

Programme specification

BA (Hons) Criminology

<i>School:</i>	Psychological and Social Sciences
<i>Entry in:</i>	September 2018
<i>Awarding Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery Location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit Awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Criminology Diploma of Higher Education Criminology BA (Ord) Criminology
<i>UCAS Code:</i>	L6L1
<i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>	Criminology 2014
<i>Mode/s of Study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years
<i>Language of Study:</i>	English

Introduction and Special Features

BA (Hons) Criminology draws upon staff expertise to offer you a broad curriculum in criminology with modules designed to develop your ability to understand a range of criminological theories alongside modules which offer the opportunity to apply these theories. In addition to this learning, a number of modules encourage you to develop your research skills which culminate in an opportunity to carry out a criminological investigation by Level Six. The notion of human rights is central to the study of criminology at YSJU and, together with equality and social justice is important to this programme and underpins much of your studies. Human rights are important in evaluating how behaviours may impinge upon the individual and on others and therefore a consideration of this can be seen as essential to understanding the social limits to freedom and in a criminological context. Alongside this a critical and reflective criminological imagination is embedded within the course and you are required to assess criminological debates relating to issues such as crime, deviance, representations, criminal justice, human rights, punishment, rehabilitation and victimisation; including a range of international perspectives.

As part of your academic development, assignments will foster critical and original thinking to enhance your employment potential at the end of the course. A recent report by the Higher Education Statistics Agency illustrates that Social Science graduates out-perform graduates in other areas in respect of progressing to employment or further training. In encouraging you to enhance your future employability, in level 5 you will study Working with Criminology to allow you to engage in career planning. Volunteering in a range of settings is also recommended. In support of this both the university and the department have extensive links with a range of organisations that can provide relevant work experience. The university hosts an annual volunteering fair and the department are often contacted with details of work opportunities. Such work, paid or unpaid, can be of significant help in terms of your studies and in getting employment after you have graduated.

As part of the opportunities provided by BA (Hons) Criminology at York St John University you will be able to study abroad. In a programme that has a strong focus on encouraging students to draw upon work and examples from a range of international contexts, the opportunity to experience a different culture whilst studying is seen as particularly worthwhile. Studying abroad offers you the opportunity to further develop this aspect of your studies and your personal development more

generally. Throughout your studies you will adopt a global outlook and your modules will draw upon a range of international perspectives and examples.

In summary, this is an exciting opportunity to develop detailed and critical insights into criminological issues in contemporary context. It also encourages you to internationalise your thoughts and enhance your future employability within a vibrant and growing department.

Admissions Criteria

The University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate/postgraduate](#) apply.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme Aims

The BA(Hons) Criminology programme aims to enable students to demonstrate an ability to :

1. Apply key concepts and theoretical approaches that have been developed, and are developing, within criminology;
2. Provide critical insights into criminology and theories that are drawn upon by criminologists;
3. Evaluate a variety of social practices that criminologists have investigated;
4. Make comparative analysis when exploring crime, criminal justice systems, punishment, rehabilitation and victimisation;
5. Evaluate critically the relationship between individuals, groups, power and experiences of criminality;
6. Evaluate the assumptions that are made by a variety of criminologists;
7. Evaluate critically of the social processes underpinning crime, deviance, experience of criminal justice, victimisation and punishment;
8. Apply a range of qualitative and quantitative research strategies and methods;
9. Offer criminological arguments based upon appropriate evidence;
10. Evaluate the possible career destinations that they may take and strategies to increase employability.

Programme Learning Outcomes

These Learning Outcomes are described in terms of the Quality Assurance Agency's 'Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland', January 2007. The rationale behind the programme's aims centres upon producing criminology graduates who are critical and open minded in their outlook. Theoretical and empirical insight is also aspired to. Crime, deviance, criminal justice systems, punishment and victimisation are also central to the study of criminology. When designing the programme's aims, there was also an aspiration that you will have the opportunity to examine a range of international contexts and perspectives. Reflection on students' future employability is also a desired outcome of the BA.

