



Criminology at Kingston applies the study of sociology, psychology, politics and economics to an understanding of the major questions in law making, law breaking and law enforcement.

Level 4 modules aim to provide a broad understanding of the development and current state of criminology as an academic field of study. Level 5 modules are at intermediate level and consider the justification and methods of punishment, and the activity of 'policing' – including private and paramilitary policing. Level 6 modules are advanced and offer a more detailed and critical examination of relevant issues within the realm of globalisation, terrorism and international crime.

As this subject is interdisciplinary in nature, please note that there are related modules available in other subject areas as well. For example, in Sociology there is *SO5014 Social Justice and Social Methods* and in Human Rights, there is *PO6007 Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity*.

Updated March 2025/PJW

Entry requirements: GPA of 2.75 or above (out of 4.0) or equivalent

Pre-requisites:

- There are no formal pre-requisites for level 4 modules.
- Level 5 and 6 modules are progressively more advanced and will require more substantial previous study of criminology/sociology.

Taught at: Penrhyn Road Campus

Key:

KEY TO MODULE DESCRIPTORS

SUITABILITY OF MODULE FOR STUDENTS VISITING KU ON STUDY OPTION _____

1: Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 1 (Whole Year)

2: Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 2 (Autumn)

3: Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 3 (Spring)

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

1 The University makes every effort to ensure that module availability & content is correct at the time of publishing, but it cannot accept responsibility for subsequent changes, as part of the University's policy of continuous improvement & development.

Notes:

1. All modules are at undergraduate level only.
2. Students enrolled on Study Option 1 are required to study the entire module.
3. Whilst the University makes every effort to ensure that this information is correct at the time of updating (March 2025), it cannot accept responsibility for omissions or subsequent changes. Module availability and content may be subject to change, as part of the University's policy of continuous improvement and development.
4. Details of assessment for students enrolled on either Study Option 2 or 3 where provided are indicative only and may also be subject to change as part of the above policy.

MODULE CODE	LEVEL	MODULE TITLE	SUITABILITY KEY
CM4001	4	Foundations in Criminological Theory	1, 2, 3
CM4002	4	Crime, Law and Justice	1, 2, 3
CM4006	4	Exploring Crime and Deviance	1, 2, 3
CM5004	5	Diversity and Discrimination in the Criminal Justice System	1, 2, 3
CM5013	5	Criminal Justice: Policing, Prisons and Probation	1, 2, 3
CM5021	5	Crime, Media and Culture	1, 2, 3
CM6028	6	Risk, Crime and Justice	1, 2
CM6027	6	Transnational Crime	1, 2, 3

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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LEVEL 4 – INTRODUCTORY

Module Code: CM4001
Module Title: Foundations in Criminological Theory
Credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)• Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)
Level: 4
Prerequisites: none
Suitability: study Options 1 or 2 or 3

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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Content:

This module introduces students to a range of theoretical perspectives and debates that inform criminology, and which underpin their learning throughout the criminology programme. Theories will be evaluated in relation to academic scholarship, empirical evidence, popularity and application in crime policy and practice, and in relation to their geographical, social, cultural, historical locations.

Students will learn about a changing and dynamic field of study, which has encompassed both positivistic and social analyses of crime and criminalisation. They will learn to evaluate criminological theory in relation to a range of intellectual movements. They will be encouraged to understand criminological theory in relation to shifts across allied subjects like sociology, gender studies, critical race studies, social policy, politics and psychology.

➤ **Autumn Semester: Classical and Positivist Criminology**

- Criminological Schools of Thought
- Measuring 'Crime'
- Classical Criminology & Contemporary Classicism
- Positivist Criminology (Biological Explanations)
- Positivist Criminology (Psychological Explanations)
- Sociological Positivism: Anomie and Strain Theory
- Sociological Positivism: Subcultural Theory
- Sociological Positivism: 'Social Disorganization' Theory

➤ **Spring Semester: Thinking Critically..?**

- Control Theories
- Interactionism and Labelling Theory
- Conflict (Marxist) Criminology
- Feminist Criminology
- Black and Intersectional Criminology
- Queer Criminology
- Green Criminology
- Realist Criminology

Teaching: weekly 3-hour lecture/workshop

Assessment:

