



University of the
West of England

UNDERGRADUATE MODULAR PROGRAMME

BA (HONS) CRIMINOLOGY (International Variant)

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

University of the West of England

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Section 1: Basic Data

Version 3

Awarding institution/body	University of the West of England, Bristol
Teaching institution	University of the West of England, Bristol
Delivery Location(s)	Frenchay Campus. Virginia Commonwealth University.
Faculty responsible for programme	Health and Life Sciences
Modular Scheme title	HLS Modular Scheme
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links (type and dates)	Nil
Highest award title	BA (Hons) Criminology
Default award title	BA (Hons) Sociology
Interim award titles	BA Criminology Dip HE Criminology Cert HE Criminology
UWE progression route	MSc Criminology and/with approved combinations
Mode(s) of delivery	Full time
Codes	
UCAS code M900	JACS code
ISIS code L300	HESA code L300
Relevant QAA subject benchmark statements	Criminology
On-going	
Valid from (insert date if appropriate)	September 2010
Original Validation Date:	1990
Latest Committee Approval...	QSC Date:... 16.06.10

Version Code 3

For coding purposes, a numerical sequence (1, 2, 3 etc.) should be used for successive programme specifications where 2 replaces 1, and where there are no concurrent specifications. A sequential decimal numbering (1.1; 1.2, 2.1; 2.2 etc) should be used where there are different and concurrent programme specifications

Variant delivered via *Bachelor of Science in Sociology programme, College of Humanities and Sciences. Virginia Commonwealth University*

Section 2: Educational aims of the programme

- To provide for students a generally enriching and interesting educational environment and experience.
- To promote critical, creative and analytical thinking.
- To assist students realise their potential.
- To teach academically challenging and vocationally relevant modules in the sociology, social psychology, economics, politics and history of crime and criminal justice.
- To offer students the opportunity of learning these same modules in combination with each other in order so students may benefit from a diversity of perspectives and themes as well as specificity of disciplinary focus.
- To assist students acquire a broad range of discipline specific, cognitive and general transferable skills, which provide them with a sound basis for further study and for the world of work.
- To provide a foundation in criminological knowledge that is relevant to a career in the criminal justice system.
- To acknowledge and accommodate the wide diversity of student needs and interests through the provision of a flexible programme which enables students to choose between a variety of modules and disciplines.
- To encourage scholarship and to foster the virtues of objectivity, reflection, judgement, critical study, and independent learning (individual and collaborative).

Section 3: Learning outcomes of the programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas: ...

A Knowledge and understanding

Learning outcomes

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

A Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Major theoretical traditions in criminology and the sociology of crime.
2. Methodological issues in sociology and social-psychology (with relevance to criminology)
3. Relationship between theory, evidence, practice and methods of criminology
4. How crime and violence are constructed as social processes
5. Social policy implications and applications and historical social contexts of criminological perspectives.
6. Economic, historical, legal, cultural, political and social-psychological dimensions of crime and crime control.
7. Origins and development of key institutions of law enforcement and criminal justice.
8. Interrelationship of the various modes of social power (class, gender, ethnicity, state) in the development of criminology and modern criminal justice systems.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies:

Students acquire knowledge and understanding through a variety of teaching and learning methods and strategies. These include: lectures; seminar discussion groups; oral, visual and written presentations; computer workshops; independent library studies (individual and collaborative); and independent assessment preparation.

The Level 1 compulsory module Introduction to Criminological Theory will provide knowledge and understanding of the range of theoretical approaches within criminology. This module also provides students with a knowledge and understanding of the contexts and policy applications of criminological theory and of the political culture and historical roots of key institutions of criminal justice and of their relationships to stratification systems. The Level 1 compulsory module Introduction to Criminal Justice will provide a deeper and thoroughgoing knowledge and understanding of the institutional dynamics and legal and political norms that comprise the criminal justice system. Here too the relationship between the criminal justice system and the state and government will also be addressed. The Level 2 compulsory module *Criminology Research and Investigation* provides

