



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.

*Updated March 2026/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)

**Notes:**

1. All modules are at undergraduate level only.

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

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.

## Criminology Modules for Visiting Students 2026/27

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 2026), 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.*

<b>MODULE CODE</b>	<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>SUITABILITY KEY</b>
<a href="#">CM4001</a>	4	Foundations in Criminological Theory	1, 2, 3
<a href="#">CM4002</a>	4	Crime, Law and Justice	1, 2, 3
<a href="#">CM4006</a>	4	Exploring Crime and Deviance	1, 2, 3
<a href="#">CM5004</a>	5	Diversity and Discrimination in the Criminal Justice System	1, 2, 3
<a href="#">CM5013</a>	5	Criminal Justice: Policing, Prisons and Probation	1, 2, 3
<a href="#">CM5021</a>	5	Crime, Media and Culture	1, 2, 3
<a href="#">CM6028</a>	6	Risk, Crime and Justice	1, 2
<a href="#">CM6027</a>	6	Transnational Crime	1, 2, 3
<a href="#">PO6007</a>	6	Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity	1, 2, 3
<a href="#">SO6034</a>	6	Social Issues	1, 2, 3

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

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## LEVEL 4 – INTRODUCTORY

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

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

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<b>Teaching:</b> weekly 3-hour lecture/workshop
<p><b>Assessment:</b> Study Option 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x in-class tests (25% each)</li> <li>• 1,500-word essay (spring, 50%)</li> </ul> <p>Study Option 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x in-class tests (100%)</li> </ul> <p>Study Option 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,500-word essay (100%)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: methods of assessment listed are indicative only and maybe subject to change</i></p> <p><b>Last updated:</b> 11/03/26 PJW</p>

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<b>Module Code:</b> CM4002
<b>Module Title:</b> Crime, Law and Justice
<p><b>Credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)</li> <li>• Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)</li> </ul>
<b>Level:</b> 4
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none
<b>Suitability:</b> study Options 1 or 2 or 3
<p><b>Content:</b> This module will provide students with an introduction to the institutions, processes and legal foundations of the criminal justice system in England and Wales.</p> <p>The module is divided into three sections:</p>

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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 to 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 and establishing guilt
- Jury decision-making
- Catching Britain's Killers, the Crimes that Changed Us
- Criminal Law 1

➤ **Spring Semester:**

- The Police
- Criminal Law 2
- The Death Penalty
- Competency, Insanity and Fitness to Plead
- Human Rights
- Prison
- Technology and Justice

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

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**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:**

- 1,500-word essay (100%)

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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:**

- 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:**

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.

Topics covered:

➤ **Autumn Semester:**

- Historical criminology and trends in crime
- What makes a society? Civilising and decivilising process
- From liberal society to neoliberalism?
- Identity, othering and Social Abjection
- A method for studying crime and deviance: discourse analysis
- Moral panics: war and the poor
- Moral panics through time: witches and 'bad' women
- Hate crime today: Anti-migrant and transdiscourses
- Gendered violence today and modern masculinity

➤ **Spring Semester:**

- Youth, Deviance, and the Construction of Childhood
- Youth Justice in the UK: Policy, Practice, and Critique
- Policing Identity: Stop and Search, Race, and Youth

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

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- Poverty, Exclusion, and Criminalisation
- Digital Deviance and Cybercrime
- Mental Health, Deviance, and Moral Confinement
- Drugs, Subcultures, and State Control
- Anti-Social Behaviour and the Criminalisation of Everyday Life
- Terrorism, Radicalisation, and Prevent

**Teaching:** weekly 3-hour workshops

**Assessment:**

**Study Option 1:**

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

**Study Option 2:**

- individual poster presentation (8 mins) (100%)

**Study Option 3:**

- 1,800-word report (100%)

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

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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

**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)

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

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- 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:

- 2,500-word critical essay (100%)

Study Option 3:

- 1,500-word essay (100%)

*Note: methods of assessment listed are indicative only and maybe subject to change*

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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

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

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**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.

