COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Humanities & Social Sciences

Programme: Criminology

FHEQ **Level:** 6

Course Title: Counter-Extremism and Counter-Terrorism

Course Code: CRIM 6101

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 explores some of the main national and international efforts to counter terrorism, extremism and transnational crime. We examine types of terrorism and extremism and the theories and strategies underpinning state responses. We explore the phenomenon of transnational organised crime and consider where it intersects with terrorism and extremism. We discuss these phenomena from the perspectives of victims and perpetrators, processes of violent radicalisation, typologies of terror, and the strengths and weaknesses of strategies to counter and/or limit terrorism and extremism, including de-radicalisation. We also consider the capacity of institutions and international cooperations to thwart and restrict transnational crime, and explore the intersections between trafficking, terrorism and the commission of atrocities.

Prerequisites:

70 Credits

Aims and Objectives:

- To critically engage students with the historical origins and evolution of both terrorism and counter-terrorism, with an emphasis on the USA and EU.

- To critically engage the impact of terrorism, extremism and transnational crime on contemporary US and European criminal justice institutions and processes, and to learn about the latest developments and advances in the field of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism.

- 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 terrorism and extremism, and of strategies to counter these.

- 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:

6AI; 6BI; 6CI; 6CIII; 6DII; 6DIII

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:

- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of different paradigms and approaches used in analysing terrorism, extremism and transnational crime, and in developing strategies for counter-terrorism and counter-extremism.

- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of practical issues and problems counter-terrorism and counter-extremism strategies face.

- Demonstrates the communication skills needed to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity.

- Demonstrates the ability to formulate, synthesise and effectively articulate arguments potentially incorporating competing perspectives, concepts and evidence in professional contexts.

- Demonstrates autonomy in taking personal responsibility for ethical and sustainable practices in the discipline and in locating their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research.

- Demonstrate skills and practices that translate directly into the workplace.

Indicative Content:

- Terrorism, extremism and transnational crime in the context of criminological theory and practice

- A critical examination of the history, features and definitional debates surrounding terrorism, extremism and transnational crime, and responses to these.

- Different terrorist and extremist ideologies (religious and ideological extremism, political violence, regional separatism, state-sponsored terror and animal rights/ecological activism).

- Critical assessment of the impact and effectiveness of terrorism over time as a political and propagandistic weapon and responses to this (including from the media), and the impact of social media on this.

- Methods of countering terrorist and extremist threats (including supra-national policing, new surveillance technologies and emerging tactics; critical/vulnerable asset protection; de-radicalization for both individuals and groups).

- Consideration of the research ethics, difficulties and precautions to be taken in studying terrorism, extremism and transnational crime.

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):

Awan, I. and Blakemore, B. (eds.) (2016) *Extremism, Counter-Terrorism and Policing.* London: Routledge.

English, R. (2024) *Does Counter-Terrorism Work?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

English, R. (2016) *Does Terrorism Work? A History.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hoffman, B. (2017) *Inside Terrorism.* 3rd edn. Columbia: Columbia University Press.

Sageman, M. (2017) *Turning to Political Violence: The Emergence of Terrorism.* USA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Silke, A. (ed.) (2020) *Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism. London:* Routledge.

Stern, J. and Berger, J. M. (2015) *ISIS: The State of Terror. London:* HarperCollins.

Townshend, C. (2018) *Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction.* 3rd edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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	November 2024	