

Module specification

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Module Code	SOC671
Module Title	Level 6 Dissertation
Level	6
Credit value	40
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	12 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	6 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	18 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	382 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	400 hrs

Module aims

To familiarise students with ethical processes for gathering, analysing and presenting research.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically review the challenges associated with contemporary criminological and criminal justice issues to define a feasible and clearly focused area of research.
2	Critically review the evidence base to identify the nature and potential causes of the identified criminological or criminal justice issue.
3	Critically review seminal and contemporary research to inform a practical, ethical and legally informed response to the identified issue within the criminal justice system.
4	Present the findings of a research project on a specific criminological or criminal justice issue at a student research conference.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1: Dissertation

The undergraduate dissertation involves completing a 6,000-word literature/theory-based project that does not involve primary or secondary data collection; students will follow a structured format including:

- Chapter 1: Introduction - 1500 words
- Chapter 2: Critical Literature Review - 1500 words
- Chapter 3: Thematic Analysis - 1500 words
- Chapter 4: Discussion and Conclusion -1500 words
- Reference List

Assessment 2: Presentation

On completion of the dissertation, students will conclude the module with a 15-minute viva-style conference in Semester 2, where they will present their dissertation and discuss their key ideas.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration / Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1, 2, 3	Dissertation/Project	6,000	80%	N/A
2	4	Presentation	15 minutes	20%	N/A

Derogations

None.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy is grounded in the University's commitment to an Active Learning Framework (ALF) so that learning will be both accessible and active and include synchronous and a-synchronous elements. Face to face classroom teaching will be supplemented by online lectures wherein students will be expected to complete activities such as watching Panopto videos; undertake Other Indicative Reading; complete forum activities and self-directed exercises. These activities will be the subject of formative feedback by the module tutor. Added to this, will be access to staff who provide presence, challenge and support for student learning and can relate learning to real world uses.

Welsh Elements

Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Defining a research problem and developing a rationale
- Contemporary socio-political and policing policy context
- Evidence-based policing and criminal justice research
- Literature searching and evidence identification
- Critical literature review and synthesis
- Evaluation of policy, practice and research evidence
- Ethical and professional considerations in dissertation research
- Structuring and writing a Level 6 dissertation
- Developing conclusions and practice-based recommendations
- Preparing for a student research conference presentation
- Communicating research findings to academic and practitioner audiences

Dissertation Module Timeline (Across Two Semesters)

Semester 1: Foundations and Early Chapter

Week	Session	Focus	Dissertation Chapters
Week 1	Induction Session- in class	Introduction to dissertation, expectations, assessment, choosing a topic	Overview of the dissertation process
Week 2	Independent Study	Topic exploration, initial reading / research – meet with supervisor to discuss dissertation idea.	Begin thinking about Chapter 1
Week 3	Chapter 1 and 2 Workshop in class	How to write Introduction and Conceptual Framework	Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Conceptual / Theoretical Framework



Weeks 4–5	Independent Study	Develop research aims, refine theoretical focus, begin structured reading – meet with supervisor to review completed drafts of chapter 1 and 2	Chapters 1–2 drafting
Week 6	Chapters 3 and 4 Workshop In class	How to write Literature Review & Analysis	Chapter 3: Critical Literature Review Chapter 4: Thematic / Conceptual Analysis
Weeks 7–12	Independent Study	Deep reading, critical analysis, drafting main body chapters, Meet with supervisor to review completed drafts of chapters 3 and 4	Chapters 1–4 development

Semester 2: Refinement and Completion Phase

Week	Session	Focus	Dissertation Chapters
Week 1	Progress Session – In class	Review progress, planning completion, common challenges	Chapters 1–4 review
Week 2	Independent Study	Continue Writing up and drawing arguments together	Chapters 1-4
Week 3	How to prepare for your conference – session In class	Guided support on how to prepare your 10-minute conference	Chapters 1- 4
Weeks 4–11	Independent Study	Finalising argument, tightening structure, proofreading, refine reference list.	Chapters 1-4
Week 12	Submission	Final checks, submission and present at the end of year conference	Complete dissertation Conference

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads:

Thomas, G (2017) *How to do your Research project: A Guide for Students*. London: Sage. Third Edition.

Swetnam, D. and Swetnam, R. (2009) *Writing your dissertation*. Oxford: How to books

Other indicative reading:

In accordance with chosen area.

Administrative Information

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Initial approval date	12 May 2021
With effect from date	September 2021
Date and details of revision	April 2026: AM2 to update learning outcomes, structure, and



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	alignment with professional frameworks. February 2025: Updated breakdown of module hours and syllabus outline. March 2023: Minor wording change to Aims and Assessment narrative.
Version number	04