Students who gain the award specified will be able to:

Level 4/FHEQ L4 Certificate of Higher Education

1. Demonstrate a broad-based knowledge and understanding of a range of underlying concepts, content and theoretical perspectives associated with studying criminology.
2. Effectively explain different criminological perspectives.
3. Present, evaluate and interpret different forms of information, evidence, data, artefacts and performances appropriate to the study of criminology.
4. Communicate effectively using a range of skills appropriate for the audience and purpose.
5. Demonstrate a range of key transferable skills (including those for lifelong learning) appropriate for further study.

Level 5/FHEQ L5 Diploma of Higher Education

1. Apply theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of issues relevant to the field of criminology.
2. Demonstrate a critical awareness of research strategies that are relevant to the study of criminology.
3. Critically analyse data and information relevant to the study of criminology.
4. Communicate subject-relevant information, ideas and arguments effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
5. Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively in decision-making in the context of growing maturity as an independent learner.

Level 6/ FHEQ L6 Ordinary Degree

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the relationship between theoretical and empirical knowledge in the discipline of criminology
2. Manage and reflect critically upon own learning.
3. Demonstrate an appreciation of uncertainty and ambiguity in respect of some criminological knowledge.
4. Show proficiency in using sociological theories and principles in the analysis and solution of complex problems.
5. Demonstrate critical evaluation of research strategies associated with criminology.
6. Proficiently use and communicate approaches to the evaluation of qualitative and quantitative data relevant to the study of criminology.
7. Acquire, organise and communicate information, ideas and arguments, showing an understanding of the significance and limitations of knowledge in the field of criminology.
8. Critically evaluate and apply criminological theory and principles to a range of issues.

Honours Degree: In addition to an Ordinary Degree students will:

1. Devise and sustain critical commentary on advanced studies in the discipline of criminology.
2. Apply skills, concepts, theoretical and empirical knowledge, and methods appropriate to the study of criminology to initiate, design, plan and execute research.
3. Demonstrate an ability to reach reasoned judgements about arguments and evidence based upon sound critical analysis and an understanding of different value positions.
4. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in a range of decision-making contexts related to their studies.

Programme Structure

The course reflects a number of key themes which run throughout the programme. The complex nature of the discipline of criminology and the issues that it addresses means several key themes are sometimes addressed within a module. The key themes of the programme are:

Theme A: Criminological concepts and theories
 Theme B: Methods & Methodology
 Theme C: Diversity & Equality
 Theme D: Criminal Justice
 Theme E: Prevention, punishment and rehabilitation
 Theme F: Victimisation

Modules for the programme

Level Four Modules

Code	Semester	Module Title	Themes	Credits	Status of Module*
1CL001	1	Introduction to researching and writing for criminologists	A, B, C, D, E & F	20	C
1CL002	1	Fundamentals of criminological theory	A, C, D, E & F	20	C
1CL003	1	Key concepts for criminologists	A, C, D, E & F	20	C
1CL004	2	Victimology	A, B, C, D, E & F	20	C
1CL005	2	Crime and deviance in a contemporary world	A, C, D	20	C
1CL006	2	Preventing and punishing	A, C, D, E, F	20	C

***C**: Compulsory, **CP**: Compulsory for progression to the next level, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

Level Five Modules

Code	Semester	Module Title	Themes	Credits	Status of Module*
2CL001	1	Qualitative approaches to research	B	20	C
2CL002	1	Quantitative approaches to research	B	20	C
2CL003	1	Working with criminology	D, E & F	20	C
2CL004	2	Gender, sexuality and crime	A, C, D, E & F	20	C
2CL005	2	Ethnicity, crime and the Criminal Justice System	A, C, D, E & F	20	C
2CL006	2	Crime and the economy	A, C, D & F	20	C

***C**: Compulsory, **CP**: Compulsory for progression to the next level, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective

