

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title	Understanding Criminological Perspectives
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)	
Level	4
Semester	2
Module Code	CRM_4_UCP
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	n/a
Co-requisite Module(s)	
Module Leader	TBC
Short Description	This module introduces students to key criminological concepts, questions, and debates while supporting their development as independent learners. It explores what crime is and how criminologists study it. Alongside subject content, students will build essential academic skills such as referencing, academic integrity, and locating academic sources. The module encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and engagement with contemporary social issues, laying a strong foundation for further criminological study.
Aims	- To introduce students to key criminological concepts, debates, and perspectives that form the foundation of the discipline. - To develop students' academic and study skills necessary for success in undergraduate criminology, including research, writing, and critical thinking. - To foster an understanding of the role and practice of criminologists in analysing crime, justice, and society.
Learning Outcomes	A. Knowledge and Understanding

(Recommended 4 to 6 outcomes)	A1. Ability to describe key criminological theories, concepts, and debates related to crime, deviance, and social control. A2. Demonstrate an understanding of how crime is defined, measured, and studied within criminology. [CLO: A1, A3 & A4] B. Intellectual Skills B1. Apply introductory criminological concepts and theories to simple case studies or contemporary examples. B2. Begin to analyse and question taken-for-granted assumptions about crime and justice. [CLO: B1 & B3] C. Practical Skills C1. Locate, read, and use a variety of sources relevant to criminology. [CLO: C1, C2 & C4] D. Transferable Skills D1. Communicate ideas clearly in written, visual, and oral formats appropriate to undergraduate study. [CLO: D1]
Employability	The aims and learning outcomes of the module are intended to 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. This will allow students to undertake work in a wide range of fields in research, politics and policy, the civil service, teaching, local government, journalism and management. At the end of this module students should have acquired a range of skills linked to future employment: - Study skills and effective, self-directed learning - Ability to understand and apply concepts - Ability to describe and express concepts in a variety of ways - Time management and meeting deadlines - IT Skills
Teaching and Learning Pattern	Lectures Group Work Seminars Tutorials Laboratory Workshops Practical VLE Activities
Indicative Content	Classicism Labelling Strain Theory

	Left and Right Realism Sociological Positivism Biological Positivism Southern Criminology Feminist Criminology
Assessment Method	Formative assessment: Theoretical Case Study Each week students are prompted to consider where the theories we cover may apply examples from recent events or personal experience. Students are asked to make a note of these examples and time will be given in sessions towards the end of the module to work through one essay question which applies to a specific case study. Students will be encouraged to carefully engage with the theory when applying it to their case and one-to-one meetings with students during and outside class will provide them with feedback on their application of theory and essay outlines. Summative assessment: Option 1. 2,000-word Case study 100% (LO: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, D1) Building on their formative case study, students are asked to analyse their chosen event or experience drawing on two perspectives which we have studied throughout the module. The paper must correspond to their chosen case-study and students must illustrate how the formative feedback has informed their approach to the piece via the essay cover sheet. Option 2. Visual representation of Theory and commentary (LO: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, D1) Students are asked to choose a theory and to visualise it with an accompanying 1500 Word commentary. The commentary must include academic references as well as consideration of the theory's potential applications. Students can choose to represent their chosen theory in any way they want if it is visual and can be uploaded as a pdf. Examples can include: comics, graphs, single images, and photographs
Mode of Resit	Formative assessment: Same as above Summative assessment: Same as above

Indicative Sources (Reading lists)	Core materials Downes, D. and Rock, P. (2016) <i>Understanding Deviance: a guide to the sociology of crime and rule-breaking</i> , 7th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Newburn, T. (ed.) (2009) <i>Key Readings in Criminology</i> . Cullompton: Willan. White, R., Haines, F. and Asquith, N. (2023) <i>Crime and Criminology: An Introduction</i> , 7 th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press Optional reading Newburn, T. (2017) <i>Criminology</i> , 4 th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Other Learning Resources	VLE, Podcasts