Study Option 1:

- 2 x in-class tests (25% each)
- 1,500-word essay (spring, 50%)

Study Option 2:

- 2 x in-class tests (100%)

Study Option 3:

- 1,500-word essay (100%)

Note: methods of assessment are indicative only

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Module Code: CM4002

Module Title: Crime, Law and Justice

Credits:

- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Level: 4

Prerequisites: none

Suitability: study Options 1 or 2 or 3

Content:

This module will provide students with an introduction to the institutions, processes and legal foundations of the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

The module is divided into three sections:

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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- Criminal justice process – the progress of an alleged offender from arrest to trial
- Evidence – the way in which the system uses and evaluates information from victims, experts and witnesses to reach conclusions about guilt, innocence, and culpability.
- Criminal law – the key principles in determining the criminal liability of offenders.

Following the progress of adult offenders through the criminal process from arrest to appeal, this module will also introduce you to the role, functions and working practices of the main agencies that operate within the criminal justice system. The offender's journey through the criminal justice process involves the negotiation of a series of stages which, although governed by rules, statutes and codes of practice, leave considerable room for professional discretion that can either result in the accused exiting the system or proceeding to the next stage. You will have an opportunity to analyse these decision making processes, and to ask questions about the sorts of powers that the principle decision makers should hold.

For example, we will think about the following questions. Does making an act a crime reduce or increase the likelihood of its commission? How does a court arrive at a verdict in a case when it is one person's word against another? What are the key differences between Magistrates' and Crown Courts? Should a person under arrest be given access to legal advice and who should pay for this? Should certain types of offenders be diverted from custody? What are the key factors in assessing the seriousness of an offence?

In addition, through an examination of the aims and practices of the different agencies that constitute the component parts of the criminal justice system, the module will encourage you to question the coherence of the 'system', and to critically evaluate the degree to which the various elements share common goals and are working towards an agreed outcome.

➤ **Autumn Semester: Criminal Process**

- Overview: what is Crime? And Police Discretion
- Caution, Arrest and Prosecution
- The Judiciary
- Crime Scene to Court (Forensic Science)
- The Trial, establishing Guilt and Jury decision-making
- Crown Court Observation
- Criminal law
- The Police
- Sentencing

➤ **Spring Semester: Criminal Justice Institutions, Criminal Justice Issues**

- The Police
- Introduction to Criminal Law
- The Death Penalty
- Catching Britain's Killers, the Crimes that Changed us
- Competency, Insanity and Fitness to Plead

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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- Human Rights
- Prison

Teaching: weekly three-hour lecture/workshops

Assessment:

Study Option 1:

- 1,500-word Virtual Crown Court essay (50%)
- 1-hour exam (50%)

Study Option 2:

- 1,500-word Virtual Crown Court essay (100%)

Study Option 3:

- 1500-word essay (100%)

Note: methods of assessment listed are indicative only

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Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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Module Code: CM4006
Module Title: Exploring Crime and Deviance
Credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS) • Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)
Level: 4
Prerequisites: none
Suitability: study options 1 or 2 or 3
Content: <p>Exploring Crime and Deviance examines who is policed and disciplined in societal, popular, and political cultures - both past and present. It thinks about why some people and their behaviour are seen as especially threatening, transgressive, or 'problematic', while others are not. It explores which forms of behaviour have historically been characterised as dangerous or unacceptable and charts the ways in which those people and behaviours are governed through both the institutions of the state and popular culture. In doing so, this module navigates the complex interplay between criminalisation, victimisation, and harm and the blurring of boundaries between offender and victim. Specific case studies and key criminological issues will be addressed, and policy debates explored.</p> <p>Topics covered may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical understanding(s) of crime and deviance • Moral panics: past and present • Abjection, 'problem' identities, stigmatisation, and othering • State power and conformity • Deviance and popular culture • Social institutions and 'policing' identity (class, race, gender, sexuality, faith) • Penalising poverty • Anti-social behaviour and riots • Sex work and the regulation of sexuality • Toxic identities: modern masculinity and the manosphere • Mental health and moral confinement • Drug use and drug policy
Teaching: weekly 3-hour workshops

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
 Study Option 2 = Autumn
 Study Option 3 = Spring

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Assessment:

