

# CORE MODULES: BA (Hons) Criminology

You must take modules worth 120 credits at each level of the course. Each module is worth a specified number of credits.

## Year one for full-time students (Level 4)

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### History of Crime and Criminology (15 credits)

- The twentieth century was a period of rapid and confusing change and adjustment, and already historical accounts of events that took place in it are debated and challenged. Events of preceding centuries are even less familiar to us, yet the roots of many of our customs, institutions, thinking about crime and policies could be traced to these times. Historical awareness guards against the impression that modern features of law-breaking, deviance, policing or punishment are either entirely new, or remain relatively unchanged. Instances of 'hooliganism', 'crime waves' and threats to public order in historical literature can be placed alongside frequent journalistic panics about moral degeneration today. You will trace and explore the origins of laws and attitudes, sanctions and control mechanisms that have emerged from ancient, medieval and modern historical eras. You will look at the role of religion and the state in the shaping of society and geographically trace the origins and developments of the principal institutions of the criminal justice system, including the ways that governments and societies have responded to certain forms of deviance through reformulations of criminal justice policy. You will evaluate the development of criminology as a discipline and interrogate the foundational theories and their underlying philosophies. You will attend two hour combined lectures/workshops and you are required to be thoroughly prepared for these weekly discussions. Assessment on this module is by a 2500 word portfolio (indicative tasks may include historical mapping exercise, comparative historical essay, institutional policy timeline).*

### Skills for Criminal Justice (15 credits)

- This module will introduce you to the complex network of agencies that provide victims and offenders with punishment, training, guidance, protection, care and advice, as part of the Criminal Justice Sector. You will also begin thinking about the various types of roles and employment in this sector, to enable you to specialise as you progress in your degree, and to plan for potential future employment. Towards this aim, you will examine the sector from a historical perspective, mapping some of the significant milestones that enabled the institution to flourish and become part of the established route for victims and/or offenders. You will also examine recent policy initiatives that have resulted in the creation of particular roles within a sector such as policing, victim, offender, rehabilitation, punishment, policy, community or research), with a view to developing a particular focus for your degree. A range of events will enable you to gain insight into the current workings of many organisations (through guest speakers, visits and workshops), culminating with an 'employment fair', where you will have the opportunity to find out more about local initiatives and volunteering in the community. The module is delivered by lectures and workshops in 'block' delivery, and an employment fair at the end of the semester. The assessment consists of two tasks: a historical synopsis that maps the development of a particular institution, and a portfolio (including a CV, job application and planning exercise). The portfolio will incorporate your aims, learning priorities, personal planning, milestones, skill sets and achievements from your learning, and will be updated each semester, so you can build on it throughout your degree.*

### Crime News and Criminology (30 credits)

- Crime is a major area of public policy and political debate - we are both fascinated by and afraid of crime, whilst eager to prevent it. Criminals can be portrayed as heroes, anti-heroes, victims or villains -nevertheless, they are represented and understood as somehow 'other'. Despite these contrasting and confusing ideas, crime is an everyday experience, about which many of us have strong opinions. You will be encouraged to question how crime and deviance have shaped our thoughts, drawing upon its portrayal in the media-news, as well as fears of crime, political responses and crime prevention initiatives. You will be introduced to concepts that contribute to the social construction of crime, such as 'newsworthiness', 'criminogenic media' and moral panics, as well as some basic building blocks of Criminology itself. You will examine and discuss the types of crimes that are prevalent in the media news and consider current criminal justice issues and cases. In addition, you will decipher official statistics, such as those emerging from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, Police recorded crimes and conviction data, in order to establish a balanced view of the extent of crime in England and Wales. You will examine crime data (statistics, case studies, crime rates etc) and the sources from which they are gathered. Such data analysis will provide a framework for contextualising material that is frequently (partially and mis) represented in the media, within an academic and realistic context. Each week, following the lecture, in a separate timetabled workshop, topics will be aligned with current*

