

Module Information

2022.01, Approved

Summary Information

Module Code	7042LAWCJ
Formal Module Title	Researching Crime and Criminal Justice
Owning School	Justice Studies
Career	Postgraduate Taught
Credits	30
Academic level	FHEQ Level 7
Grading Schema	50

Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Justice Studies

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	22
Workshop	22

Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
SEP-MTP	MTP	September	12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

Aims	To prepare students for the compulsory dissertation on the MA Criminal Justice course. To enable students to develop an advanced and critical knowledge of the key ontological, epistemological and methodological issues that impact upon research into crime and criminal justice. To consider and demonstrate a critical appreciation of the particular research theories, and methods of data collection and analysis, which researchers use to study crime and criminal justice. To examine and demonstrate advanced and critical understanding of issues relating to the politics and ethics of crime and criminal justice research. To examine and demonstrate advanced and critical understanding of practical issues which can affect research into particular aspects of crime and criminal justice.
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After completing the module the student should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Recognise and critically evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical perspectives on research into crime and criminal justice.
MLO2	2	Apply an advanced understanding of how to critically appraise research studies in the field of crime and criminal justice.
MLO3	3	Show advanced and critical awareness of the politics and ethics of research into crime and criminal justice.
MLO4	4	Show an advanced ability to recognise and critically evaluate the substance, strengths and weaknesses of quantitative and qualitative research techniques, when used individually and in combination with others.
MLO5	5	Show critical awareness of techniques of quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
MLO6	6	Construct a viable, robust and well-planned research design and methodology, applying advanced and critical knowledge of issues relating to research theory, research design, data collection, data analysis, and other relevant issues to a personal area of specialist postgraduate study relating to a particular aspect of crime or criminal justice.

Module Content

Outline Syllabus	<p>BLOCK A: APPROACHING RESEARCH INTO CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICEWhat is social research? Issues of acquiring knowledge about the social worldResearch theory and its links with methods of doing researchProducing a literature review for your research and secondary data sources in criminal justiceAssessing research designsThe politics of criminal justice researchEthical issues in criminal justice research</p> <p>BLOCK B: METHODS OF RESEARCHING CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICEQuantitative research: introduction and sampling issuesQuantitative research: structured interviews, self-completion questionnaires and structured observationQuantitative research: quantitative documentary analysis and secondary analysis of official statisticsQuantitative data analysisUsing SPSS to analyse quantitative dataQualitative research: introduction, principles and practiceQualitative research: ethnography and participant observationQualitative research: qualitative interviewing techniques and qualitative documentary researchQualitative data analysis: introduction, principles and practiceTriangulation in research</p> <p>BLOCK C: PLANNING RESEARCH PROJECTS IN CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICEWriting research proposalsFormative peer review of research proposals and projects</p>
Module Overview	<p>This module aims to give you a comprehensive and critical guide to both the theory and practice of research on crime and the criminal justice process. It aims to:</p> <p>prepare you for the compulsory dissertation on the MA Criminal Justice course</p> <p>enable you to develop an advanced and critical knowledge of the key ontological, epistemological and methodological issues that impact on research into crime and criminal justice</p> <p>consider and demonstrate a critical appreciation of the particular research theories, and methods of data collection and analysis, which researchers use to study crime and criminal justice</p> <p>examine and demonstrate advanced and critical understanding of issues relating to the politics and ethics of crime and criminal justice research</p>
Additional Information	<p>This module aims to give students a comprehensive and critical guide to both the theory and practice of research on crime and the criminal justice process. 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 doing research for themselves (including political and ethical obstacles). It will also act as an advanced and theoretically-informed guide to the strengths and weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research methods in the context of research on crime and criminal justice. The assignments for this module are designed to allow students to develop skills for appraising research and to be as practical as possible for students planning and undertaking dissertation-length, postgraduate-level research for the first time. Formative assessment takes place in the form of peer-group presentations in a symposium format, to present ideas for the module assessment.</p>

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Report	Research proposal	100	0	MLO1, MLO2, MLO3, MLO4, MLO6, MLO5

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Helena Gosling	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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