

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Research Methods for Criminal Psychology and Criminal Justice  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **7054LAWCJ** (129343)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

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

Team	Leader
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**Academic Level:** FHEQ7      **Credit Value:** 20      **Total Delivered Hours:** 34

**Total Learning Hours:** 200      **Private Study:** 166

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Seminar	10

**Grading Basis:** 50 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Exam	AS1	Multiple choice exam online	40	2
Essay	AS2	4000 word research proposal in preparation for dissertation	60	

### Aims

*To prepare students for the compulsory dissertation on the MSc Criminal Psychology and Criminal Justice*

*To enable students to develop an advanced and critical knowledge of the key ontological, epistemological and methodological issues that impact upon research into criminal behaviour 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 criminal behaviour 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 criminal behaviour 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 criminal behaviour and criminal justice.
- 2 Apply an advanced understanding of how to critically appraise research studies in the field of criminal behaviour and criminal justice.
- 3 Show advanced and critical awareness of the politics and ethics of research into criminal behaviour 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 criminal behaviour or criminal justice.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

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

Multiple choice online exam	4	5					
Research Proposal	1	2	3	4	5	6	

## **Outline Syllabus**

### ***BLOCK A: 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 CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

*Writing research proposals*

*Formative peer review of research proposals and projects*

### **Learning Activities**

Lectures

Seminars

### **Notes**

This module aims to give students a comprehensive and critical guide to both the theory and practice of research on criminal behaviour 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 criminal behaviour 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.