crime and criminal justice news. You will be required to research various crime news media (radio, TV, newspapers, internet, blogs, wikis, journals etc) and analyse the construction of the news, the sources of the information, the written style of the genre and the public debate which often follows news. The aim of this section is to provide you with the key skills necessary to study at undergraduate level. Structured tasks will be carried out each week, and students will be expected to develop a writing style through a variety of weekly exercises and diagnostic essays. The assessments will allow you to demonstrate understanding and begin to develop critical thinking skills (through the diagnostic essay), as well as understanding and application skills.

### **Political Ideologies and Social Controversies (15 credits)**

- *This module offers a grounding in major political ideologies and key political concepts that will form the foundation for future study in practical and theoretical aspects of social science. The module introduces students to the study of various political ideologies and helps them develop appropriate knowledge and understanding of key features of political ideas and behaviour. Through study of the core elements of ideologies students will have the opportunity to engage in basic comparative study and some degree of historical analysis. Students can then utilise this understanding of key political ideologies in order to explore different political environments. In pursuit of this aim the module will reflect on forms of classical political thought and locate these in contemporary political settings. The module is taught through weekly lectures that introduce important elements of different ideologies, and seminars that encourage discussion of salient current political issues which have a marked ideological dimension. Assessment will be in the form of a 1,000 word critical analysis and a 2000-word essay.*

### **Criminal Justice in England and Wales (30 credits)**

- *Criminal Justice in England and Wales introduces you to the criminal justice system in this country, taking you through the key elements of the justice system: Police, Courts, Prisons, Probation, and the Youth Justice System. Each week, you will be introduced to a different stage of the system and unpack some of the critical issues that are discussed in this area. For example you will learn about the role of police, and the benefits that a policing system provides, while also looking at the controversial aspects of policing, such as racism and the ongoing debate about how much force the police should use. You will also discuss the statement 'prison works' and examine the shifting landscape of the prison system in the context of overcrowding and privatization. During the research skills workshops, you will learn how to critically assess research on the criminal justice system, developing evaluation skills and knowledge of research methods in the process. You will learn how research is undertaken and have the chance to do this yourself in relation to issues of criminal justice, such as public attitudes to various elements of the criminal justice system. By the end of Criminal Justice in England and Wales, you will be able to demonstrate an appreciation of the complicated position of victims and offenders in England and Wales. You will be taught in weekly two hour lecture/workshops and one hour 'research evaluation skills' workshop. The assessment will comprise a portfolio of work that will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the criminal justice system.*

### **Media and Crime (15 credits)**

- *Media representations of crime, law and order have always been a matter of public interest, as well as debate amongst people involved in the criminal justice system. Most people have limited experience of the criminal justice system, and the way the media treats crime has important implications for the public perception of crime and its management. Should crime always be newsworthy? How objective is the media presentation of crime? Is crime reporting concerned only with issues of good and bad, justice and the law? You will explore the ways in which media shapes our perception of crime and be provided with an overview of the theoretical perspectives on media within criminology. In addition you will explore the construction of crime news and the role of politics and ideology and introduces the concept of "moral panics". You will also explore sex crimes and their fictional and factual representation in the media, you will examine ways of analysing available statistics on criminal activity, the fear of crime and its relationship to the media representation of crime. The discussion of contemporary surveillance culture will also be included. Finally, you will evaluate how the fear of crime in the United Kingdom has been shaped media reports. You will examine these issues through the use of case studies, reports, and theory. You will be expected to select one or more case studies in order to develop analytical skills as well as presentation skills during the seminar. The selected case study can build a foundation for the essay. In the essay you will develop techniques to evaluate the debates about the relations between media and crime, as well as public perceptions of crime. This module is taught by lectures and seminars and will be assessed by a pass-fail seminar presentation and an essay of 1,500 words.*

