

Criminology

Module title			
Criminology			
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	Module number / reference	ECTS Value	Duration
Level 8 NFQ	LLBH - CY	5 ECTS	One semester: 12 weeks.
Parent programme(s). Principal programme title, and embedded(s) if relevant		Stage of parent programme	Semester No.
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)		3	1 or 2
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in Criminal Justice		3	1 or 2
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in Commercial Law		3	1 or 2
Teaching and Learning modes	Proportion (% of Total Directed Learning)		
Classroom / Face to Face	19%		
Workplace			
Online			
Other (Identify)	81% (Independent Research and Learning)		
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)			
Please see section 4.2 for full details of entry requirements.			
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	Sixty (60)		
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week	2		
Pre-requisite module title(s) (if any)	None		
Co-requisite module title(s) (if any)	No		
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No		
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)			
Requirements are for the lecturer to utilise a PC with Microsoft Office, Zoom and access to the internet through which an individual can gain access to the Griffith College student intranet: Moodle. Zoom will be required in conjunction with Microsoft Office in order to record the lectures when the module is being delivered for block release or for the Blended Programme when organised in advance. Zoom will also be required for the seminars through which the module will be taught (block release).			

Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.		
Role e.g. Tutor, Mentor etc	Qualifications & experience required:	# of Staff with this profile (WTEs)
Lecturer	Lecturers expected to hold at least a level 8 legal qualification, preferably with a professional legal qualification. It is an advantage to have completed the Certificate in Education, Learning and Development provided by Griffith College.	0.25 WTE

Analysis of required learning effort		
*Effort while in contact with staff	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours
Classroom and demonstrations	1:60	24
Mentoring and small-group teaching	-	-
Other (specify)	-	-
Independent Learning		
Directed e-learning (hours)		-
Independent Learning (hours)		101
Other hours (specify)		-
Work-based learning hours of learning effort		-
Total Effort (hours)		125

Allocation of Marks					
	Continuous Assessment	Supervised Project	Proctored Practical Exam.	Proctored Written Exam	Total
Percentage Contribution	100				100%

6.2.1 Module aims and objectives

This module aims to impart to the learner an appreciation and understanding of criminological theories and their applicability and operation in practice as well as an awareness of crime as a social construct, which is impacted on by the varying nature of society. It also seeks to provide the learner with a specific and detailed understanding of how crime is affected by different social and

environmental factors; the ability to evaluate the various theories of crime and punishment and the skills to effectively research and present, both written and verbal, on aspects of criminology in an in-depth and coherent manner, displaying critical analysis.

6.2.2 Minimum intended module learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, learners will be able to:

- (i) Analyse the main theories of criminology and analyse their operation in the modern Irish criminal justice system;
- (ii) Discuss and investigate the impact of various social and environmental factors on crime;
- (iii) Appraise modern punishment theories and analyse their application in the modern Irish criminal justice system.
- (iv) Research, build, formulate and present a coherent analysis of the operation of criminological and punishment theories in the Irish legal system.
- (v) Critique the theory of the culture of control and assess the presence of such a culture in the Irish criminal justice system.
- (vi) Critically analyse the popular perception of crime as portrayed in the media and develop a clear personal analysis of the impact of this perception of crime on the public.

6.2.3 Rationale for inclusion of the module in the programme and its contribution to the overall MIPLOs

The Criminology module allows learners to explore a significant number of competing and sometimes contradictory theories as to the causes of crime and the influence of certain theories of criminality in the structure of our criminal justice system. The module provides an opportunity to learners to deepen and apply their knowledge of criminology and the aims of the criminal law and to discuss with nuance and reference to theory and empirical research the cause and effects of criminality on our legal institutions and society at large. These aspects of the module contribute to the MIPLOs 1, 4-7, and 9-10.

6.2.4 Information provided to learners about the module

The learners will have in their possession their Faculty Handbooks from their previous year. The Faculty Handbook provides general information about the faculty, its staffing, resources, and operation. Detailed programme information is supplied through Moodle, including copies of the approved module descriptors from the accredited programme (detailing related teaching, learning and assessment) along with a programme timetable. Another copy will be provided to the learners upon their request.

During the first class of the Module, learners are given a detailed outline of the Module showing the schedule of delivery and the dates when assignments are released and due for submission.

Moodle is used to provide learners with ongoing access to module related information, from the handbooks and module outlines provided in advance of the module commencement, the lecture material and links to related resources provided on a scheduled basis in line with the module delivery.

6.2.5 Module content, organisation and structure

This module is a 5 ECTS credit module taught and assessed over one academic semester. The module is delivered over 12 pre-record lecture sessions of eighty (80) minute duration these are supported by 9 hours of workshops (being 3 workshops of 3 hours each), pre-reading, independent study and research, assessment preparation. They have been articulated using the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Awards Standards for Honours Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws (July 2014) and for Generic Higher Education and Training (July 2014).

