

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	BA Psychology
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Research in Criminology
Course Code:	PSY 6215
Course Leader:	Dr. Ira Konstanstinou
Student Engagement Hours:	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	25
Seminar / Tutorials:	25
Independent / Guided Learning:	70
Semester:	Fall
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

The course examines the psychological, biological, sociological, and environmental factors that are proposed to play a role in crime involvement. Using a developmental framework, the theoretical viewpoints to be covered will be arranged into individual vs. setting-level explanations of crime, and ultimately, be integrated. Thus psychological and biological factors will be examined as individual-level factors, while environmental and sociological factors will be studied in the context of setting-level factors. Other topics include: research methods in criminological research, longitudinal research in criminology, the roles of empathy, shame, and guilt in violence, as well as neurocriminology and crime intervention and prevention. Students will have the opportunity to do in-depth research on a topic of their choice and to think critically about criminological research and current topical criminological controversies.

Prerequisites:

PSY 4210 and PSY 4215 and PSY 5215 or PSY 5200

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to provide students with an up-to-date survey of criminology so that they can endeavour to answer the question: why do some people commit crime, whilst others do not? The course will cover broad and varied theoretical ideas and how they relate to criminological research across various subject fields. Students will have the opportunity to examine research from a developmental perspective (to “think developmentally” about crime propensity). As well as becoming familiar with the major advances in criminological research and the key theoretical paradigms, they will explore developments in approaches to intervention and prevention and be encouraged to apply developmental findings to other areas of research such as the development of delinquent behaviour more generally, e.g. the development of morality in everyday behaviours, and cultural diversity in crime involvement. The course will include elements (but not exclusively) of forensic psychology and will provide students with an introductory knowledge base for future postgraduate study or career prospects in various fields, such as prisons, police, and governmental organisations.

Programme Outcomes:

6Aii, 6Aiv, 6Bi, 6Ciii, 6Div

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is maintained by Registry and located at:

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

Learning Outcomes:

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

- a systematic understanding of the variety of influences on criminal behaviour and how different approaches conceptualise these, leading to an ability to critically evaluate theoretical schools of thought
- a systematic understanding of a range of criminological research paradigms, qualitative and quantitative methods, and being aware of their strengths and limitations
- a systematic understanding of ways to integrate ideas and findings across multiple interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives and recognising different criminological approaches to practice
- demonstrate the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing criminological perspectives and concepts, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts
- demonstrate the ability to flexibly locate their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of criminological research, with a level of autonomy

Indicative Content:

- Origins of criminology
- Criminological research methods (qualitative and quantitative)
- The definition of crime
- Crime and the media
- Sociological theories (poverty, anomie, strain, subculture)
- Biological theories (genetics, biochemistry)
- Psychological theories (morality, self-control, intelligence, personality)
- Environmental theories (routine activity theory, neighbourhoods)
- Crime intervention (programmes, deterrents)

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lectures on key topics
- II. Group discussions on the reading material
- III. Films/videos on key topics

Bibliography:

Akers, R & Sellers, C (2009). *Criminological theories: introduction, evaluation, and application*. Oxford University Press.

Hagan, F (1994). *Introduction to criminology: theories, methods, and criminal behaviour*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.

Feldman, P (1993). *The psychology of crime: a social science textbook*. Cambridge University Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Jones, S (2013). *Criminology*. 5th edition. Oxford University Press.

Journals

Criminology
American Society of Criminology
British Society of Criminology
International Journal of Conflict and Violence