## Year two for full-time students (Level 5)

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### **Policing and Crime Control (15 credits)**

- *Laws do not have an impact unless they are enforced, or unless there is an anticipation of enforcement. Enforcement is the responsibility of specialist agencies or organisations. The Police constitute the most highly visible and most pivotal agency involved in the maintenance of order, with debates and controversies about their role in society never far from the centre of legal, political and public attention. This module reflects on some of the key sociological and political issues surrounding the maintenance of social order. It considers the development of and the contemporary role of the police, exploring in detail the nature and demands of police work, in the context of a distinctive occupational culture. It addresses continuities and changes in public attitudes and expectations of the police and also focuses on the impact of technological and organisational changes in styles of policing and maintaining social order. Contrasts will be highlighted by considering the growth, on the one hand, of paramilitary-style policing and, on the other, of community policing initiatives. The module will be delivered over one semester, and consist of weekly one hour lectures and one hour seminars. Students will be expected to prepare each week for seminar debates through detailed week-to-week activities. The module is assessed by the submission of Coursework which will consist of two elements. The first is an in-class, multiple-choice test and the second is an essay.*

### **Theories of Deviance, Crime and Social Control (15 credits)**

- *Theories of Deviance will introduce you to the explanations of deviant and criminal behaviour throughout the twentieth century. You will cover theories of crime that are of both historical interest and contemporary relevance, identifying and policing the parameters of 'normality' in late modern, western society. You will critically evaluate whether crime is mostly a result of social inequality and consider the meaning of 'good' and 'bad'. You will also discuss the influence of the Chicago School, notions of 'anomie', and the consequences that followed from the introduction of symbolic interactionism and labelling theories. By the end of Theories of Deviance, you will have an historical understanding of social explanations of crime and be able to demonstrate the relevance of these theories to contemporary issues. The module will be taught through one weekly lecture, and one weekly seminar workshop. Assessment will be through a case study.*

### **Trials and Errors: Justice and Courts (30 credits)**

- *Trials and Errors will introduce you to the concept of miscarriages of justice and wrongful conviction. Each week, you will learn about some of the key barriers to 'justice' and critically examine controversial aspects of the criminal justice system; for example the mass production of guilty pleas, jury trials, expert witnesses and 'trial by media'. You will draw upon a range of case studies to examine these issues, developing a theoretical understanding that is rooted in real-world examples. By the end of Trials and Errors, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the court process and how it can go wrong, as well as the strength and weaknesses of key aspects of the English and Welsh system. Trials and Errors will be delivered in weekly two hour lecture/workshops and one hour seminars. You will have the opportunity to present your ideas in class. The assessments will comprise a portfolio and a group presentation.*

### **Violent Crime: Body and Mind (15 credits)**

- *Violent Crime will introduce you to the theory and practice that surrounds key types of violent crime in England and Wales: Hate crime, violence against women, gang-related violence, and homicide. Each week, you will learn about the theory and context underlying these types of violence; before critically assessing the policy responses to the problem. You will debate whether some people are born evil, and develop a nuanced understanding of the reasons why some people commit violence. Violent Crime will be delivered through weekly lecture/workshops lasting two hours, as well as a one-off hour long class debate. The assessment will involve a theoretical essay that critically considers the issues discussed, as well as a class debate about the causes of violence.*

### **Contemporary Issues in Prisons and Penology (15 credits)**

- *Contemporary Issues in Prisons and Penology will introduce you to the key debates in penology. Each week, you will learn about a different issue relating to prisons and the penal system, exploring the justifications for punishment and the different theories of justice that inform these debates. You will also hear about a range of contemporary issues affecting prisons, in particular the growing number of ageing prisoners, mental health issues and the rise in prison violence. By the end of Contemporary Issues in Prisons and Penology you will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the theory underlying prisons and their management as well as the current academic research in this area. Contemporary Issues in Prisons and Penology will be delivered in weekly one hour lectures and one hour seminars. The assessment will comprise of a theoretical essay.*

