPW-30-3
Version	4.1
Versions	
Last Updated	11/05/2011 14:07:57
Level	3
UWE Credit Rating	30
ECTS Credit Rating	15
Module Type	Project
Module Leader	MCCARTAN, K
Module Leaders - Additional	There are no additional module leaders
Owning Faculty	Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Health and Social Care
Faculty Committee approval	HSC Quality and Standards Committee
Faculty Committee approval Date	
Approved for Delivery by	
Field	Health and Social Sciences
Field Leader	Billie Oliver
Valid From	01/09/2010 00:00:00
Discontinued From	
Pre-requisites	Research Themes and Methods in Criminology (UPSNMW-30-2)
Co-requisites	None
Entry requirements:	None
Excluded combinations	Criminal Justice Placement UPSNQB-30-3
Module Handbooks	
Learning Outcomes	

1. Identify a suitable research topic. (Components A1 and A2)
2. Identify and use relevant source material (Components A1 and A2)
3. Design a piece of criminological research drawing on appropriate research methods. (Components A1 and A2)

4. Carry out this research in an ethical and competent fashion. (Components A1 and A2)
5. Think critically and reflexively about the research process and about the strengths and limitations of their own work.(Component A2)
6. Analyse data and integrate their findings with an existing body of criminological work.(Component A2)
7. Write up and present a piece of criminological research.(Component A2)

Syllabus Outline

Projects can be based on a wide range of topics related to criminology. They may be desk based or may involve the student in collecting their own data. To support students there will be a series of social science research methods workshops in Term 1.

1. Introduction: What is a dissertation?
2. Designing your project
3. Electronic sources and databases
4. Doing research and writing a literature review
5. Ethics and research
6. Data collection & data analysis
7. Writing up

Teaching and Learning Methods

1. Workshops employing group work
2. Use of IT resources
3. One to one supervision

Reading Strategy

Students will be encouraged to buy one core text addressing research methodology; other essential reading will be provided electronically or as printed study packs. Students will be encouraged to read widely using the library catalogue and internet resources, since it is vital that they continue to develop the skills to engage in independent research work and to take an informed critical stance on the literature. There is a substantial amount of literature relating to criminology, which will be invaluable to orient independent research in the discipline, and it is important that students use that which is most appropriate and up to date. In order to assist the student with this guidance will be provided by the tutor as to which texts (including internet resources) are most suitable to the themes, issues and perspectives that are selected by students as the focus of their individual research proposals. Recommended reading on research methodology and research process and design (in social science and criminology) will be provided in the module handbook.

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.

Bell, J. (1987) *Doing Your own Research Project: a Guide for First Time Researchers in Education and Social Science*. Buckingham: OUP.

Croft, J. (1981) *Managing Criminology Research*. London: HMSO

Denscombe, M. (1998) *The Good Research Guide*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Dixon, R.D., Bouma, G.D., & Atkinson, C.J.B. (1987) *A Handbook of Social Science Research*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cuba, L., & Cocking, J.A. (1985). *How to Write about the Social Sciences*. London: Harper Collins.

Hagan, F.E. (2004). *Essentials of Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology*, Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Howard, K., & Sharp, J.A. (1985) *The management of a Student Research Project*. Aldershot: Gower.

Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency

King, R. D., & Wincup, E. (2000) *Doing Research on Crime and Justice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mason, J. (1996). *Qualitative Researching*. London: Sage.

Noakes, E., & Wincup, E. (2004) *Criminological Research: Understanding Qualitative Methods*. London: Sage.

Sapsford, J., & Jupp, V. (1996) *Data Collection and Analysis*. London, Sage.

Assessment

Where necessary, and appropriate, an alternative medium of assessment may be negotiated.

Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: % B: %

Final Assessment: Component A Element 2 Component A Element 2

Attempt 1

First Assessment Opportunity (Sit)

Component A

Element	Description	Element Weighting
1	Draft Chapter	10%
2	Criminology Project (8-10,000 words)	90%

Second Assessment Opportunity (ReSit)

Attendance is not required

Component A

Element	Description	Element Weighting
1	Draft Chapter	10%
2	Criminology Project (8-10,000 words)	90%

Exceptional Second Attempt (Retake)

Attendance is not required