

MODULE SPECIFICATION PROFORMA

Module Title:	Constructing Guilt and Innocence	Level:	6	Credit Value:	20
----------------------	----------------------------------	---------------	---	----------------------	----

Module code:	SOC664	Is this a new module?	No	Code of module being replaced:	
---------------------	--------	------------------------------	----	---------------------------------------	--

Cost Centre:	GACJ	JACS3 code:	C816
---------------------	------	--------------------	------

Trimester(s) in which to be offered:	2	With effect from:	September 2017
---	---	--------------------------	----------------

School:	Social and Life Sciences	Module Leader:	Dr Caroline Gorden
----------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

Scheduled learning and teaching hours	36hrs
Guided independent study	164hrs
Placement	0hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered	Core	Option
BA (Hons) Policing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BA (Hons) Police and Criminal Justice Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Pre-requisites
None

Office use only

Initial approval December 16

APSC approval of modification *Enter date of approval*

Have any derogations received SQC approval?

Version 1

Yes No

Module Aims

To study the legal and social constructions of guilt and innocence;
 To explore the problematic nature of “facts” and “truth” in constructions of guilt and innocence;
 To study the construction of guilt and innocence by different types of actor: accusers, accused, adjudicators, the media, researchers, and the public;
 To study a selection of cases which have gone to criminal trial.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

- KS1 Written, oral and media communication skills
- KS2 Leadership, team working and networking skills
- KS3 Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
- KS4 Information technology skills and digital literacy
- KS5 Information management skills
- KS6 Research skills
- KS7 Intercultural and sustainability skills
- KS8 Career management skills
- KS9 Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
- KS10 Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Critically appraise the different categories of guilt and innocence that are found in social and legal domains;	KS1	KS5
		KS4	KS6
2	Identify and appraise the strategies typically used by prosecution and defence in constructing guilt and innocence;	KS1	KS5
		KS4	KS6
3	Analyse the sociological dimensions of criminal cases and trials;	KS1	KS5
		KS4	KS6
4	Describe and critically evaluate the content and results of a number of high profile criminal cases.	KS1	KS5
		KS4	KS6

Transferable/key skills and other attributes

Identify strategies of social/legal action;
 Evaluate evidence, and formulate a conclusion based on this;
 Prepare written analyses
 Develop and orally deliver arguments;
 Conduct documentary searches.

Derogations

None

Assessment:

Essay: Students to complete essay that demonstrates a critical understanding of how guilt and innocence is constructed through the criminal justice process

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1-4	Essay	100%		4,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will use a variety of teaching and learning strategies, including lectures, seminars and discussion and the use of Moodle..

Syllabus outline:

- The requisites for assigning guilt;
- “Facts,” disputes and visibility in legal cases;
- Strategies for constructing guilt: evidence, confessions and guilty pleas;
- Social capital, criminal defence, innocence projects;
- Judging guilt and innocence. Credibility;
- Advocates and oratory;
- Images of guilt and innocence in the media and literature;
- Strategies for constructing innocence: insanity, immaturity, accounts, techniques of neutralisation.

Bibliography:

Essential reading

- Bennett, W. Lance and Feldman, Martha, S. (2014) *Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Brooks, P. (2001) *Troubling Confessions: Speaking Guilt in Law and Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Dershowitz, Alan (1996) *Reasonable Doubts: The O.J. Simpson Case and the Criminal Justice System*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- Eddleston, J (2016) *Miscarriages of Justice: Famous London Cases*
- Hastie, R. et al. eds. (2008) *Inside the Juror: The Psychology of Juror Decision-making*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Howe, M and Knott, L (2016) *Memory and Miscarriages of Justice*. London: Psychology Press

Other indicative reading

- Hunt, D. (1999) O J Simpson Facts and Fictions: News Rituals in the Construction of Reality. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- McConville, M. et al. (1994) Standing Accused: The Organisation and Practices of Criminal Defence Lawyers in Britain. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Ormerod, D. (2006) Smith and Hogan. Criminal Law. Cases and Materials. 9th Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wilkes, R. ed. (2006) The Mammoth Book of Famous Trials. London: Robinson.