➤ **Autumn Semester:**

- Introduction to Policing
- The Purpose of Policing
- Police Legitimacy
- Police Culture
- Policing 'Suspect' Communities
- Policing, Protest and Public (Dis)Order
- Gendered Violence and Policing
- The Pluralisation of Policing
- Vigilantism and Civic Policing
- Defund the Police?

➤ **Spring Semester:**

- Punishment in Modern Societies
- The Birth of the Prison
- The Punitive Turn and Penal Populism
- Prison Life and the Pains of Imprisonment
- Gender, Race and Class in Imprisonment
- Prison Culture and Managing the Prison
- Desistance, Resettlement and Reform
- Human Rights and Mental Health
- Restorative Justice
- The Prison Abolition Movement

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:**

- Employer-led Brief – 2000 words (50%)
- Critical analysis 2000-words (50%)

**Study Option 2:**

- Employer-led Brief – 2000 words (100%)

**Study Option 3:**

- Critical analysis 2000-words (50%)

*Note: methods of assessment listed are indicative only and may be subject to change*

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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

**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

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

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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:

➤ **Autumn Semester:**

- Shaping Shadows: Framing Crime Reporting
- Whispers of Crime: Unraveling the Crime on Screen and Podcast Enigma
- Behind the Mic: Critical Perspectives on True Crime Podcasting
- Social media and crime
- The Weinstein Effect: Class and Crime.
- Interpreting Headlines: Trial by the Media (1)
- Interpreting Headlines: The Case of Madeleine McCann (2)
- Crime, ethnicity and the media
- Glamour of the Gruesome: Exploring Media's Portrayal of Serial Killers and their Victims
- Jack the Ripper walking tour

➤ **Spring Semester:**

- Introduction to Jack the Ripper
- Representing the Gang: True Crime
- Mythologising the Gang
- Graffiti and the Inner-City Aesthetic
- Media and London Knife Crime
- Miscarriages of Justice
- Visual content, video games
- Real-Life Superheroes
- Digital Vigilantism

**Teaching:** 3-hour weekly lectures and workshops

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

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**Assessment:**

**Study Option 1:**

- Podcast with script (15 mins) (50%)
- Critical Media Analysis (2000 words) (50%)

**Study Option 2:**

- Podcast with script (15 mins) (100%)

**Study Option 3:**

- Critical Media Analysis (2000 words) (100%)

*Note: methods of assessment listed are indicative only and maybe subject to change*

## LEVEL 6 – ADVANCED

**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:**

- Study Options 1 or 2
- This module is taught entirely within the Autumn semester

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

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**Content:**

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.

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.

**Topics:**

- 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:**

- 2,500-word case study (100%)

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**Module Code:** CM6027

**Module Title:** Transnational Crime

**Credits:**

- 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:**

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.

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.

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).

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 2 = Autumn  
Study Option 3 = Spring

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**Module Code: PO6007**

**Module Title: Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity**

**Credits:**

- 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:**

This module will be examining some deeply troubling events in recent history and politics and the various ethical, legal and political responses that they have generated. It has been argued that the Holocaust was a critical turning point, a catastrophe which required a fundamental ethical, legal and political rethinking of how the rights of human beings could be protected when states in the modern world engage in the systematic attempt to murder large numbers of people, including many of their own citizens. The module begins with reflections on the Nazi attempt to eliminate a whole group of people (the Jews) and to murder and enslave millions of others. It then considers a range of responses, including the Nuremberg trials, the Genocide Convention, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It examines a number of cases of genocide and crimes against humanity that have nevertheless occurred subsequently. It evaluates the repeated failure for decades to halt or prevent these crimes and then considers the rethinking caused by the genocides in Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the setting up of ad hoc tribunals and an International Criminal Court to prosecute perpetrators and provide justice to victims. It concludes with reflections on how much progress has been made in protecting citizens in a world of sovereign nation states and what forms of justice can work after such crimes have been committed. These are highly contested questions and the module is designed to encourage the critical analysis and evaluation of a wide range of arguments that have been put forward from a variety of perspectives.

