

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Humanities & Social Sciences
Programme:	Criminology
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Criminal Justice Institutions and Processes
Course Code:	CRIM 5102
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US Credits

Course Description:

This course is designed to enable students to build expertise in the main institutions and processes of the criminal justice system. We look at the key agents of state that are involved in criminal justice - law enforcement agencies, the judicial system, corrections and rehabilitation - as well as an in-depth look at alternative models, including non-custodial sentencing and privatised agencies of justice. We critically assess the various controversies and problems in the activities of these institutions over time, and the weaknesses and limitations of their processes.

Prerequisites:

40 credits

Aims and Objectives:

- To critically engage students with the key institutions and processes of criminal justice - policing, courts, prisons and others.
- To critically examine controversies and difficulties in delivering criminal justice through these institutions and processes.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business, and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of contemporary criminal justice institutions and processes.
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century.
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally.

Programme Outcomes:

A5(II); B5(I); C5(I); D5(II)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical engagement with theories and concepts used in the study of criminal justice institutions and processes.
- Demonstrate critical understanding of the key problems and issues addressed in the study of criminal justice institutions and processes.
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate and communicate arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources and/or data.
- Demonstrate engagement with forms of learning that directly relate to criminal justice institutions and processes in practice.

Indicative Content:

- Theories and approaches to criminal justice.
- Criminal justice policy, legislation, ethics.
- Critical examination of the main institutions and processes of the criminal justice system (particularly law enforcement agencies, the judicial system, corrections and rehabilitation).
- Criminal procedure, criminal law and sentencing.
- Consideration of alternative models of criminal justice provision (i.e. non-custodial sentencing/community service, privatised agencies of justice, informal justice processes).
- Criminal justice: contemporary issues and global perspectives.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

Ashworth, A. and R. Kelly, R. (2021) *Sentencing and Criminal Justice*. 7th edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Banks, C. (2024) *Criminal Justice Ethics: Theory and Practice*. 6th edn. USA: Sage.

Braswell, M., Edwards, B., McCarthy, B.R. and McCarthy, B.J. (eds.) (2023) *Justice, Crime, and Ethics*. 11th edn. London: Routledge.

Peter Hungerford-Welch, P. (2024) *Criminal Procedure and Sentencing*. 10th edn. London: Routledge.

Joyce, P. and Laverick, W. (2022) *Criminal Justice: An Introduction*. 4th edn. London: Routledge.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	Nov 2024	