

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Crime, Risk and Dangerousness  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **6021LAWCJ** (127207)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Justice Studies  
Teaching School/Faculty: Justice Studies

Team	Leader
Donna Halliday	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ6  
**Credit Value:** 20  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 22  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200  
**Private Study:** 178

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Tutorial	11

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	CW	3,000 word Essay	60	
Presentation	CW	Group Poster Presentation (20 Mins)	40	

### Aims

*The module aims are:*

*1. To develop an understanding and appreciation of the development of risk and dangerousness.*

*2 To locate these developments within the broader development of criminal justice, public protection, and victim-centred approaches.*

*3 To explore and understand practitioner perspectives and the impact of this agenda on agency practice, e.g. the impact of multi-agency working in relation to both offenders, victims and those deemed 'at risk'*

*4 To analyse contemporary and often controversial debates concerning the complex relationships between the state, the offender and the victim, particularly within the wider context of citizenship and the notion of rights. This includes examining the power differentials which exist between different groups in society, for example, gender, age, race, culture, disability and sexuality, and reflecting upon how this impacts on levels of risk, vulnerability and social justice.*

*5 To explore what happens when public protections fails and utilise the experiences gained from other areas such as mental health and child protection.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate critical understanding of the psychosocial theories advanced in relation to risk and dangerousness
- 2 Develop a critical understanding of the importance of language within risk debates.
- 3 Analyse and evaluate current policies in relation to risk and dangerousness within criminal justice, related fields and practice using reasoned arguments based on appropriate sources.
- 4 Identify the role of practitioners in public protection and evaluate the tensions between policy and politics and its impact upon wider criminal justice developments.
- 5 Critically compare and contrast the different theoretical perspectives and their influence upon our understanding of the processes of victimisation. In particular, identifying those at greater risk of victimisation and understanding some of the social inequalities that expose some individuals to higher levels of risk.
- 6 Articulate the competing protection of rights and freedom of individuals versus the protection of rights and freedom of others

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

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

3,000 word Essay	1	2	3	4	5	6
Group Poster Presentation	3	4	6			

## **Outline Syllabus**

*This module will enable students to critically explore concepts of risk, and dangerousness within the criminal justice context from a range of psychosocial perspectives, and applying them to both offenders and victims. Students will critically examine how the development of these concepts in a system whose focus is on crime control and prevention, has influenced the place and significance of public protection within contemporary criminal justice. Risk orientated thinking has*

*become central to the criminal justice system, specifically in attempts to prevent crime, manage offender behaviour and victim protection. This module will therefore provide students with an critical understanding of both theory and practice in relation to public protection, those at risk or posing a risk in society. By exploration of the main theories and key policy issues and debates in relation to crime, risk, offender behaviour and the management of offenders/ vulnerable people in the community, the language and practice of risk management will also be critical evaluated.*

*Opportunities will be provided for group discussion of risk assessment, management and protection relating to both offenders and victims. Practitioner input will locate public protection practice into a theoretical context and will highlight the competing targets faced by those working in this field. Use will be made of the online e-learning platform (CANVAS) to facilitate small group discussions, including the review of recent cases and the further development of policies and initiatives.*

## **Learning Activities**

Lectures

Tutorials - online work

## **Notes**

This module is designed to critically examine the social construction of the 'risk society' and will enable students to critically explore the concept of risk and dangerousness within the criminal justice context and to critically examine ethical and values issues and contradictions in respect of assessing and managing risk and dangerousness to protect the safety and rights of others, while also protecting the freedom and rights of those perceived to present a risk.