

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title	Crimes of the Powerful
Course Title(s)	BSc (Hons) Criminology BSc (Hons) Criminology (with Foundation Year) BSc (Hons) Criminology and Law
College	College of Society and Professions
School	School of Law and Education
Parent Course (if applicable)	BSc (Hons) Criminology
Level	6
Semester	2
Module Code	CRM_6_CRP
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 explores crimes and harms committed by states, corporations and international organisations, including violations of human rights, colonialism, environmental harms and ecocide. It explores the different forms of violence caused by both legal and illegal acts and omissions by powerful actors and how they affect people, communities, workers, consumers, non-human animals and the environment. It examines the challenges involved in conceptualizing, regulating and responding to state and corporate crimes. The critical engagement with concepts such as power, globalization and neoliberalism provides a framework within which students explore contemporary debates and case studies.
Aims	This module aims to: - foster students' critical interest in global relations between states and corporations and the implications of their conduct on human and non-human animals and the environment; - enhance students' understanding of the differential impacts and experiences of harms and crimes of the powerful with particular attention to the North/South divide and the intersection of gender, race and class at global level; - promote students' understanding of key theories explaining state crimes, corporate crimes and environmental and social harms.

Learning Outcomes (Recommended 4 to 6 outcomes)	A. Knowledge and Understanding: A1. Ability to explain the interconnection of power and economic interests between corporations and states at global level; A2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of key concepts and issues about state and corporate crimes and harms and the challenges to identify and respond to these; [CLO: A2, A3 & A4] B. Intellectual Skills: B1. Ability to apply concepts and theories about international political and economic processes and structures to the study of crimes and harms by powerful actors; [CLO: B2 & B3] C. Practical Skills: C1. Ability to structure and present effectively, in written or oral form, an analytical and coherent case-study; [CLO: C1, C2 & C3] D. Transferable Skills: D1. Demonstrate analytical skills in devising arguments, using relevant evidence from a variety of sources to form judgments [CLO: D1]
Employability	The module will contribute to the possession of knowledge, intellectual and practical skills capable of application in the public and private sectors or the pursuit of further academic work: critical appraisals of materials from different sources, retrieving and analysing information, ability to connect local issues to global trends.
Teaching and Learning Pattern	Lectures Group Work Seminars Tutorials Laboratory Workshops Practical VLE Activities
Indicative Content	Conceptualising Crimes of the Powerful State Crimes and Harms Crimes of the Empire Corporate Crimes State-Corporate Crimes Crimes and Harms against the environment

	Clientelism and Corruption White Collar Crimes States Finance and Neoliberalism Organised crime Responding to Crimes of the Powerful
Assessment Method	Formative assessment: Case study plan, including information about chosen case study, applicable categories of crimes of the powerful and theories, indicative list of sources. Summative assessment: CW (100%) Written Case study about a real case of crime/harm of the powerful (3,000 words) OR CW (100%) Oral Case Study presentation (15 minutes) [LO: A1, A2, B1, C1, D1]
Mode of Resit	Formative assessment: Same as above Summative assessment: Choice between Written Case Study or Asynchronous Presentation of Case Study
Indicative Sources (Reading lists)	Core materials: Barak, G. (2015) <i>The Routledge International Handbook of the Crimes of the Powerful</i>. Abingdon: Routledge. Copson, L., Dimou, E., Tombs, S. (2025) <i>Crime, Harm and the State</i>, Bristol: BUP Lynes, A., Treadwell, J., Bavin, K. (2024) <i>Crimes of the Powerful and the contemporary condition</i>. Bristol: BUP Rothe, D. & Kauzlarich, D. (2016) <i>Crimes of the Powerful: An Introduction</i> London: Routledge Rothe, D., & Kauzlarich, D. (2022). <i>Crimes of the Powerful: White-Collar Crime and Beyond</i> (2nd ed.). Routledge. Optional reading: Barak G. (2017) <i>Unchecked Corporate Power: Why the Crimes of Multinational Corporations Are Routinized Away and What We Can Do About It</i>, London: Routledge Monaghan M., Prideaux S. (2016) <i>State Crime and Immorality: The Corrupting Influence of the Powerful</i>. Bristol: Policy Press Snell, K. (2026) <i>Death by the Powerful. Invisibility and Social Harm</i>. Bristol: BUP. Whyte, D (2020) <i>Ecocide. Kill the corporation before it kills us</i>. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

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 State Crime Journal
---------------------------------	--