

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY
 Status: Definitive
 Code: **4503LAWSTH** (116348)
 Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Law
 Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Lawrence Burke	

Academic Level: FHEQ4
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 92.00
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 148

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	40.000
Seminar	30.000
Tutorial	10.000
Workshop	10.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Exam	AS2	Examination - To assess the students understanding of both criminological theory and political thinking that can influence policy and practice.	50.0	2.00
Essay	AS1	Essay – Nature v Nurture debate. This essay will require students to compare and contrast biological and social theory and draw conclusions relating to the validity of these contrasting theories (2,500 words).	50.0	

Aims

This module aims to provide students with the knowledge relating to criminological theory and develop their ability to apply it within the field of professional practice.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Describe and evaluate the main criminological theories by reviewing criminal behaviour and applying relevant theories, assessing their value and applying intervention strategies.
- 2 Investigate and explain statistics to reflect their validity, usefulness and reliability in reflecting the measures and level of crime in the U.K.
- 3 Describe, explain and evaluate how the concept of nature and nurture is used to explain criminality and deviance.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

EXAM	1	2
Essay	3	

Outline Syllabus

- *Identify the distinction between crime and deviance*
- *Introduction to functionalist approaches and labelling*
- *The historical development of criminology as an academic discipline*
- *Introduction to conflict and realist theories*
- *Introduction of feminist and racial issues in a criminological context*
- *Introduction and examination of post-structuralist perspectives*
- *Compare and evaluate the different contributions to understanding crime advocated by biological, psychological, sociological and feminist perspectives*
- *Compare political influences on criminological and criminal justice perspectives and developments*
- *Roles and function of police, CPS, courts, prison, probation and YOS*
- *Models of justice – punishment versus rehabilitation*
- *Nothing works versus what works – influences on sentencing philosophies*
- *The prosecution, defence and sentencing process*
- *Classical Criminology, Populist Conservative Criminology, Labeling Theories*
- *Investigate victim impact statements and their place in achieving justice*
- *Investigate the study "mis spent youth" and its reflections of Youth Culture in the 20th century*
- *Consider the New Labour philosophy of the 1990's 'Tough on Crime, tough on the Causes of Crime'*

- *Introduction of the magistrate's role in sentencing.*
- *Explain how criminological theory can influence intervention strategies*

Learning Activities

Lectures, collective pooling, group work, independent study, reflective practice, literature reviews, research and investigation practices.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Case, S and Haines, K
Publishing Year	2009
Title	Understanding Youth Offending: Risk Factor Research, Policy and Practice
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Willan Publishing
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Hopkins Burke, R
Publishing Year	2008
Title	An Introduction to Criminological Theory
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	2nd edition, Willian Publishing
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Newburn, T
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Criminology
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cullompton: Willan Publishing
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Newburn, T
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Key Readings in Criminology
Subtitle	
Edition	

Publisher	Cullompton: Willan Publishing
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Joyce, P
Publishing Year	2006
Title	An Introduction to Crime and the Criminal Justice System
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Willian Publishing
ISBN	

Notes

This module will develop the students understanding of the main criminological theories and their link to the causes and explanations of crime.

The module will explore Marxist thinking and its links to left wing views explaining conflict theory. By contrast the module will examine Right Wing approaches to criminal behaviour and the rational free choice perception that is argued should be dealt with by Just Deserts Sentencing.

Additionally the module will consider the nature v nurture arguments and link this thinking with bio-social theory in an aim to explain criminality. Finally we will examine political and social responses to crime and how the criminal justice system agencies operate within their given specialist roles.