

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Humanities & Social Sciences
Programme:	Criminology
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Criminology and the Media
Course Code:	CRIM 5101
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 understand the interaction between the discipline of criminology (and its focus on criminality and criminal justice) and the changing media landscape. The course primarily engages with the mass media, particularly television and newspapers with their reporting on crime and criminal justice, and the rise of social media, and the impact of these on both the theory and practice of criminology (for example the role of the media in causing moral panic, trial by media, and accusations of criminogenic fallout from these). Finally, students can engage with representations of crime and criminology in popular culture, from 'penny dreadfuls' to 'true crime' television, and in crime and forensic criminology dramas (e.g. CSI, Mind Hunters & Law and Order).

Prerequisites:

40 Credits

Aims and Objectives:

- To critically engage students with the way crime and criminal justice is represented in media, and the implications of this for the discipline of criminology.
- To critically examine debates over the impact of media representation of crime and criminal justice on their practice.
- 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 ethical issues related to the media coverage of crimes, criminal institutions, and crime prevention strategies.
- 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)

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 critical engagement with theories and concepts used in studying the relationship between Criminology and the media.
- Demonstrates critical understanding of the key problems and issues addressed in the study of Criminology and the media.
- Demonstrates the ability to formulate and communicate arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources and/or data.

Indicative Content:

- Crime reporting key issues (the news cycle, investigative journalism, crime awareness/prevention, ethics and professional practice of journalists, regulation of media reporting on crime).
- The Role of the Media in Shaping Public Perception of Crime.
 - Representations of law enforcement.
 - Representations of hate crime and gender-based crime.
 - Representations of criminality (including stereotypes and bias).
 - Media sensationalism and moral panic.
 - Media Influence on jury trials and public opinion (trial by media).
- The interaction between the discipline of criminology and the changing media landscape (i.e. the rise of infotainment, social media and its impact).
- Violence in the media and its effects (e.g. crimogonia, the ability of media coverage to inspire further criminal acts).
- Representations of crime and criminology in popular media (i.e. 'penny dreadfuls', the 'true crime' genre, crime and forensic criminology dramas such as CSI, computer games, podcasts).

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):

Colbran, M. (2023) *Crime and Investigative Reporting in the UK*. Policy Press.

Grubb, J.A. and Posick, C. (2021) *Crime TV: Streaming Criminology in Populare Culture*. New York: New York University Press.

Jewkes, Y. (2015) *Media and Crime*. 3rd edn. USA: Sage.

Marsh, I. and Melville, G. (2019) *Crime, Justice and the Media*. 3rd edn. London: Routledge 2019.

Martin, G. (2018) *Crime, Media and Culture*. London: Routledge.

Rowbotham, J., Stevenson, K. and Pegg, S. (2013) *Crime News in Modern Britain: Press Reporting and Responsibility, 1820-2010*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Surette, R. (2014) *Media, Crime, and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies*. 5th edn. USA: Wadsworth Publishing.

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	