

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Social Problems, Crime and Criminalisation
Status: Definitive
Code: **6016CRIM** (117879)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2012

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

Team	Leader
Victoria Cooper	Y
Katherine Harbord	
Janet Jamieson	

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 50.50

Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 189

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	24.000
Workshop	24.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	2,500 Word Essay	50.0	
Exam	AS2	2.5 hr exam	50.0	2.50

Aims

- 1. To critically examine the differences between social groups and social problems, exploring their differential treatment within the criminal justice system.*
- 2. Explore theoretical explanations which argue that social problems are socially constructed, defined and normalised according to the political and socio-economic milieu.*

3. To critically explore the relationship between different social problems and the process of criminalisation vis a vis crime legislation, policy, practice and discourse.

4. To highlight the complexity of competing influences on criminal justice policy.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically explore the relationship between social problems and 'crime'.
- 2 Problematise theoretical, political and policy constructions of social problems.
- 3 Critique key policy documents, theoretical explanations and research findings relating to social problems and criminal justice interventions
- 4 Apply theoretical explanations of social problems to policy and practice by locating criminal justice policy in its theoretical, political and socio-economic context.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

2,500 Word Essay	1	2
2.5 hr exam	3	4

Outline Syllabus

Theory, criminal justice policy and practice relating to social problems

Political nature of research and policy

The construction of social problems and the impact of this on the process of criminalisation

Current legislation and debates around the causation and appropriate interventions for social problems

Learning Activities

Attendance in lectures. Attendance and participation in seminars. Use of Blackboard and participation in online discussions. Group work, note-taking, research / reading and active response to feedback. Preparation for assessment.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Bean, Philip
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Drugs and Crime

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Willan Publishing: Cullompton.
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Cicourel, A.V.
Publishing Year	1968
Title	The Social Organization of Juvenile Justice
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	New York: John Wiley Sons
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Clegg, S.
Publishing Year	1998
Title	Foucault, Power and Organizations
Subtitle	pp 29-48 in
Edition	
Publisher	A. McKinley and K. Starkey Foucault, Management and Organization Theory London: Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Fairclough, N.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	The Discourse of New Labour:
Subtitle	critical discourse analysis' pp 229-265 in M. Wetherell, S. Taylor and J.S. Yates (Eds.)
Edition	
Publisher	Discourse Theory and Practice: a reader London: Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Clapham, D and Hutson, S.
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Homelessness: Public Policies and Private Troubles
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Cassell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Howard League for Penal Reform
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Young, Neglected and Back

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Howard League for Penal Reform.
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Porteous, D.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	The Wrong Kind of Victim:
Subtitle	Young People and Street Crime' p.14-24 in Children as Victims
Edition	
Publisher	Kennison, P. and A. Goodman (Eds.)
ISBN	

Course Material	Reports
Author	Social Exclusion Unit
Publishing Year	2002
Title	Reducing Re-offending by Ex-Prisoners
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	SEU: London
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Wardhaugh, J.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	Subcity: Young People Homelessness and Crime
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Aldershot:Ashgate
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Harman, Karen and Paylor, Ian
Publishing Year	2002
Title	A Shift in Strategy
Subtitle	Criminal Justice Matters Vol. 47, pp8-9.
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Journal / Article
Author	Seddon, T, Ralphs, R and Williams, L
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Risk, Security and the 'Criminalization' Of British Drug Policy

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	British Journal of Criminology 48, 818–834.
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Spector, M. and Kitsuse, I. J.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	Constructing Social Problems
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Transaction Publishers
ISBN	

Notes

This module will introduce students to different types of social problems and enable them to problematise their social, legal and political construction as 'criminality'. Students will be given the option of selecting from a range of social problems to study, depending on current staff expertise. Theoretical explanations for social problems will be explored in the context of the types of policy and practice they produce and the overall contribution this makes in the process of criminalisation. Students will learn about the nature of criminal justice and other interventions for those experiencing social problems and will explore the range of competing influences on social and criminal justice policy; from research to politics.