

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Researching Crime and Criminal Justice
Status: Definitive
Code: **7042LAWCJ** (123767)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

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

Team	Leader
Helena Gosling	Y
Noel Cross	

Academic Level: FHEQ7 **Credit Value:** 30 **Total Delivered Hours:** 44
Total Learning Hours: 300 **Private Study:** 256

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Workshop	22

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	AS1	Coursework - 6000 word research proposal incorporating consideration of literature and research methodology	100	

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.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Recognise and critically evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical perspectives on research into crime and criminal justice.
- 2 Apply an advanced understanding of how to critically appraise research studies in the field of crime and criminal justice.
- 3 Show advanced and critical awareness of the politics and ethics of research into crime and criminal justice.
- 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.
- 5 Show critical awareness of techniques of quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
- 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.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Research proposal	1	2	3	4	6	5
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Outline Syllabus

BLOCK A: APPROACHING RESEARCH INTO CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

What is social research? Issues of acquiring knowledge about the social world

Research theory and its links with methods of doing research

Producing a literature review for your research and secondary data sources in criminal justice

Assessing research designs

The politics of criminal justice research

Ethical issues in criminal justice research

BLOCK B: METHODS OF RESEARCHING CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Quantitative research: introduction and sampling issues

Quantitative research: structured interviews, self-completion questionnaires and structured observation

Quantitative research: quantitative documentary analysis and secondary analysis of official statistics

Quantitative data analysis

Using SPSS to analyse quantitative data

Qualitative research: introduction, principles and practice

Qualitative research: ethnography and participant observation

Qualitative research: qualitative interviewing techniques and qualitative documentary research

Qualitative data analysis: introduction, principles and practice

Triangulation in research

BLOCK C: PLANNING RESEARCH PROJECTS IN CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Writing research proposals

Formative peer review of research proposals and projects

Learning Activities

Lectures (containing lecture and interactive seminar elements)- oral interaction and note-taking

Workshops - preparation for the different components of the written module assessment

Notes

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.