knowledge and understanding of research methodology and of methodological problems within criminology. This module will foster key research skills, promote critical reflections on research methods, and also introduce students to a range of contemporary research findings in the area of crime and criminal justice. Students will increase their knowledge base in relation to the key concepts and theoretical perspectives within criminology, and be encouraged to assess, evaluate and analyse a range of theoretical perspectives explored through the compulsory Level 3 module *Critical Criminology*. This module will develop students' the ability to explore themes relating to Victimology and human rights in relation to critical criminological theories and foster the necessary skills to analyse and evaluate the various critical theories in relation to the development of social control, surveillance, and punishment. In order to develop and hone students' research skills they will be expected to conduct a research project. In doing this they will be required to identify a suitable research topic, and design a piece of criminological research drawing on appropriate research methods. This will encourage them to think critically and reflexively about the research process and about the strengths and limitations of their own work. This work will be done through either of the compulsory modules *Criminology Project* or *Criminal Justice Placement* (Students will have to choose one of these modules). The *Criminal Justice Placement* module also affords the student with an opportunity to engage in a work placement within the criminal justice arena. This module will allow students to develop an understanding of how criminal justice agencies operate in the real world and provide them with the opportunity to conduct research on and/or within such organisations.

This is the spine of the programme. Throughout these modules students will become knowledgeable of the relationships between theory, evidence and practice in criminology and will acquire a critical understanding of the processes by which crime is socially constructed, apprehended and processed.

At Level 1 students must take the compulsory modules (*Introduction to Criminological Theory and Introduction to Criminal Justice*) as well as two HLSS optional modules, they will be encouraged to take the sociology module *The Individual and Society* as one of the options. At Level 2 students must take the compulsory module (*Criminology Research and Investigation*) plus three optional modules (*Social Psychology of Individual and Group Processes; Crime and Protest 1750-1930; Social Construction of Sexuality; Youth Crime, Youth Justice; Criminal Psychology; Crime Control; Criminal Networks* (note, however, as 15-credit modules, *Crime Control* and *Criminal Networks* must both be taken); or equivalent). At Level 3 students must take the compulsory modules (*Critical*

Criminology and Criminology Project or CJ Placement) plus two optional modules (*Social Psychology of Violence and Crime, Crime in America: Organisation and Control; Terrorism; Transnational Offending; Crime, Protest and the Crowd in England 1730-1820; Poverty, Power and Participation; Economics and the Legal System of the UK, Ethical Issues in Politics, Penology, Racism, Gender and Class* or equivalent).

Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Assessment:

Testing of knowledge and understanding takes place through a range of assessed coursework and examinations. Coursework includes essays, web-based assignments, and seminar exercises. Examinations include the conventional written tests plus oral and visual presentations.

Assessments in compulsory Level 1 modules test students' knowledge and understanding of the full range of theoretical perspectives and debates in criminology and of the history and institutional dynamics of modern agencies of criminal justice and law enforcement. Assessments in the compulsory Level 2 module test students' knowledge and understanding of methodological issues and debates in criminology, and also address key areas of criminological research.

Assessments in the compulsory Level 3 modules test further students' knowledge and understanding of issues relating to critical criminological theory and providing them with the opportunity to explore some of the criminological research issues discussed at level 2. Assessments are not intended simply to 'objectify' or measure student understanding, but also to facilitate student knowledge and understanding. Written coursework assignments are designed to ensure that students critically explore and evaluate key issues and ideas ('deep' rather than 'surface' learning), and opportunity is provided for them to negotiate their own written assignments in accordance with their own interests.