## **Project Preparation (15 credits)**

- *Project preparation will provide you with guidance and support and information, in order to prepare for the major project in your final year. The topics will be built around staff supervisory expertise and topics may vary from year to year. However, during weekly sessions you will be guided on the following: selecting a suitable topic and research problem; literature surveys; how to develop research aims and objectives; ethics; and appropriate methodological tools. Assessment is comprised of an ethics skills portfolio, and a research methodology and literature review.*

## **Cultures of War (15 credits)**

- *The media is saturated with reports of war, ethnic and political conflict in various countries around the world. Whilst there are rules of engagement for war, crimes are nevertheless committed during conflicts. Cultures of War will offer you the opportunity to consider and evaluate the concept of 'war', through the conduct of governments and international bodies as well as combatants and non-combatants. Through a 'Cultural Criminological' lens, you will examine the causes of war and crimes committed in conflict-torn environments. Is war a natural consequence of human interaction? Is there a difference between a 'terrorist' and a 'freedom fighter'? Are there effective methods for resolving global conflicts? You will explore some historical, political, legal and sociological explanations of combat, conflict and political unrest, agendas as well as the impact of patriotism, nationalism and fanaticism. You will examine theories of war, rules of armed conflict and the roles of international courts and tribunals. You will evaluate crimes and weapons of war as well as representations of war in the media (including the 'war on drugs' and 'war on terror'), conflict prevention and effective peace processes. You will be encouraged to draw upon contemporary materials and are expected to be aware of recent media coverage of events. Whilst lectures will be given, this module is run mainly as an interactive seminar/workshop, therefore student preparation and participation is expected. Cultures of War will be assessed by a 2,500 word essay.*

## **Final year for full-time students (Level 6)**

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### **Undergraduate Major Project (30 credits)**

- *The individual Major Project module allows students to engage in a substantial piece of individual research and/or product development work, focused on a topic relevant to their specific discipline. The topic may be drawn from a variety of sources including: Anglia Ruskin research groups, previous/current work experience, the company in which they are currently employed, an Anglia Ruskin lecturer suggested topic or a professional subject of their specific interest (if suitable supervision is available). The project topic will be assessed for suitability to ensure sufficient academic challenge and satisfactory supervision by an academic member of staff. The chosen topic will require the student to identify/formulate problems and issues, conduct literature reviews, evaluate information, investigate and adopt suitable development methodologies, determine solutions, develop hardware, software and/or media artefacts as appropriate, process data, critically appraise and present their finding using a variety of media. Regular meetings with the project supervisor should take place, so that the project is closely monitored and steered in the right direction. The assessment will normally include a substantial written report. Included in the major project will be the final element of the student's personal development plan (PDP) consisting of an overview of significant elements of the degree and establishing links with the major project.*

### **Youth Justice Controversies (15 credits)**

- *The Criminal Justice System incorporates a range of functions and agencies that are required to protect the public; uphold justice and the law; maintain public order; exact punishments and censures; recognise and accommodate victims; and sustain public confidence. Although England and Wales have no written penal code or definitive statement of the principles of criminal justice, the system is guided by important principles, of which a central aspect is that every individual has rights, whether as suspect, defendant, convict, enforcer, employee, victim, witness or ordinary citizen. This module elaborates on the complexities of the criminal justice system, notably around the issue of youth justice. This module will discuss theories explaining youth crime and youth culture. We will analyse competing strategies in youth justice and their outcomes, discussing recent developments in youth justice legislation, policy and practice. We will reflect on the issue of race, gender and drug abuse. The module will explore the recent youth justice innovations that have arguably changed the face of young offenders and issues of accountability. The module will run over one semester and include weekly lectures and seminars of one hour. From week 4, till week 10, seminars will include slots for students to perform group presentations relating to agreed specific topics of interest. Students will then be expected to develop and refine them from their group presentations into an individual critical reflection through the portfolio of patchwork texts.*

