Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD009026	**Version:** 2 **Date Amended:** 05/Jul/2024

1. Module Title
Dark Web Policing and Control

2a. Module Leader
Christian Kemp

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

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

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisite:	MOD007453	Cybercrime and Policing	Compulsory
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The Dark Web is often referred to as the ‘cybercrime capital of the internet’. This label accurately represents the role that the dark web plays within global networks of online child sexual exploitation, the transnational trade of illicit goods and online terrorism and radicalisation. Dark Web Policing and Control confronts such issues and seeks to critically evaluate the tactics and strategies that both UK and international law enforcement agencies have used to control the scale and spread of these offences.

Dark Web Policing and Control begins by explaining the tools and technologies that underpin the dark web and how the dark web can be used and accessed safely. You will then explore each of the major crime types associated with the dark web and the key policing strategies used to control each. Across each of these themes, recent case studies will be used to illustrate how investigations unfolded, the digital evidence that was gathered and how law enforcement stakeholders collaborated to secure prosecutions. You will also examine how you may undertake social sciences research within the dark web and the digital methodologies that are required. The content offered is research led and informed by first-hand qualitative interviews with dark web investigators based within the UK.

6b. Outline Content

- Understanding the Structure of the Dark Web
- Media representations of the Dark Web-Myth’s Vs Reality
- Using the Dark Web safely
- Dark web virtual tour
- The Dark Web and Technology- VPN’s and Encryption
- Online Child Sexual Abuse and the Dark Web
- Crypto-Currencies and Bitcoin- Money Laundering
- Crypto-markets- Illicit Trade within the Dark Web
- High profile crypto-market takedowns and investigations
- Online Terrorism and Dark Web Forums
- Examining the positive uses of the Dark Web.
- Digital Research Methods and Researching the Dark Web

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

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	Demonstrate critical understanding of the role of the dark web within emergent types of cybercrime, including online child sexual abuse, illicit trade, and terrorism and radicalisation.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate knowledge of the transnational policing strategies that are used to police and control cybercrime within the dark web.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply digital and social sciences research methodologies when researching the dark web.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Discern key modes of digital policing and digital forensics and apply them to contemporary and cutting-edge cases of cyber-crime within the dark web.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	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	11	1-4	Lecture, 1 hour x 11 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	11	1-4	Seminar, 1 hour x 11 weeks
Student managed learning	128	1-4	Student managed learning
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	0 (%)	Pass/Fail	100 (%)
Report - 500 words					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay - 2,000 words					

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]