B Intellectual Skills

B Intellectual Skills	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
<p>Students should develop the capacity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appreciate the complexity and diversity of criminological theory and understand the strengths and weaknesses of the different theories. 2. Apply theoretical perspectives in criminology to the study of recent trends in criminal justice and law enforcement. 3. Develop and apply research skills and methods in criminology 4. Understand the advantages and limitations of a variety of data on crime and victimisation (media reports, political representations, official statistics, victimisation surveys, self-report surveys). 5. Explore the historical development and institutional dynamics of modern institutions of law and criminal justice and their likely future trajectories. 6. Appreciate how crime and criminal justice is politically and culturally constructed in different historical contexts. 7. Demonstrate their Knowledge and understanding of a wide range of criminological topics in essay form. 8. Make an informed contribution to group discussions of criminological issues. 9. Gather, retrieve and synthesise information. 10. Review and assess empirical evidence and research data related to the social construction of crime and deviance. 11. Evaluate theoretical perspectives as they apply to criminological issues. 12. Orally and visually present information in support of an argument or thesis. 	<p>Intellectual skills (1-11) are developed by the examples set by academic staff in lectures and seminars, through seminar discussion and debate, independent reading, research exercises, assessment writing, and tutors' feedback on students' work.</p> <p>Library and study skills and IT induction sessions at the start of Level 1 is standard practice in HLSS. The compulsory modules at Level 1 devote seminar sessions to the development of academic skills (essay-writing, revision guides, information gathering and retrieval, web-based research techniques). At all levels staff provide detailed written feedback on all aspects of assessed work (structure, presentation, evidence, substance, argument, logic, etc.), and it is also policy for staff to offer guidance on essay plans. Staff will also endeavour to generate and sustain seminar discussion, and also to encourage students to initiate debate. All of this is designed to provide students with a sound foundation (including practical experience) in data gathering, retrieval and synthesis (skill 9), in reviewing and evaluating evidence (skill 10), in critical writing skills (skill 7) and the confidence to express, explore and present ideas (skills 8 and 11).</p> <p>The Level 1 compulsory module <i>Introduction to Criminological theory</i> will allow students to develop the capacity to appreciate the diverse strands of criminological theory and their relevance to analysing or explaining contemporary crime patterns and the trajectory of criminal justice systems in late modern/post-modern societies (skills 1, 2 and 5). The Level 1 compulsory module <i>Introduction to Criminal Justice</i> will enable students to explore in depth the constitution and dynamics of the UK legal-justice and penal systems (prisons, young offenders' institutions, magistrate and crown courts, probation and parole services, police, etc.) and connect these to issues of governmentality whilst drawing upon European comparisons (skills 2 and especially 5). The Level 2 module <i>Criminology Research and Investigation</i> will enable students to acquire a foundational knowledge of the merits and problems associated with a range of data used in criminological research (especially crime statistics) – and will equip students with knowledge of methodology and practical skills to engage in criminological research projects (skills 3 and 4). This level 2 module includes IT workshops that are designed to provide students with the knowledge and ability to carry out quantitative analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) (skills 3, 9 and 10). For Level 3 students taking the <i>Criminology Project</i> and/or the <i>Criminal Justice Placement</i> Module, they will benefit from</p>

foundational methods and research skills training provided by the Level 2 compulsory module, and there will be specific research methods workshops (skills 9 and 10) provided. Students undertaking the *Criminal Justice Placement* module will also have to provide a presentation based upon the specific research and placement area in which they are involved (Skill 12). The other compulsory Level 3 module *Critical Criminology* encourages students to build upon the knowledge and understanding of criminological issues that have been highlighted at levels 1 and 2 but to critically evaluate the theoretical perspectives as they apply to these issues (skill 11). The modular content of the programme as a whole is designed to encourage students to think about how crime, law and criminal justice is constructed and represented differently in various social, political and cultural contexts (skills 5 and 6).

Assessment

As already noted, a variety of assessment methods are employed. These include formal unseen written examinations, essays, individual oral/visual presentations, group presentations, data analysis, web-research and library-based projects. In combination, these assessment methods motivate students to develop intellectual skills (1-11) and hone these skills in the light of their preparatory reading and feedback from tutors.

C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

C Subject/Professional/Practical Skills	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
<p>On successful completion of the award students will be able to demonstrate the following skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the subject matter and the discipline of criminology. 2. Knowledge of the historical development and institutions of the criminal justice system in relations to politics and government 3. Investigate questions relevant to the discipline of criminology 4. Use appropriate social scientific methods to the study of crime, deviance, and social control. 5. Apply and critique concepts and theories in criminological research. 6. Awareness of ethical issues in criminological research. 7. Potentially apply such skills in the context of a related occupation (police, probation service, prison service, etc.) 	<p>Lectures and seminars convey understanding of the subject matter of the discipline, its concepts and theories. Methods in criminology will be introduced in the Level 1 compulsory module <i>Introduction to Criminological Theory</i> in the context of discussions of the social construction of crime statistics and theoretical perspectives in criminology. These methods (together with key research skills) will then be developed or fostered in the Level 2 compulsory module <i>Criminology Research and Investigation</i> and applied and explored further in the Level 3 compulsory modules <i>Criminology Project</i> and/or the <i>Criminal Justice Placement and Critical Criminology</i>, which will encourage students to hone their research and analytical skills. Knowledge of the inner workings and mechanisms of the criminal justice system (indispensable to those who wish to pursue a career or further training in a criminology-related discipline) is provided by the Level 1 compulsory module <i>Introduction to Criminal Justice</i>.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Skills 1 and 2 (understanding of the subject matter of the discipline, its concepts and theories, and knowledge of the history and institutions of the CJS) are assessed through essays, written exams, oral/visual presentations, computer workshops, and performance in seminar discussions. Skill 3 (investigation of questions relevant to the discipline) is demonstrated by student performance in coursework where learners have considerable latitude to propose and negotiate the topic of their own assignments. Skills 4 and 5 (using appropriate social scientific methods to the study of crime and social control and applying concepts and theories in research) are especially honed and tested by means of research exercises and essays at the Level 2 compulsory module, at the Level 3 compulsory modules. Level 3 assignments require students to investigate questions relevant to criminology using the methods they have studied/acquired in the Level 2 compulsory module and concepts and theories they have learned in the Level 1 compulsory module. Skill 6 (awareness of ethical issues in criminological research) will be demonstrated by means of exercises (integrated into the Level 3 compulsory modules) that test student knowledge and understanding in this area. Skill 7 (potentially apply such skills in the context of a related occupation) is tested within the level 3 <i>Criminal Justice Placement</i> module but is the outcome of the overall grounding in theories, methods and applied research that is the purpose of the Criminology Award.</p>