## **Criminology in Policy and Practice (15 credits)**

- *The objects of the Criminological enquiry – crime, policing, justice, punishment, fear, victims, control, order, security – have come to occupy a prominent and disputed place in the lives and consciousness of citizens and governing authorities. Your career may be determined upon how well you understand the system that you seek to work in. In this module, you will consider how criminological theory has informed the landscape of crime, order and control and impacted legislation, policy and practice. You will examine the political, economic and social contexts in which criminological research is shaped and carried out in order to usefully inform criminal justice policy. For example, you will consider complex issues such as balancing policing in the age of austerity against the growth of punitive populism, or allocating resources effectively between the prevention of terrorism or violence against women and girls. Scrutinising institutions such as the police, county councils and victim-focused charities, you will examine some of the tensions that exist within them such as decision-making, agenda-setting and resource allocation. You will think critically about the processes that are involved in turning ideas into action, building 'joint working' initiatives and managing policy implementation. Furthermore, you will consider some of the wider criminological issues you have studied in relation to the criminal justice work setting – how do cultural, political and patriarchal attitudes affect the shape of agenda-setting, and what could be the impact of vicarious trauma upon the agents whom we put so much trust? Criminology in policy and practice will provide you with the skills necessary to connect your degree with the criminal justice sector, its policies and practices. The module is taught by lectures and seminars. The assessment consists of a portfolio (indicative tasks may include an essay and a case study).*

## **Comparative and Global Criminal Justice (15 credits)**

- *Comparative and Global Criminal Justice will introduce you to the profound economic, political, social and technological developments in the world since the late 1980s. These developments fuelled by globalisation have had huge implications for international criminal justice. You will examine the constant tension between the local and international notions of justice that these social changes have created. You will also critically analyse the ways comparative criminal justice researchers are studying international crimes and global justice issues such as genocide, gender-based violence, terrorism, human trafficking, capital punishment, and child labour. Importantly, you will develop skills necessary to analyse effectively criminal justice issues from a global perspective and be exposed to global institutions and organisation at the forefront of global justice issues. You will attend a one hour lecture and a one hour seminar each week, and be prepared for weekly discussions on key global justice issues. The assessment will consist of a 2500 word essay.*

## **Investigative Psychology (15 credits)**

- *The psychological study of crime, criminals and victims within an investigative framework is known as criminal or investigative psychology. In this module, you will examine the role that psychology and psychological perspectives can play in the criminal justice process. You will pay particular attention to the application of psychology to police investigations including the collection, examination and utilisation of investigative information and evidence as well as to the role of the psychologist in the court room. You will explore the different ways criminal psychologists contribute to police training, investigations and interviewing as well as their contribution to understanding evidence in the courtroom and how juries process that evidence. In addition, you will examine and evaluate the challenges and pitfalls that can arise when advising on police investigations. You will be required to contribute each week primarily through the completion of practical tasks and exercises. These exercises will utilise real case studies, designed to familiarise students with the types of criminal cases and associated outputs produced by criminal psychologists in a 'real world' setting. The assessment will comprise an essay of 2500 words.*

## **Plus 30 credits of optional modules dependant on pathway**

- **OPTIONAL MODULE (Semester 1 option): Sex, Sex Offending and Society (15 credits)**  
*Arguably, sexual offending is considered 'different' from other forms of offending and all convicted sexual offenders occupy a unique position in contemporary society - sometimes as mythical as folk devils. Sex offending has become a major concern of governments, academics, policy analysts and pressure groups around the world, yet the problem remains little understood and inadequately addressed. Sex offenders are noted for their 'invisibility' and 'familiarity', yet media coverage is dominated by extreme accounts of 'stranger rapes', child abduction and rape-murders. The gamut of the sex-offender has widened, to include people who download illegal images from the internet and who 'groom' young people for sexual 'relationships'. Legislation around the world which has sought to impose harsher punishments, fewer rights and greater exclusion on sex offenders has coincided with a decline in the rate of conviction and an increase in 'sex offending' categories and definitions. This module examines the way certain activities have come to be defined and regulated as sex crimes and how particular definitions generate specific legal responses and treatments. Students will explore legal, policy and practice responses which have meant that many women not only suffer as victims of rape, but also at every stage of the criminal justice system. The*

