1. **Title of the module**

SOCI7580 (SO758) Criminal Law

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

School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research

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

Level 5

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

30 credits (15 ECTS)

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

Autumn and Spring

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

None

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

BA Criminal Justice and Criminology

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

8.1 Demonstrate a sound grounding in the concepts, principles and rules of criminal offences; in particular the law relating to murder/manslaughter, non-fatal offences, defences, theft, fraud, sexual and inchoate offences.

8.2 Demonstrate a sound understanding of the wider debate in respect of the place of criminal law in the social context, the definitions of harm and the boundaries of criminal law.

8.3 Demonstrate knowledge of the major theoretical debates in the criminal law field.

8.4 Assess criminal liability in a given factual situation and identify any defences by applying relevant legal principles, case law and statute law to the facts, and critically debate any issues raised.

8.5 Engage in a reasoned and informed discussion of the major areas of criminal law making appropriate reference to legal and academic source authorities.

8.6 Evaluate the operation of the criminal law in the social context.

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

9.1 Demonstrate their skills in summarising cases and developing argument.

9.2 Demonstrate research and presentation skills through class presentations and through assessment.

9.3 Undertake independent legal research and identify and retrieve up to date information, using a range of paper and electronic sources.

9.4 Present legal argument both in class and through assessment

9.5 Recognise potential alternative conclusions for particular situations, and provide supporting reasons for them.

9.6 Use relevant legal terminology with care and accuracy.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This course aims to introduce many of the core principles of criminal law and to aid students to think critically about the subject, contextualising it and recognising its place in, and impact on, society.

Students will already be familiar with the legal system within which the criminal law operates from their studies in Legal Process, and the sources of criminal law, including statutes and case law, from their studies in Reading Law. This module builds on this existing knowledge by focusing on the following substantive topics: homicide (murder and manslaughter), non-fatal offences (including various degrees of assault), sexual offences, public order offences, theft offences (including robbery, burglary and fraud), general defences (such as insanity, intoxication and self-defence) and inchoate offences (including attempts to commit offences and joint enterprise). This module will encourage students to engage in the wider debate in respect of the place of criminal law in the social context, the definitions of 'harm' and the boundaries of criminal law.

The module will introduce students to the application of law to case facts and the use of statute and case precedent to justify assessment of criminal liability. It aims to engage students in practical application of their knowledge, through consideration of criminal law problem questions, and encourage critical debate of the issues raised. Moreover, it aims to provide the opportunity to students to develop research and presentation skills through case notes and class presentations.

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

Ashworth, A. (2018) Principles of Criminal Law (8th edition) Oxford: Oxford University Press

Ormerod, D, Smith, and Hogan (2015) Criminal Law (14th edition) Oxford University Press

Wilson, W. (2017) Criminal Law, Doctrine and Theory (6th edition) London: Pearson Education

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 60

Private study hours: 240

Total study hours: 300

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

Essay (20%)

Examination (80%)

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment Instrument: 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 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | X | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | X | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |  | X | X |
| Seminars | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Examination | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X |

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**

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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.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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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Revised FSO Jan 2018