

Module code: MOD009096	Version: 2 Date Amended: 12/Jun/2025
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1. Module Title
Hanging, Prisons and Community Service: Crime and Punishment in Britain throughout the Ages

2a. Module Leader
Joseph Harley

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-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) History; BA (Hons) Criminology; BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology; BA (Hons) Liberal Arts; BA (Hons) Education with History		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Crime has been a problem for authorities since the dawn of time; however, what constituted a 'crime' and how people thought that criminals should be prosecuted has been everchanging. In this interdisciplinary module, you will consider the history of crime, policing and punishment from the 1600s to present day.

Through a range of primary and secondary sources, you will explore how ideas of crime and attitudes to offences such as murder, rioting and drug use has changed and evolved throughout the centuries. You will learn about how past societies detected and tried to prevent crime, as well as punished criminals such as through imprisonment, hanging, whipping and transportation. Case studies including Jack the Ripper, the Bloody Code and knife crime of the modern era will be brought in from week to week so that we can explore continuities and changes in crime across history to the present day.

6b. Outline Content

- Changing ideas and definitions of crime.
- The rise of modern policing and detection.
- Punishments over history, such as hanging, transportation and imprisonment.
- The history of various crimes, which might include murder, theft and drug use.
- Rising fear of crime.
- The role and nature of prosecutors and criminals.
- How aspects such as poverty and gender affected criminal prosecutions.

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	Explain changes in crime, punishment and policing in Britain from the 1600s to present day.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand how viewpoints on justice can differ between various people including politicians, criminals, social thinkers and victims.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Organise and present evidence, research and case studies in a way that is accessible to audiences.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Construct a written argument and support it effectively with relevant evidence.

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	12	1-4	Lecture 1 hr x 12 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	Seminar 1 hr x 12 weeks
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Student managed learning, seminar preparation and assignment writing and research.
TOTAL:	150		

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	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Poster 1000 words					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay 1500 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]

