



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007448	Version: 3 Date Amended: 05/Jul/2024
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1. Module Title
Media, Society and Crime

2a. Module Leader
Michael Mills

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Media representations of crime are a matter of public interest as well as political debate. The way the media treats crime has important implications for public perceptions of crime, criminals and the processes of the criminal justice system. Should crime always be newsworthy? How objective is the presentation of crime in the media? With the use of specific examples, you will examine key issues in the news media, including a focus on changing social norms and expectations in relation to crime and the media formats through which it is discussed and portrayed. You will explore the ways in which media shapes our perception of crime and critically examine the theoretical perspectives on media and propaganda. In addition, you will explore the construction of crime news and the role of politics and ideology in this context. You will explore the fictional and factual representation of youths in the media; the fear of crime; contemporary surveillance culture; the analysis of relevant statistics, and the use of propaganda techniques. You will examine these issues through the use of case studies, reports, and theory. You will be expected to select case studies in order to develop analytical skills as well as presentation skills during the seminars. In the essay you will develop techniques to evaluate debates about the relations between media, society and crime, as well as public perceptions.

6b. Outline Content

- Media and society
- Theorizing media and crime
- Propaganda and politics in the media
- Crime news and ideology
- Moral panics and young people
- Media and sex crimes
- Media, police and fear of crime
- Crime and surveillance culture
- The role of the internet in society

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Active learning classrooms for all seminars

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Apply criminological and sociological theories to to current media examples of moral panics, propaganda or fake news.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify and comment on the accuracy of specific media examples that demonstrate the misrepresentation of crime-related issues or social problems.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Consider the specific agendas of various relevant organisations and communities such as media outlets, police, third sector and minoritised groups in the general public; and what such agendas may mean for crime media stories.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop presentation skills by working in small groups to produce and present a group project (involving audience interaction) on any topic of your choice that relates to media and crime issues in society.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	22	1-3	Lecture, 2 hours x 11 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	22	1-4	Seminars, 2 hours x 11 weeks
Student managed learning	256	1-4	Student managed learning
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 word moral panic Case Study					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	1-4	0 (%)	Pass/Fail	100 (%)
10 min Argument Building and In-Class Debate					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Coursework	1-3	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 word Theoretical Essay					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]