

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: RESEARCHING CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Status: Definitive but changes made
Code: **5005LAWCJ** (107801)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2014

Owning School/Faculty: Law
Teaching School/Faculty: Law

Team	Leader
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Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 24.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 52.00
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 188

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	38.000
Tutorial	14.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	1500 word assignment - literature review	30.0	
Report	AS2	500 word report - SPSS Report	20.0	
Essay	AS3	2000 word assignment - research proposal	50.0	

Aims

To prepare students for the dissertation and work based project modules at Level 3 of the BA Criminal Justice single and joint honours courses.

To introduce the key epistemological and methodological issues that impact upon research into crime and criminal justice.

To introduce the particular research theories and methods which researchers use to study crime and criminal justice.

To explain the politics and practice of crime and criminal justice research.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Recognise and evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical perspectives on research into crime and criminal justice.
- 2 Understand how to plan and construct a literature review as part of the preparation for research.
- 3 Show awareness of the reality and politics of research into crime and criminal justice.
- 4 Relate theory to issues and problems which could be faced while doing research in practice.
- 5 Recognise the substance, strengths and weaknesses of quantitative and qualitative research techniques, when used individually and in combination with others.
- 6 Show awareness of basic techniques of quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
- 7 Construct a viable, robust and well-planned research design and methodology, applying data and techniques learned to a personal area of specialist study.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Literature Review	1	2	3	4	5
SPSS Report	5	6			
Research Proposal	1	3	4	5	7

Outline Syllabus

Introduction: What is social research?

The Politics of Criminal Justice research

Ethical issues in Criminal Justice research

Producing a Literature Review for your Research

Sources of Criminal Justice Research Information

Designing Research Questions for Quantitative Research

Conducting Quantitative Research - Challenges, Dilemmas and Lessons from the Field

SPSS Session 1 - Designing Databases and Getting to Grips with SPSS

SPSS Session 2 - Using SPSS to Analyse Quantitative Data

Reflections on the use of Quantitative Research Methods in Criminal Justice Research

Qualitative Research - An Introduction
Qualitative Research Techniques - Interviews
The Importance of Coding in Qualitative Research
Qualitative Data Analysis: Principles and Practice
Qualitative Research Techniques - Ethnography
Reflections on Research Design
Ideas Exchange - Peer Review Session
Writing Research Proposals
Module Overview

Learning Activities

22 lectures: listening, note-taking, critical reflection

22 tutorials: reading, discussion around relevant material

Private study: reading, analysis of and research into information sources (including electronic sources)

Assessment: researching, planning and writing the assignments

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Bryman, A.
Publishing Year	2012
Title	Social Research Methods
Subtitle	
Edition	(4th ed.)
Publisher	Oxford: Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Westmarland, L.
Publishing Year	2011
Title	Researching Criminal Justice: Tales from the field
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	King, R. D. and Wincup, E. (ed.)
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Doing Research on Crime and Justice
Subtitle	
Edition	(2nd ed.)
Publisher	Oxford: Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	David, M. and Sutton, C.
Publishing Year	2010
Title	Social Research
Subtitle	An Introduction
Edition	(2nd ed.)
Publisher	London: Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Gray, D.
Publishing Year	2009
Title	Doing Research in the Real World
Subtitle	
Edition	(2nd ed.)
Publisher	London: Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Bernasco, W. (ed.)
Publishing Year	2010
Title	Offenders on Offending
Subtitle	Learning about crime from criminals
Edition	
Publisher	Cullompton: Willan
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Davies, P., Francis, P. and Jupp, P. (eds.)
Publishing Year	2010
Title	Doing Criminological Research
Subtitle	
Edition	(2nd ed.)
Publisher	London: Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	May, T.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Social Research
Subtitle	Issues, Methods and Process
Edition	(3rd ed.)
Publisher	Buckingham: Open University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Noaks, L., and Wincup, E.

Publishing Year	2004
Title	Criminological Research
Subtitle	Understanding Qualitative Methods
Edition	
Publisher	London: Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Robson, C.
Publishing Year	2002
Title	Real World Research
Subtitle	A Resource for Social Scientists and Practical Researchers
Edition	(2nd ed)
Publisher	Oxford: Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Crow, I. and Semmens, N.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Researching Criminology
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: McGraw-Hill/Open University
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Kumar, R.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Research Methodology
Subtitle	A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners
Edition	(2nd ed)
Publisher	London: Sage
ISBN	

Notes

This module aims to give students a comprehensive introduction to both the theory and practice of research on crime and the criminal justice system. It will link theories to the practical issues relating to doing these kinds of research, using case-studies to illustrate the possible difficulties which student may face when doing research for themselves (including political and ethical obstacles). It will also act as a guide to the strengths and weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research methods in the context of crime and criminal justice research. The assignments for this module are designed to be as useful and practical as possible to students planning and undertaking research for the first time.