Study Option 1:

- individual poster presentation (8 mins) (40%)
- 1,800-word report (60%)

Study Options 2/3:

- Part of study option 1 assessment

Note: methods of assessment listed are indicative only

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LEVEL 5 – INTERMEDIATE

Module Code: CM5004

Module Title: Diversity and Discrimination in the Criminal Justice System

Credits:

- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Level: 5

Prerequisites: introductory university-level study in criminology/sociology

Suitability: Study Options 1 or 2 or 3

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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Content:

This module will enable students to contextualise criminology's past and present engagement with diversity and discrimination. The relationship between crime and discriminatory processes will be explored within different contexts such as within the law, prisons and cultural practices (e.g. FGM and forced marriage). The responses of the criminal justice process to diversity will also be discussed and evaluated with regard to institutional racism and domestic abuse. In addition, students will critique the gendered social construction of the categories of 'offender' and 'victim', this will be further challenged by the exploration of female membership & affiliation with criminal gangs and their perpetration of crimes, & male victims of sexual violation.

➤ **Autumn Content:**

- Diversity & Discrimination in the Criminal Justice System Defined and Illustrated: A case study of elderly offenders.
- Female Offenders: 'Mad or Bad'?
- Discrimination and the Legitimacy of male victims/survivors of sexual violence
- Media Representations of Adult Sexual Violation: How they can influence society.
- Historical Perspectives on Police Practice & Institutional Racism
- Current Perspectives on Institutional Racism
- Miscarriages of Justice
- Discrimination & the Naturalisation of Heterosexism within the Law

➤ **Spring Content:**

- Hate Crime 1: Offenders & Victims
- Hate Crime 2: Transphobia & Homophobia
- Policies in practice: The Penal Placement of Transgender Offenders
- Domestic Abuse: Gendered Perceptions of Perpetrators and Victims
- Harmful Cultural Practices (e.g., FGM, HBV, FM)
- Mentally Disordered Offenders in Community and Prison

Teaching: weekly 1-hour lecture and 1-hour seminars

Assessment:

Study Option 1:

- 2,500-word critical essay (60%)
- 1,500-word briefing paper (40%)

Study Option 2:

- 1,500-word critical essay (100%)

Study Option 3:

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

- 1,500-word essay (100%)

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Module Code: CM5013

Module Title: Criminal Justice: Policing, Prisons and Probation

Credits:

- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Level: 5

Prerequisites: introductory university-level study in criminology/sociology

Suitability: study Options 1 or 2 or 3

Content:

This module provides a critical insight into key issues and controversies in the delivery of justice by our principal criminal justice institutions: the police, prison and probation services. The module will give a sense of the historical context in which these key institutions of justice developed, as well as an understanding of the main issues confronting the criminal justice system in the twenty-first century. Debates about policing are situated in relation to the issues of procedural and spatial justice, decolonisation, globalisation and the police function and role in a diverse society. The prison and offender management services are addressed through a critical examination of both the theoretical and practical dimension of the subject. The range of different penalties will be explored, from fines and community sentences to restorative justice, and the changing ways in which 'justice' is conceptualised and delivered, or not delivered, in the present day, particularly with respect to the changing place of the victim.

In doing so, theory will be connected to practice through the implementation of real-world learning, in partnership with external organisations, and authentic assessments.

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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Teaching: 3-hour weekly lectures and workshops

Assessment:

Study Option 1:

- 12-minutes group presentation (25%)
- 3000-word report (75%)

Study Options 2/3:

- 1,500-word essay (100%)

Note: methods of assessment listed are indicative only

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Module Code: CM5021

Module Title: Crime, Media and Culture

Credits:

- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Level: 5

Prerequisites: introductory university-level study in criminology/sociology

Suitability: study options 1 or 2 or 3

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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Content:

Crime, Media and Culture critically analyses the explosion of the true crime and fiction drama ranging from violent video games, podcasts and social media to more traditional print and visual sources. Both new and old media are instrumental in our understandings of crime and the criminal justice system, but agendas change, and the framing of crime can be sensationalised, factually incorrect (trial by media) and/or insensitive to victims leading to ethical dilemmas. With the increase of crime consumption, we have seen the commodification of crime for entertainment which can distort the reality of our criminal justice system.