D Transferable Skills and other attributes

D Transferable skills or other attributes	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
<p>On successful completion of this award students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicate ideas confidently, clearly and concisely.2. Organise and present information analytically and yet accessibly.3. Use information technology and other learning resources effectively.4. Learn and work independently or as part of a team.5. Self-manage and self-motivate work commitments.6. Potentially apply such skills in an occupational context.	<p>Students' oral communication is developed through seminar discussion and presentations. Written communication skills are developed generally by means of the practical exercise of written assignments and tutor feedback on these assignments. Sessions on Level 1 and 2 compulsory modules are devoted to essay preparations.</p> <p>Students receive an introduction in the use of IT and library resources in their inductions at the beginning of the first year and are developed further in levels 2 and 3. Students are encouraged to use Blackboard UWE on-line system to obtain and work with learning materials. Students are encouraged to explore and evaluate library resources beyond those recommended by tutors and lecturers in course handbooks and to use the world wide web by the inclusion of named sites in module handbooks.</p> <p>Teamwork is promoted through seminar discussion, workshops, project work, group presentations, the <i>criminal justice placement</i> and in students' assumption of specific seminar obligations on behalf of their seminar groups.</p> <p>Students' development as learners is enhanced through guidance from tutors in lectures, seminars, module handbooks and coursework assessment feedback. Students also use the programme of study skills sessions that are part of the induction process and integral to compulsory modules at Levels 1 and 2 of the criminology programme. The Disability Centre will offer additional support for students with special needs.</p> <p>Self-management and self-motivation is encouraged through the choice given to students' options of modules, through selection of subjects for seminar discussion, through the onus placed on students to initiate discussion in seminars and prepare for them in advance, to research essays and the project and to manage and negotiate their work placement, if undertaken.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>All modules involve written assessments. The compulsory Level 3 module <i>Criminal Justice Placement</i> uses oral and visual methods of assessment.</p> <p>All assessed written coursework after term 1 has to be word-processed.</p> <p>Students become progressively independent and reflective as they move through ascending levels of the programme.</p>

	<p>Teamwork is monitored and evaluated especially by means of group presentations at Level 2.</p> <p>Self-management and self-motivation is required through the enforcement of deadlines for all coursework assessments, and in the independence required to manage self-selected essay and project assignments.</p>
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Section 4: Programme structure

level 1	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction to Criminological Theory</i> UPSNLD-30-1 • <i>Introduction to Criminal Justice</i> UPSNLE-30-1 	<p>Optional modules</p> <p>Two modules to be chosen – recommendation is <i>The Individual and Society</i> UPSNLB –30-1</p> <p>Plus 1 option from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLS Option list <p>OR 2 modules from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLS optional list 	<p>Interim Awards:</p> <p>Cert HE Criminology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements 120 • 60 from compulsory Criminology modules • 60 from option module list
Year At Virginia Commonwealth University L2			
UWE level 2 (VCU Level 300/400 modules)	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRJS 380 Research Methods in Criminal Justice 	<p>Optional modules</p> <p>Students must take 7 of the following modules (*see also final comment in this column):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRJS 300 Forensic Criminology • CRJS 320 Principles of Criminal Investigation • CRJS 324 Courts and Judicial Process • CRJS 351 Community-based correctional Programs • CRJS 370 Criminalistics and Crime Analysis • CRJS 378 Juvenile Justice, Law and Process • CRJS 382 Women in the Justice system • CRJS 450 Computer Forensic Investigation • CRJS 463 Comparative CJS <p>*It may be possible for the future to make other courses at VCU (within the field of Social Sciences and Humanities) available to our students since this is the norm for VCU students. These will be at Level 300 or 400 courses only. Under these circumstances it is envisaged that Single Honours Criminology students will then be allowed to take up to two courses outside of the disciplines of their existing programme of study</p>	<p>Interim Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements: 240 (equivalent) Diploma in Higher Education • Other requirements None

