

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Criminology		
MODULE CODE	LW2013 [L5]	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

- facilitate knowledge of the major theories, topics and debates developed within criminology
- facilitate understanding of key concepts, arguments, and applications of criminological theory
- facilitate the development of critical analytic and evaluation skills in relation to criminological ideas
- facilitate consideration and evaluation of the relevance of criminological theory to current crime problems
- facilitate the development of skills in the location, collation, analysis and synthesis of a range of relevant information, including books and journal articles, internet sources, official crime statistics, and articles appearing in the news media
- facilitate the ability to interpret, evaluate and apply information about crime and criminological theory from a variety of sources

MODULE CONTENT

- Criminological positivism – biological, psychological and sociological
- ‘Soft positivism’ – differential association and anomie
- Non-positivist criminology - Matza and drift; labelling theory
- Appreciative criminology, Katz; cultural criminology
- Radical and critical criminology
- Realist criminology – right realism and underclass theory; left realism; crime and market society
- Gender and criminology – feminist perspectives on female crime; masculinities
- Race, crime and criminalisation
- Victimisation – issues and theories
- Crime prevention – situational crime prevention; crime prevention and social order
- Corporate crime and elite crime
- Crimes of the state and crimes against humanity
- Transnational crime; crime and migration
- Drugs and crime
- Gangs in Britain

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. State the main sources of data on the nature and extent of crime
2. Discuss critically the principal concepts and theories in criminology and their strengths and weaknesses
3. present analytic summaries of at least four well-established criminological theories; be aware of the main criticisms made of them; be aware of any recent developments of the theories

4. evaluate traditional and contemporary theories in relation to race, gender and class structures and apply to contemporary issues in crime
5. apply and discuss critically a range of criminological perspectives on topics such as crime prevention, corporate crime, state crime, transnational crime and crimes against humanity

TEACHING METHODS

The module is delivered primarily by lectures and seminars. Lectures introduce students to the relevant law, concepts and other information. Lecture 'slots' will incorporate a variety of interactive exercises involving the whole cohort. Seminars are designed to require students to apply concepts to the legal and research material and arrive at their own conclusions. In online seminars students research and answer set questions and interact with the lecturer as a class.

Assessment is two written courseworks. The first coursework is an essay plan and oral discussion of 750 words and the second is an essay of 2500 words. Both courseworks test knowledge, understanding and ability to apply these to set questions. Feedback from the essay plan will indicate elements of the assessment criteria which students should strengthen in preparing for the end of module assessment.

Following the seminars there will be timetabled sessions of supervised research and preparation for the final coursework, including utilisation of feedback from the first coursework.

The assessment strategy encourages students to acquire and apply knowledge of the subject matter covered by the module, engaging in critical evaluation of relevant issues and controversies throughout, and enables them to develop their assessment skills by applying prior feedback.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a Plan (25%) and a Written Assignment (75%).

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English