

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SOC448
Module Title	Introduction to Law and Criminal Justice
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
Standalone module aligned to BA (Hons) Criminology and Law for QA and assessment purposes	Option

Pre-requisites

N/A

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	18 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	27.5 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	182 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	26/06/2024
With effect from date	June 2024



For office use only	
Date and details of revision	April 2025 – updated breakdown of module hours.
Version number	2

Module aims

This module will provide students with foundational knowledge of Law in the Criminal Justice context. The module explores the structure and organisation of the criminal justice system, as well as the main agencies and actors within it. Students will be introduced to the roles and responsibilities of different actors within the justice system, and will gain an appreciation of law as it operates within the wider criminal justice context.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Describe the structure and function of the criminal justice system
2	Identify the roles and functions of the main agencies within the criminal justice process
3	Analyse developments within the criminal justice system in England and Wales
4	Identify and contribute to contemporary debates within the criminal justice process

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module.

Students will engage in an assessed debate in Week 11

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1-4	Oral Assessment	100%

Derogations

N/A



Learning and Teaching Strategies

Learning on this module will be both accessible and active, and include synchronous and asynchronous elements. Teaching will incorporate a combination of short lectures, workshop-style interactive activities, and group discussions and debates. Face to face classroom teaching will be supplemented by a significant volume of independent learning and reading.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- What is 'crime'?
- The Criminal Justice System
- Policing
- The court system
- Criminal Law
- Sentencing
- The prison system
- Probation
- Advocacy skills

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential Reads

Joyce, P. (2017), *Criminal Justice: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. Abingdon: Routledge

Other indicative reading

Newburn, T. (2017), *Criminology*. 3rd ed. Abingdon: Routledge.

Liebling, A., Maruna, S., and McAra, L. (2017), *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*. 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sanders A, Skinns L, and Welsh L (2021), *Sanders and Young's Criminal Justice*. 5th ed. Oxford University Press

Wilson, W. (2020), *Criminal Law (Longman Series)*. 7th ed. Harlow: Pearson Education.

Davies, M. (2015), *Davies, Croall and Tyrer's Criminal Justice*. 5th ed. Harlow: Pearson Education.