level 3	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical Criminology</i> UPSNQA-30-3 	<p>Optional modules</p> <p>Three modules chosen (or equivalent) from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social Psychology of Violence and Crime</i> UPSNPU-30-3 • <i>Crime in America: Organisation and Control</i> UPHPJF-30-3 • <i>Poverty, Power and Participation</i> UPSNPL-30-3 • <i>Racism, Gender and Class: Intersection and Power Relations</i> UPSNPT-30-3 • <i>Penology</i> UJE033C3 • <i>Ethical Issues in Politics</i> UPPNGB-30-3 	<p>Prerequisite requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-requisite for Criminology Project and Criminal Justice Placement modules is level 2 Research Themes and Methods in Criminology (Sociology: UPSNMW-30-2) <p>Minimum credit/module requirements 360 credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 from compulsory Criminology modules • 210 from optional module lists
	<p>Core modules</p> <p>None</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Economics and the Legal System of the UK</i> UPEND4-30-3 • <i>Terrorism</i> UPSNQV-15-3 • <i>Criminology Project</i> UPSNPW-30-3 or • <i>Criminal Justice Placement</i> UPSNQB-30-3) 	<p>Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target/highest BA (Hons) Criminology • Default title: BA (Hons) Social Science <p>Credit requirements 360</p>

Section 5: Entry requirements

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of UWE with specific requirements as listed below:

GCSE Levels

Maths/Statistics, English

A & AS Levels

Normally Tariff Points with the range of 240-300.

BTEC – An appropriate National Diploma with good standing and final year grades within the range 6 Merits – 2 Distinctions and 4 Merits.

Irish Highers – Passes with grades within the following range: BBB – BBBB.

Access Courses – Validated access course in appropriate subjects.

Baccalaureate – European with between 66% and 70%. International with between 24 and 28 points.

Students seeking to undertake the international variant are advised that a selection process may apply. Further information is available from the Faculty Academic Registrar (or nominee)

Section 6: Assessment Regulations

Approved to the University Academic Regulations and Procedures

Section 7: Student learning: distinctive features and support

- Induction Programme for orientation and study skills
- Detailed student handbooks and module guides.
- Extensive specialist library.
- On-line learning resources, internet, intranet and email access.
- Dedicated office hours for all staff, student email system, trained counsellors for both pastoral and academic support.
- Personal Academic Tutors
- Specialist equipment, resources, and technical and instructing staff for media production.
- A wide range of teaching and learning strategies and a varied range of assessment modes.
- Early Assessment to encourage retention and progression
- A strong emphasis on developing analytical and critical skills.
- A lively relationship between theory and practice.
- Access to academic tutors and student advisors.
- Graduate Development Programme
- International Variant includes directly comparable features and support. In many areas student support at VCU is superior to that provided at UWE
- International Variant additionally provides access to a range of specialist areas of Criminology that are not available at UWE
- International Variant extends the comparative sociological aspects of the programme as a whole.

Section 8 Reference points/benchmarks

- The benchmarks for criminology have been read and used for guidance.
 - Criminology awards are not widespread – but those that do exist have been studied for general guidance. They differ widely in structure – but the overall content of such programmes (aside from specialist options) does not, in general, differ significantly from the programme proposed.
 - University teaching and learning policies
 - University assessment policy
 - Faculty teaching and learning policy
- International Variant was also planned in accordance with QAA benchmarked requirements .

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications. These are available on the University Intranet.

Programme monitoring and review may lead to changes to approved programmes. There may be a time lag between approval of such changes/modifications and their incorporation into an authorised programme specification. Enquiries about any recent changes to the programme made since this specification was authorised should be made to the relevant Faculty Administrator.