1. **Title of the module**

SOCI5490 (SO549) Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

School of Social Policy, Sociology & Social Research

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

5

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

30 (15ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn and spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

Prerequisite: SO329: Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

BA Criminal Justice & Criminology, BSc Social Sciences

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

8.1 Critically evaluate contemporary criminal justice policies and developments.

8.2 Demonstrate an in depth understanding of the complexities of the way the criminal justice

system operates and develops

8.3 Critically assess the competing theories of punishment and social control mechanisms.

8.4 Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the challenges facing the modern criminal justice system

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

9.1 Synthesise items of knowledge from different schools and disciplines of enquiry.

9.2 Demonstrate skills in regard to the organisation of information in a clear and coherent manner, through essay writing, and seminar based group discussion.

9.3 Communicate effectively, in terms of organising information in a clear and coherent way, responding to written sources and presenting information orally.

9.4 Conduct basic research by using library, e-journals and other on-line resources.

9.5 Demonstrate an understanding of how theory and research can generate solutions to problems.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module is concerned with contemporary issues, developments, practices and research in criminal justice. In line with current policy developments it will address the connections between criminal justice policies and other policy developments and critically examine ‘new’ policy initiatives including such measures as community crime prevention; developments to involve and protect the victims of crime; moves towards broader conceptualisations of justice, including reconceptualisations of crime as social harm. The module examines contemporary policy developments in sentencing, hate crime, racism in criminal justice practices, amongst other issues.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Case, S., Johnson, P., Manlow, D., Smith, R. and Williams, K. (eds.) (2017) *Criminology* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Cavadino, M., Dignan,J. and Mair, G. (2013) *The Penal System: an introduction* (5th edition) London: Sage Publications

Chakraborti, N. and Garland, J. (2015) *Hate Crime: Impact, causes and responses* London: Sage

Henham, R. (2013) *Sentencing: Time for a paradigm shift* London: Routledge

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

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

The module will be taught by lectures, seminars and private study.

Total Contact Hours: 44

Private Study Hours: 256

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

Essay – 2,500 words: 40%

Seminar Group Presentation – 15 minutes: 10%

Exam: three hours: 50%

* 1. Reassessment methods

100% Coursework

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | *8.1* | *8.2* | *8.3* | *8.4* | *9.1* | *9.2* | *9.3* | *9.4* | *9.5* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lecture | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |  |  |
| Seminar | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay (2500 words) | ✓ |  |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Seminar Presentation | ✓ |  |  |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Examination (3-hour) |  | ✓ | ✓ |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Medway

1. **Internationalisation**

Although this module explicitly focuses on the criminal justice system of England and Wales, the syllabus touches on a number of areas related to internationalisation. For example, the focus on the social harm perspective demonstrates how the effects of certain forms of crime extend beyond the boundaries of nation States. Equally, the module looks at the origins of the ‘hate crime’ movement and discusses issues of human rights, both of which take on an international dimension.

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**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
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