

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title	Policing, Power and Public Order
Course Title(s)	BSc (Hons) Criminology BSc (Hons) Criminology (with Foundation Year) BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
College	College of Society and Professions
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Parent Course (if applicable)	BSc (Hons) Criminology
Level	5
Semester	2
Module Code	CRM_5_PPP
Credit Value	20
Student Study Hours	Total hours: 200 Contact hours: 36 Student managed learning hours: 164 Placement hours (if applicable): n/a
Pre-requisite Module(s) or/and learning	None
Co-requisite Module(s)	None
Module Leader	TBC
Short Description	This module interrogates the power and politics of policing through a critical lens, exposing historical, social, and contemporary struggles shaping law enforcement today. While rooted in the UK, students will draw on global comparisons to uncover how systems of control operate. Students will challenge orthodox narratives of the Metropolitan Police from the 1829 Act through colonial entanglements to modern controversies. Students will examine racialised policing, community surveillance, and securitisation of minority groups, exploring whether reform or abolitionism is required. Along the way, students will dissect police culture, legitimacy, and procedural justice to understand the global crisis of policing.
Aims	The module aims to introduce students to the historical, social and political foundations of modern policing. It encourages students to critically examine the role of policing from its colonial roots to the global and more localised contexts to uncover systems of power and control. Theoretical perspectives will be explored including reformist and abolitionist perspectives to challenge and explore contemporary debates on policing, legitimacy and justice.
Learning Outcomes (Recommended 4 to 6 outcomes)	A. Knowledge and Understanding: A1. Explain the historical and contemporary development of policing in England and Wales

	A2: Critical understanding of key issues and debates in policing and role of police, including differential experiences of policing [CLO: A1, A2, A3 & A4] B. Intellectual Skills: B1. Ability to analyse and compare different case studies from Britain and global settings [CLO: B1, B2 & B3] C. Practical Skills: C1. Designing and presenting a poster [CLO: C1, C2, C3 & C4] D. Transferable Skills: D1. Knowledge and understanding of contemporary debates about policing and the role of police [CLO: D1]
Employability	At the end of the module, students will have developed several transferrable skills, which will enhance their employability, including: 1. Ability to participate co-operatively and effectively in team activities 2. Ability to present an-evidence informed argument using both written and visual methods 3. Ability to identify and use different sources of information 4. Knowledge of the key issues and current debates in policing and role of the police
Teaching and Learning Pattern	Lectures Group Work Seminars Tutorials Laboratory Workshops Practical VLE Activities
Indicative Content	Introduction to police and policing The History and Politics of the formation of the Metropolitan Police Police and Race Relations Community policing & ‘suspect’ communities Exploring Police Culture(s) Policing the Private Policing Sex Work Policing Public Order and Protest Rural policing & under-criminalisation of privileged communities Reform, abolition and change in policing
Assessment Method	

	Formative assessment: Student group work to provide a structured plan for the summative assessment at the mid-point of the module. This will be presented informally in the workshop for peer collaboration. Summative assessment: CW1 (100%) Poster presentation Students can choose to deliver orally (5 mins each) a poster presentation either in groups or individually, informed by scholarly research and global perspectives on police/policing. or Students can choose to deliver in writing (1,000 words each) a poster presentation either in groups or individually, informed by scholarly research and global perspectives on police/policing. LO: A1, A2, B1, C1, D1
Mode of Resit	As above
Indicative Sources (Reading lists)	Core materials: Bowling, B. & Reiner, R. (2019) Politics of the Police, Oxford University Press. Davanna, T. & Rossi, F. (2025) Policing in Crisis: Policing and Resistance in 21st Century Britain, Bristol University Press Optional reading: Vitale, A. (2017) The End of Policing, London: Verso
Other Learning Resources	VLE: the module will be supported by a Moodle site which includes links to reading lists, websites and academic sources.