The subject matter covered by the course is organised along the following headings:

- Introduction to Criminology—The History of Criminology
- Classical School of Criminology
- Early Positivism—The Italian School
- Social Control Theories
- Sociological Theory
- Environmental Criminology
- Media and Crime
- Fear of crime and the culture of control
- Crime and Gender
- Environmental Criminology
- Juvenile Justice
- Crime and Punishment
- Rehabilitation
- Deterrence
- Incapacitation
- Retribution
- Restorative Justice

6.2.6 Module teaching and learning (including formative assessment) strategy

The module is delivered by means of participative lectures, which consist of tutorial-style discussions, group work sessions and exercises. Formative assessment is provided through tutorial-style discussion, group work and exercises focus on specific case law and problem-based learning requiring the learner to analyse the law and apply it circumstances in which miscarriages of justice would tend to be produced. The lectures are supplemented by structured on-line resources and reading.

In the course of class discussions and activities, learners are challenged in their perception of crimes and its causes and provided feedback on their perspectives through lecturer interventions in in-class debates and other activities. In turn, this allows the learner to deepen their knowledge of criminology through acquiring discipline-specific vocabulary and theoretical perspectives which they can apply to questions or problems within criminology.

Learners undertaking the course via blended learning benefit from varied and additional options for engagement to compensate their reduced attendance of campus. These include webinars, screencasts (recorded lectures), discussion fora, and increased use of the College's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment), Moodle.

In addition to what has been stated, classroom assessment and benchmarking techniques are deployed to encourage learners to develop more agency in terms of their own learning including inclass presentations, group work, peer-review exercises and reflective practice. The variety of teaching, learning and assessment techniques reflect an enhanced emphasis on skills acquisition to deepen practical knowledge. Finally, the attention of learners is drawn to current industry practice and technology used in the specific area of law to add a further dimension to learning, tracking the actual practice of legal professionals.

6.2.7 Work-based learning and practice-placement

Criminology is a class based 5 ECTS credit module and does not require work-based learning and practice placement.

6.2.8 E-learning

Moodle, the College Virtual Learning Environment is used to disseminate notes, advice, and online resources to support the learners. E-learning activities include learner feedback, forums where learners contribute, formative quizzes and video links. The learners will also have access to a number of other online resources through the library such as access to databases and research tools (Westlaw.ie, Westlaw.uk, JustisOne (vLex) and Hein Online) as well as access to online copies of books published from Bloomsbury Online.

6.2.9 Module physical resource requirements

Requirements are for the lecturer to utilise a PC with Microsoft Office, Zoom and access to the internet through which an individual can gain access to the Griffith College student intranet: Moodle. There are no further software requirements for this module. In relation to Microsoft Office the lecturer will require to use PowerPoint or Word to present the information to the learners. Zoom will be required in conjunction with Microsoft Office in order to record the lectures when the module is being delivered for block release or for the Blended Programme when organised in advance. Zoom will also be required for the seminars through which the module will be taught (block release).

6.18.10 Reading lists and other information resources

Primary reading

- *Liebling, A., Maruna, S. & McAra, L. (2017) The Oxford Handbook of Criminology. Oxford: Oxford University Press.*
- *White, F., Haines, F. & Asquith, N. (2017) Crime and Criminology. Oxford: Oxford University Press*
- *O'Malley, T. (2016) Sentencing Law and Practice. Dublin: Roundhall*

Secondary reading

- *Carrabine, E. (2017) Crime and Social Theory. London: Macmillan International Higher Education.*
- *Newburn, T. (2018) Criminology. Oxford: Oxford University Press*

- Ashworth, A. (2015) *Sentencing and Criminal Justice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Armstrong, S. & McAra, L. (2006) *Perspectives on Punishment, The Contours of Control*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

e-Resources

- Bloomsbury Professional Online
- JustisOne – Vlex
- Westlaw.ie
- Westlaw UK
- Heinonline
- Griffith College Library Website

6.18.11 Specifications for module staffing requirements

Lecturers qualified to at least a Level 8 legal qualification (LLB (Honours), preferably with a professional legal qualification and a third level teaching qualification (e.g. Certificate in Education, Learning and Development offered by Griffith College). Learners also benefit from the support of the

Programme Director, Faculty Administrators, a dedicated Learning Technologist Office, the Learning Supports Office, at least one Learner Representative for each Stage, the Students' Union and a free (off campus) Counselling Service.

6.18.12 Module summative assessment strategy

Theoretical knowledge will be assessed by continuous (summative) assessment (100%). The continuous assessment shall consist of a written assignment divided into two stages: a Written Assignment worth 40% of the overall marks and a Project worth 60%.

The following table indicates the module's learning outcomes' alignment with the assessment used for the module:

No.	Description	MIMLOs	Weighting
1	Assignment (1,500 words)	i-vi	40%
2	Project (2,500 words)	i-vi	60%

Reassessment/Repeat assessment strategy: Griffith College regulations state that learners must pass all component elements of the module to be deemed to have passed the module.

- In the event of a learner failing components of / this module, they will be required to submit a new individual repeat assignment which will be made available on Moodle to learners, and which must be submitted as per faculty instructions.
- In the event of a learner failing the group assessment element of this module, a new individual repeat assignment will be made available on Moodle to learners which must be submitted as per faculty instructions.
- In the event of the learner failing the exam, learners will take the re-sit exam at the next available sitting, details of which will be made available to learners via Moodle.

6.2.10 Sample assessment materials

Please see sample assessment supplementary document.