Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for MA Criminology: Crime, Conflict and Control

Programme Specification

1. Programme title	Criminology: Crime, Conflict and Control
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	N/A
5. Final qualification	MA
6. Academic year	2009/2010
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	F/T, P/T

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

A good first degree (2:2 or better) in a relevant subject and/or three years or more of relevant work experience (plus where applicable an English Language qualification to the appropriate level, i.e. IELTS 6.5 or equivalent)

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

The MA Criminology: Crime, Conflict and Control aims to provide students with an advanced understanding of the nature of crime and its control. There is an emphasis on research led teaching. By the end of the programme, the successful student will have gained an advanced understanding of:

- the major theoretical paradigms of contemporary criminology
- alternative approaches to researching and evaluating crime, conflict and control
- key issues and debates in relation to crime, conflict and control
- the major institutions and processes involved in the criminal justice system
- the techniques and issues involved in comparative analysis of crime and criminal justice

In addition, students will have undertaken and written an in depth study of a selected area of crime and criminal justice.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding	Teaching/learning methods

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of : 1. The major theoretical paradigms of contemporary criminology 2. Alternative approaches to researching and evaluating crime, conflict and control 3. Key issues and debates in relation to crime, conflict and control 4. The major institutions and processes involved in the criminal justice system 5. the techniques and issues associated with comparative analysis of crime, conflict and control	Students gain knowledge and understanding through lectures, student led seminars, workshops and individual tutorials as well as personal study. Learning is supported by the provision of handbooks, reading lists and web-based materials. **Assessment** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation and also through oral presentation of their work.
B. Cognitive (thinking) skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Apply theoretical perspectives to specific areas of crime, conflict and control 2. Critically assess recent research and scholarship relating to crime, conflict and control 3. Understand the factors that influence criminological research, policy and practice 4. Develop their own strategies for undertaking criminological research 5. Compare and contrast at international level issues in and approaches to crime, conflict and control	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn cognitive skills through preparation for and participation in seminars and through the presentation of ideas in verbal and written formats. They receive formative feedback on their skills through group-work and in individual tutorials as well as in written feedback on assignments. **Assessment** Students' cognitive skills are assessed by written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation and also through oral presentation of their work.
C. Practical skills On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Formulate and present structured arguments and justify conclusions drawn 2. Manage their own time and resources 3. Draw on a range of learning resources and materials 4. Engage in debate and discussion 5. Apply research methods to the study of crime, conflict and control	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn practical skills through preparation for and participation in seminars and through the presentation of ideas in verbal and written formats. They receive formative feedback on their skills through group-work and in individual tutorials. Practical skills such as interviewing and data analysis are an integral part of the core module on criminological theory and research and the dissertation. **Assessment** Students' practical skills are assessed by written assignments including essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation and also through also through oral presentation of their work
D.4. Graduate skills	

N/A	

12. Programme structure
12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The MA is studied over one year full-time or two years part-time. It is made up of four 30 credit taught modules, two of which are core, two taken from a list of options, and one 60 credit dissertation. In total, students have to gain 180 credits.

The Postgraduate Diploma is made up of 120 credits and follows the same structure as the MA but without the dissertation.

The Postgraduate Certificate is made up of 60 credits which can be made up from any of the MA Criminology: Crime, Conflict and Control modules (i.e. there are no compulsory modules for the PGCert.).

12.2 Levels and modules		
COMPULSORY[1]	OPTIONAL [2]	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: CRM4310 Contemporary Criminology – Theory and Research CRM4320 Crime, Conflict and Control CRM4960 Dissertation in Criminology: Crime, Conflict and Control (compulsory for MA but not PGDip or PGCert)	Students must also choose two from the following: CRM4315 Drugs, Crime and Criminology CRM4305 International Comparative Criminology CRM4330 Critical Issues in Criminal Justice CRM4335 Contemporary Issues in Youth and Adult Offending* CRM4325 Community Safety* * Students may choose one but not both of these modules (core to the MA Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology)	

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	**Module code**
All level 4	CRM4310
	CRM4320
	CRM4960

13. Curriculum map
See attached.

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[1] Compulsory modules are those that must be taken, that is, the qualification cannot be made unless these modules have been successfully completed. Each of these modules makes a unique contribution to the learning objectives of the programme.

[2] Optional modules are those from which a specified minimum number must be taken, that is, the qualification cannot be given unless this specified minimum number of optional modules have been successfully completed. Each of the possible combinations of optional modules will make a similarly unique contribution to the achievement of the learning objectives of the programme.

14. Information about assessment regulations

The Department of Criminology and Sociology adheres to the Middlesex University Guide and Regulations on all assessment regulations.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

N/A.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

The knowledge and skills acquired through the MA Criminology: Crime, Conflict and Control will be of value to students across a wide range of professions and the programme offers access to skills such as GIS mapping and data analysis that are essential in more specific employment contexts (e.g. crime analysis and auditing crime survey research). Post-graduate criminology at Middlesex is well respected internationally in terms of academia and criminal justice positions.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

All new students are offered an induction tour of the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and further workshops in, for example, use of the library catalogue, searching databases and various software packages such as MS Word are offered by LRC staff and/or the English Language Learning Support Service (ELLS) (see below). These sessions are highlighted to new students in particular, but advice, information and support is available on an ongoing basis.

The library holds copies of core texts and most of the recommended reading on MA criminology modules. Copies of key texts out of print are kept in the Photocopy Collection and available through the LRC helpdesk. Material which is not in stock but required for individual research/dissertations can be obtained via the British Library on completion of a request form. This process normally takes about two weeks. The UK Libraries Plus Scheme also provides access to local participating libraries. Students can apply to join this scheme at the LRC Enquiries desk.

Post-graduate students also have access to a Post-graduate reading/computer room within the LRC.

In addition, our students are encouraged to take full advantage of University-level and student union learning support schemes and facilities. The English Language Learning Support Service (ELLS) is highly recommended at induction and in the formative weeks of the programme, especially for overseas students and for those entering or returning to HE after a considerable period of time out of education.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	005L392
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Criminology Subject Benchmark (2007)

20. Reference points

The following documents were consulted:

Middlesex University Guide and Regulations

The Learning Framework Programme Design Guide (2006)

University and School of Health and Social Sciences Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England and Wales (January 2001)

British Society of Criminology Benchmarks (13.03.2006)

21. Other information

Staff and students on the MA Criminology: Crime, Conflict and Control at Middlesex are part of a network of criminologists and sociologists throughout Europe who meet together on a regular basis at European Common Study Programme sessions. These comprise lectures and seminars on a specific theme chosen by the host university. Students who choose to participate in sessions have the opportunity to engage in debate and discussion with colleagues. Students who take the optional module CRM4305 will have the opportunity to present a paper to one of these sessions as part of their assessment. Details of forthcoming sessions are regularly publicised by programme staff.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the University Regulations.