

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title	Punishment and Social Control
Course Title(s)	BSc (Hons) Criminology BSc (Hons) Criminology (with Foundation Year) BSc (Hons) Criminology and Law BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
College	College of Society and Professions
School	School of Law and Education
Parent Course (if applicable)	BSc (Hons) Criminology
Level	5
Semester	1
Module Code	CRM_5_PSC
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	The module explores the juridical justifications and the sociological explanations for punishment and examines the role of social structures and ideologies in shaping the uses and practices of punishment. It provides students with an understanding of inequalities and biases in the penal system and how they link to social control. The module will introduce students to historical patterns in the use of punishment, as well as to global and current trends, such as securitisation, surveillance and repression of dissent.
Aims	This module aims to: • Introduce students to key theories, concepts and practices in punishment and social control. • Develop an understanding of how social and political structures, inequalities and global trends affect penal policies and practices • Foster a critical discussion about the effectiveness and purposes of contemporary forms of punishment
Learning Outcomes (Recommended 4 to 6 outcomes)	A. Knowledge and Understanding: A1. Critical appreciation of key concepts and debates about punishment and social control

	A2. Ability to explain how social structures, inequalities and global trends shape approaches to punishment [CLO: A2, A3 & A4] B. Intellectual Skills: B1. Critically identify and evaluate uses of punishment and relevant debates and policies [CLO: B2 & B3] C. Practical Skills: C1. Ability to gather and analyse evidence from a variety of sources and evaluate policies [CLO: C2 & C4] D. Transferable Skills: D1. Ability to communicate clearly and present an evidence-informed argument in written or oral form [CLO: D2 & D4]
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 identify and use different sources of information 3. Knowledge of the key and current debates in the penal system
Teaching and Learning Pattern	Lectures Group Work Seminars Tutorials Laboratory Workshops Practical VLE Activities
Indicative Content	Juridical justification for punishment Sociological perspectives on Punishment Punishment and the role of ideology Global trends and the political economy of punishment Risk, prevention and security society Class and punishment Race and punishment Gender and punishment Restorative Justice and alternatives to custody Probation

	Death penalty Arbitrary detention Punishing dissent
Assessment Method	Formative assessment: Coursework plan which indicates the area of policy, applicable evidence and an indicative list of sources. Summative assessment: CW (100%) Policy briefing (2,500 words) [LO: A1, A2, B1, C1, D1] The policy briefing will identify a key issue, retrieve and assess evidence, policies and relevant theories, and offer recommendations. OR CW (100%) Professional discussion on policy evaluation, 12-15 minutes. Students will be provided with 5 questions to prepare ahead of the Professional discussion. [LO: A1, A2, B1, C1, D1]
Mode of Resit	Formative assessment: Same as above Summative assessment: Same as above
Indicative Sources (Reading lists)	Core materials: Cavadino, M., Dignan, J. and Mair, G. (2019) <i>The Penal System: An Introduction</i>, 6th edition. London: Sage. Harding, J. Davies, P. Mair, G. (2017) <i>An introduction to Criminal Justice</i>. London: Sage Arrigo, B. Sellers, B (2021) <i>The Pre-Crime Society: Crime, Culture and Control in the Ultramodern Age</i>. Bristol: BUP Optional reading: Cohen, S. (1985) <i>Visions of Social Control: Crime, Punishment and Classification</i>. Cambridge: Polity. Ferstman, C. (2024) <i>Conceptualising arbitrary detention</i>. Bristol: BUP Foucault, M. (1977) <i>Discipline and Punish; the birth of the Prison</i>: Harmondsworth, Penguin. Matthews, R. (2009) <i>Doing Time: An Introduction to the Sociology of Imprisonment (2nd ed)</i>
Other Learning Resources	VLE: module Moodle site Relevant journals: British Journal of Criminology Criminology and Criminal Justice Justice Power and Resistance Punishment and Society