➤ **Autumn Semester: Key Historical, Conceptual and Institutional Issues and Debates**

- Introduction: Genocide: the origins of an idea
- Genocide in the Context of Colonialism and Imperialism
- From Crimes against Humanity to Genocide and the Genocide Convention
- The Political Uses and Abuses of Genocide
- Understanding genocide and crimes against humanity – intentionalism
- Understanding genocide and crimes against humanity – functionalism
- The question of morality – perpetrators, victims, bystanders, and rescuers
- Prosecuting genocide and crimes against humanity: from Nuremberg to the ICC and beyond
- Prevention

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

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- Reconciliation
- Genocide in the Contemporary World

➤ **Spring Semester: Case Studies**

- Cambodia: Antecedents to Genocide
- Cambodia: Year Zero and its Aftermath
- Guatemala: Documenting the claim
- Guatemala: Contradicting claims of blame
- Yugoslavia: Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Yugoslavia: Kosovo
- Rwanda: Imperialism and Historic Animosity?
- Rwanda: 100 Days: Interpreting the Chaos
- Burma: Citizens of the World Without a State
- Burma: (Some May) Call it Genocide

**Teaching:** 3-hour weekly lecture/workshops

**Assessment:**

- **Study Option 1:**
  - 2,500-word essay (50%)
  - 2,500-word portfolio: policy brief, blog commentary (50%)
- **Study Option 2:**
  - 2,500-word inquiry submission (100%)
- **Study Option 3:**
  - 2,500-word portfolio: policy brief, blog commentary (100%)

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**Module Code: SO6034**

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

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**Module Title: Social Issues**

**Credits:**

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

**Level: 6**

**Prerequisites:** *Substantial* prior study of sociology/criminology at university level

**Suitability:** Study Options **1** and **2** and **3**

**Content:**

This module will explore social issues across three areas of sociology, closely aligned with expertise within the Department of Criminology, Politics and Sociology such as gender identity and intersectionality; health inequalities and socio-political responses to pandemics such as COVID-19; climate change and environmental activism. The module content will change every year to reflect current research being undertaken in the department and pressing concerns in society more broadly. Given this focus on current affairs, students will be asked to debate (often controversial) social issues, reflect on the impact and effect of government policy, and makes sense of social inequalities, structures and institutions. In doing so, the module asks students to engage with sociological theory and debates across the social sciences, to critically assess these social issues and to understand them at an academic level.

**Topics:**

➤ **Autumn:**

- Introduction: Dealing with Complex issues in a Complex Society: Putting Social Knowledge in Action
- Co-creating the City: Participatory Planning, Citizen-led regeneration and Healthy Communities
- Sustainable Cities: Climate Change, the Anthropocene, Global Inequality and the City
- Social Issues, Policy and Stake Holder Engagement: Inclusive Policy Making
- Healthy Streets Approach
- Housing crisis and affordability
- "Rhodes Must Fall": Difficult and Contested Heritage, Race and Decolonisation
- Gender and Sexuality in the "Culture Wars"
- Identity Construction and Othering

➤ **Spring:**

- Intersectionality, Privilege, and Inequality

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

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- Medical Discourse and Deviance
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Public Health Campaigns
- The Politics of Pandemics
- Does Gender Matter?
- Gender, Family and The Home
- Gender: Love and Dating
- Gender, the Media and Representation
- Gender, Leadership & Employment

**Teaching:** weekly 3-hour workshop

**Assessment:**

**Study Option 1:**

- 2,500-word policy proposal (50%)
- 2,500-word critical reflection (50%)

**Study Option 2:**

- 2,500-word policy proposal (100%)

**Study Option 3:**

- 2,500-word critical reflection (100%)

**Last updated:** 11/03/26 PJW

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

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