

Warning: An incomplete or missing proforma may have resulted from system verification processing

Title: Media Constructions of Crime and Deviance  
 Status: Definitive  
 Code: **4005CRIM** (114361)  
 Version Start Date: 01-08-2016

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
 Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Gemma Ahearne	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ4      **Credit Value:** 24      **Total Delivered Hours:** 74  
**Total Learning Hours:** 240      **Private Study:** 166

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	24
Tutorial	26.5
Workshop	22

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Portfolio	AS1	Portfolio	20	
Exam	AS2	1.5 hr exam	40	1.5
Essay	AS3	Essay	40	

### Aims

1. To focus upon the role played by the media in its constructions of deviance.
2. To understand the power and influence of mass media in shaping mainstream perceptions of perpetrators and victims within society.

3. *To investigate theories of moral panics and sociology of deviance through an examination of the roles of the media, public, criminal justice agencies and politicians in constructing 'deviance' and 'crime'.*
4. *To engage with academic reading and everyday media in order to reflect and critique media constructions of crime and deviance.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically examine the various styles of news coverage and use of media discourse and images.
- 2 Critically examine the relationship between mass media and media entertainment for the construction of crime and deviance.
- 3 Reflect on theories of sociology of deviance for the development of moral panics and the role of media in generating common images, folk devils.
- 4 Independently read around and reflect on media constructions of crime and deviance, through set reading and gathering examples of everyday media.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Portfolio	4	
Exam	3	
Essay	1	2

## **Outline Syllabus**

*Media constructions of deviance (language, imagery, newsworthiness stories).  
Varieties of contemporary moral panics, including their gendered and racialised dimensions.*

*Concept of a moral panic.*

*Social problems and moral panic.*

*Collective behaviour.*

*Interest groups.*

## **Learning Activities**

Attending lectures, tutorials and workshops, reading, note-taking, discussion and gathering news articles. Preparation for essay and exams.

## **Notes**

This module aims to achieve three things. First it will address and guide students through theories of mass media, mass society and the production and representation of crime and deviance in these popular domains. Second, drawing on newspaper articles, news programmes and documentaries, this module will encourage students to examine how language, images and 'official' knowledge evokes fear, anger and sympathy. Third, the concept and criteria thought to be necessary for the generation of a moral panic will be introduced, and both historical and contemporary examples of moral panics will be examined in order to draw out the common themes.

Questions pursued will include: What is the relationship between panics and anxiety around 'street crime' and social order? How are panics generated and for whose gain? How are 'panics' represented and to what extent are they influenced by the media? Why does society express concern over some measurably trivial issues and not other, measurably more serious issues?