module will explore sexual offending, underlying theories and its consequences from the perspectives of offenders, victims, society and the law. Students will explore the way behaviours relating to 'prostitution' have been criminalised and how it has traditionally focused on those (mostly female) who supply sex, rather than those who buy it. Students will examine the potential of the internet and how technologies contribute to the increasingly problematic policing of sexually explicit materials. Aspects of the international sex trade will be examined, in particular the problem of international human trafficking. The module will require that students are thoroughly prepared for the weekly lectures and seminars, through a comprehensive range of material that will be outlined in the module guide. Each week, the seminars will include a structured and planned debate. The module will be assessed through a portfolio, including either an analysis of current policy or an analysis of the portrayal of sex related crimes through the media.

- **OPTIONAL MODULE (Semester 1 option): Race, Racism and Cultural Identity (15 credits)**

This module provides an in-depth exploration of the sociology of 'race', racism and ethnic divisions. It considers three related themes: the social origins and significance of racial and ethnic divisions; the (varied) causes, contexts and consequences of racism and antiracism; and the cultural consequences of migration. Each theme will be developed using a combination of theory, research findings and case study material. Although the primary substantive focus of the module will be on race relations in contemporary Britain, insights will be drawn from historical and international comparisons. For the bulk of the module teaching will be by lectures and seminars. Students are required to engage in preparatory reading prior to each seminar. There will also be a series of student-led workshops that will apply sociological knowledge and understanding to current questions of 'race' politics and policy. Workshop topics will vary but will relate to key module themes - the collection and use of racialised data in the criminal justice system (the significance of 'race' categories); debates about the usefulness of the concept of institutional racism (sociology of racism); and globalised Islam (migration and identity). Students will be required to read material collected on a module web site a briefing pack prior to each workshop and deliver a short presentation in one of the workshops.

- **OPTIONAL MODULE (Semester 2 option): Invisible Crimes (15 credits)**

Criminology has historically focused on crime committed by the most disadvantaged and powerless members of society, rather than the crimes of more powerful individuals or organisations. Invisible Crimes is concerned with criminal activity in the environmental sector, which is often policed by governmental or quasi-governmental organisations. You will focus on crimes such as those committed by corporate entities, or those individuals within them, who often have a more profound economic, physical and social cost on individuals than those associated with 'conventional' criminal behaviour. You will examine how corporate entities experience the process of criminal justice, which differs from the experience of individuals, despite the fact that such enterprises may contribute to workplace injury or death. In addition, you will explore the difficulty in defining corporate, white-collar and organised crime, and how it has been addressed by criminologists. You will discuss the extent and nature of corporate crimes, suggest different perspectives on organised crime, and provide a forum for the discussion of environmental crimes. In addition, you will explore the links in the crime-power-media relationship, examining them through case studies and reportage specific to the cases, as well as texts and theories to inform the broader context. You must be prepared to research and discuss controversial cases in weekly seminars. For the assignment, you will select a case and critically evaluate its development over time.

- **OPTIONAL MODULE (Semester 2 option): Preparing for Work (15 credits)**

This module will act as a bridge between higher education and future employment. It will evaluate students' learning achievements, identifying their strengths, weakness and skills and prepare them for the next step in their career in an orderly and planned fashion. Students will be assessed via a Progress File, demonstrating their achievements in Higher Education which will be submitted either in printed form or as an e-portfolio.