Research has shown that viewing true crime is correlated with an increased fear of being a victim of crime and more punitive attitude to justice, as well as a distrust for the criminal justice system with miscarriages of justice gaining attention on streaming services like Netflix and law enforcement questioned. Research has shown that declining trust in the institutions and processes of justice reduce the likelihood of reporting offences and increase the likelihood of informal dispute resolution and vigilantism.

Topics covered include:

- Cultural criminology
- Media theory
- True crime genre and crime on screen
- Media Misogyny: Monstrous Women and Female Agency
- Trial by media
- Constructing victims
- Riots and the Media
- Social Media, Crime and Policing
- Digital vigilantism
- Class, ethnicity and age
- Green crime
- Crime dramas

Teaching: 3-hour weekly lectures and workshops

Assessment:

Study Option 1:

- Podcast with script (15 mins) (40%)
- Critical Media Analysis (2400 words) (60%)

Study Options 2/3:

- Part of study option 1 assessment

Note: methods of assessment listed are indicative only

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

LEVEL 6 – ADVANCED

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Module Code: CM6028
Module Title: Risk, Crime and Justice
Credits: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)
Level: 6
Prerequisites: substantial study in intermediate university-level study in criminology/sociology
Suitability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Options 1 or 2 • This module is taught entirely within the Autumn semester
Content: <p>This module explores the increasing importance of risk as a way of both managing and understanding crime and its control in contemporary society. Formal risk management techniques have become central to policing practice and offender management, and they are increasingly important in the sentencing process. We use risk management techniques in fields as diverse as gun and knife crime, organised crime, terrorism, fraud, environmental crime, cybercrime and domestic abuse. Academic theories of risk try to help us understand why this has happened, and how thinking through risk has shaped social responses to, and perceptions of crime, danger and (in)security. Some scholars see risk as a way of managing offenders that helps liberate us from individual bias; others see risk as dominating our lives, creating a ‘culture of fear’ that limits our development, while others counter this with examples of cultures of risk-taking and thrill-seeking in criminal activity and social life.</p> <p>This module explores risk in both theory and practice and seeks to understand whether the increasing centrality of risk to criminal justice has changed what we expect from our institutions, how we relate to them, and perhaps how we relate to one another.</p> Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical positions on risk and crime • The lived experience of risk and risk management • Risk, policing and crime control • Risk and offender management • Risk, crime and excitement • Risk and its relation to gender, geography, ethnicity and class

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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Teaching: weekly 3-hour class/workshops
Assessment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,500-word case study (100%)
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Module Code: CM6027
Module Title: Transnational Crime
Credits:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS) • Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)
Level: 6
Prerequisites: Substantial study in intermediate university-level study in criminology/sociology
Suitability: Study Options 1 or 2 or 3
Content:
<p>The aim of this module is to introduce students to selected issues in transnational crime. It will enable them to analyse complex criminogenic factors that transcend national borders and think globally and comparatively.</p> <p>The module begins with a discussion transnational crime and how it is researched the theorised. This is then followed with a range of topics, themes and debates, such as as radicalisation, global security, counterterrorism, drug trade and cybercrime.</p> <p>Students will explore the challenges of organised criminal behaviour and criminal organisations and implications for state responses. This will include an understanding of illegal markets, problems caused by crimes against the environment, the role of technology in perpetrating crime across borders (cybercrime).</p>

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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➤ **Autumn Semester:**

- The nature of Transnational Crime
- Transnational Drug Trafficking
- Transnational Environmental Crime
- Human Trafficking
- Cybercrime
- Power, Violence & Obedience
- The Problem of Torture
- Law of War and International Criminal Justice

➤ **Spring Semester:**

- Terrorism: transnational crime and threat to global security
- Global counterterrorism: state of exception and preventive justice
- Transnational crime and religion: a critical perspective on jihadist terrorist groups
- Transnational Far-right extremism and terrorism
- Transnational organized crime
- Perspectives from the Global South

Teaching: weekly 3-hour workshops

Assessment:

Study Option 1:

- 3,000-word case study review (60%)
- Poster presentation (40%)

Study Option 2:

- 3,000-word case study review (100%)

Study Option 3:

- 2,500-word report (100%)

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Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

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