

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: RESEARCHING LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Status: Definitive
Code: **5009LAWCJ** (107806)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

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

Team	Leader
Matthew Millings	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 12.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 120.00
Total Learning Hours: 120 **Private Study:** 0

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11.000
Online	98.000
Seminar	11.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Coursework: 100% 3,000 assignment (word research proposal)	100.0	

Aims

- To prepare students for the dissertation and work based project modules at Level of the LLB Law and Criminal Justice programme
- To introduce the key epistemological and methodological issues that impact upon research into crime and justice
- To introduce the particular research theories and methods which researchers use

to study crime, law 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, law, and criminal justice
- 2 Show an awareness of the reality and politics of research into crime, law, and criminal justice
- 3 Relate theory to issues and problems which could be faced while doing research in practice
- 4 Recognise the substance, strengths and weakness of quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- 5 Construct a viable, robust and well-planned research design and methodology, applying data and techniques learned to a personal area of specialised study

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

CW	1	2	3	4	5
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Outline Syllabus

Introduction - Sources of Research Information

Official Statistics - issues of validity and the 'dark figure'

Researching Words and Seeking Understanding - Qualitative Research in Law and Criminal Justice

Researching Numbers and Exploring Relationships - Quantitative Research in Criminal Justice

Introduction to data analysis

Researching Offenders and Victims

Researching the Police

Researching Courts and Sentencing

Researching Punishment

Researching Youth Crime/Justice

Module Overview

Learning Activities

11 Lectures: listening, note-taking, and critical reflection

11 Tutorials: reading and discussion around relevant material

Private study: reading and analysis of research into information sources

Assessment: researching, planning and writing the coursework

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Bryman, A.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Social Research Methods
Subtitle	
Edition	3rd
Publisher	Oxford, Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Jupp, V., Davies, P. M. and Francis, P. (eds)
Publishing Year	2000
Title	Doing Criminological Research
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London, Sage
ISBN	

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

Course Material	Book
Author	May, T.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Social Research

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Buckingham, Open University
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Banakar, R.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Theory and Methodology in Socio-Legal Research
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London, Hart
ISBN	

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

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

Course Material	Book
Author	Noaks, L. and Wincup, E. (eds.)
Publishing Year	2004
Title	Criminological Research: Understanding Qualitative Methods
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford: Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Silverman, D.
Publishing Year	2004
Title	Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Sage
ISBN	

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

Notes

The 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 students may face when conducting research themselves (including political and ethnical obstacles). It will also act as a guide to the strength and weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research methods in the context of crime, law and criminal justice research.