

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title	Behind Bars: Prison and Society
Course Title(s)	BSc (Hons) Criminology BSc (Hons) Criminology (with Foundation Year)
College	College of Society and Professions
School	School of Law and Education
Parent Course (if applicable)	
Level	5
Semester	2
Module Code	CRM_5_BPS
Credit Value	20
Student Study Hours	Total hours: 200 Contact hours: 36 Student managed learning hours: 164 Placement hours (if applicable):
Pre-requisite Module(s) or/and learning	n/a
Co-requisite Module(s)	n/a
Module Leader	TBC
Short Description	This module introduces students to contemporary debates about imprisonment, including global trends and mass incarceration. It explores key issues in the prison system, with a focus on Britain, such as living conditions, overcrowding, understaffing and prisoners' rights. It provides students with a critical understanding of the differential experiences of incarceration according to gender, race, disability, age, nationality and the impact of imprisonment on individual prisoners, their families, communities and society. It engages with wider debates on the use of detention in relation to immigration policies and to suppress dissent. It also engages with theories and debates about prison abolitionism.
Aims	The module aims to introduce students to current trends and debates on prison policy in Britain and beyond. It encourages students to think critically about the role, the extent, and the limits of imprisonment in modern society. It aims to provide students with critical understanding of key social issues arising from imprisonment, theoretical perspectives on the changing use and functions of prisons, as well as the effectiveness of imprisonment and challenges of prison reform.
Learning Outcomes (Recommended 4 to 6 outcomes)	A. Knowledge and Understanding: A1. Knowledge of the key concepts, trends, functions and extent of imprisonment in contemporary society. A2. Critical understanding of key issues and debates in the prison system, including prisoners' rights and differential experiences of imprisonment.

	[CLO: A1, A2, A3 & A4] B. Intellectual Skills: B1. Ability to evaluate theories, policies and data about imprisonment. [CLO: B1, B2 & B3] C. Practical Skills: C1. Ability to retrieve, assess and use information from a variety of sources. C2. Ability to communicate orally in an effective manner [CLO: C2 & C4] D. Transferable Skills: D1. Ability to present an informed analysis of and argument about prison related issues. Knowledge and understanding of contemporary debates about prisons. [CLO: D1 & D4]
Employability	At the end of the module, students will have developed several transferrable skills, which will enhance their employability, including: - Ability to participate co-operatively and effectively in team activities - Ability to write clearly and present an evidence-informed argument - Ability to identify and use different sources of information - Knowledge of the key issues and current debates in the prison system
Teaching and Learning Pattern	Lectures Group Work Seminars Tutorials Laboratory Workshops Practical VLE Activities
Indicative Content	The birth of the modern prison Mass incarceration Order and Control in Prison Space, time and pains of imprisonment Differential experiences of imprisonment (gender, race, age, disability and nationality) Rehabilitation and recidivism The impacts of imprisonment on families and communities Use of detention in immigration policies and the concept of crimmigration Political Imprisonment The reform versus abolition debate
Assessment Method	Formative assessment: Presentation plan, including research question, outline and indicative sources Summative assessment:

	CW (100%) Group Presentation on a topic of interest for the group (20-25 minutes) [LO: A1, A2, B1, C1, C2, D1] OR CW (100%) Individual Presentation on a topic of interest for the student (10-12 minutes) [LO: A1, A2, B1, C1, C2, D1]
Mode of Resit	Formative assessment: Same as above Summative assessment: Asynchronous Presentation
Indicative Sources (Reading lists)	Core materials: Jewkes, Y (2012) <i>Handbook on prisons</i>. Abingdon: Routledge Matthews, R (2009) <i>Doing Time: An Introduction to the Sociology of Imprisonment</i>. Basingstoke: Palgrave Scott, David & Codd, Helen. (2010). <i>Controversial Issues in Prisons</i>. Optional reading: Davis, A. (2005). <i>Abolition Democracy: Beyond Prisons, Torture, Empire</i>. New York: Seven Stories Press. Foucault, M. (1977) <i>Discipline and Punish; the birth of the Prison</i>: Harmondsworth, Penguin. Jewkes, Y. & Johnston, H (Eds) (2011) <i>Prison Readings</i>. Abingdon: Routledge Skarbek, D. (2020) <i>The puzzle of prison order</i>. Oxford: OUP
Other Learning Resources	VLE: module Moodle site Box of Broadcast (BoB): the module is provided with a film playlist on BoB Relevant journals: British Journal of Criminology Criminology and Criminal Justice Punishment and Society Additional Resources: HM Prison Service - GOV.UK Inside Time – the weekly online National Newspaper for Prisoners & Detainees