Level Six Modules

Code	Semester	Module Title	Themes	Credits	Status of Module*
3CL001	1	Philosophical aspects of criminological theory	A, D,	20	O
3CL002	1	Terrorism, state crime and political violence	A, C, D, E & F	20	O
3CL003	1	Exploring murder	A, B, C, D, E,	20	O
3CL005	1	Crime and popular culture	A, C & D	20	O
3CL030	1	Professional and Organised Crime	A, D & F	20	O
3CL009	1+2	Independent study	A, B, C, D, E & F	40	CA
3CL006	2	Sex work	A, B, C, D, E & F	20	O
3CL007	2	Youth, crime and justice	A, C, D, E & F	20	O
3CL008	2	Prisons and penology	A, C, D, E	20	O
3SC010	2	Death and Mortality	A	20	O

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York St John University has an established scheme for students to study abroad. This involves accepting students from overseas and it is envisaged that overseas students taking BA (Hons) Criminology modules will contribute to an overall awareness of the global, social and cultural nature of our lives. York St John University students who take part in the study abroad scheme will spend Semester 2 of level 4 abroad. As such, they will not take 2CL004, 2CL005 or 2CL006.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

You will experience a range of teaching styles and settings and a variety of approaches to learning. Classes will generally involve tutor-led input interspersed with student activities. Activities may include small group work, discussions, guided reading and library-based research leading to feedback alongside seminars (small groups of students with a tutor) and tutorials (one-to-one meetings with a tutor). In addition, there is a major emphasis on independent study outside of formal teaching sessions. This Supported Open Learning (SOL) will include directed reading tasks, student-based project work, engaging with the online Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and the Learning Centre and encouragement to attend guest lectures and research seminars. The range of resources is designed to enable you to work collaboratively and build your knowledge beyond guided reading. Criminology is such a rich and varied discipline that you must be able and willing to explore the depth of knowledge and experience at your disposal. You will study challenging issues and cases. This will require you to undertake reflective learning.

Although learning about the discipline of criminology is important, the development of academic skills is not overlooked and there will be various activities which are aimed at making you more effective in the work that you produce whilst on the course. As part of this, skills which are valued by employers, such as communication, presentational and organisational skills are intrinsic to assignments. 1CL001 aims to help you develop core academic skills at the start of your course. You will find further support in relation to the development of academic skills on the Programme's Moodle site.

BA (Hons) Criminology will draw upon research-informed teaching to make effective use of staff research in modules. YSJU adopts the position that students are co-producers of knowledge rather than just recipients of it. We see students as an important aspect of a student centred approach. As such there will be opportunities for students to engage in research in different ways such as through the Research Assistant scheme. This provides students the opportunity to take part in research projects being carried out by staff if successful.

Level 4 and 5 have increased contact time to ensure that you have a sound grounding in the subject area in key modules, this is reduced in Level 6 in order to develop your autonomy, whilst still providing a supportive environment. At level 6, you will be expected to engage in critical enquiry-based learning to develop your individual autonomous reasoning, analytical and research skills to a high standard. Throughout your studies you will have an opportunity to undertake learning that is related to the careers that you may wish to pursue in the future. In year two, you will study a specialist module that will allow you to reflect upon a range of possible future careers. Guest speakers will provide relevant learning experiences. You will also be encouraged to undertake volunteering activities to enhance your future employability.

Assessment approaches

York St John University is committed to embedding formative activities as part of its approach to teaching, learning and assessment. These are activities which develop your understanding of how assessed work is marked and how you might produce work to a higher standard. The intention is to ensure that you receive on-going feedback relating to your learning and development which will assist you in being successful in your studies. You will encounter a range of assessment approaches which are designed to enable you to develop a range of skills and meet the learning outcomes detailed earlier. Essays, Reports, presentations and portfolios are examples of the range of ways in which you will be assessed. Summative assessment will be by a variety of methods appropriate to the specified Learning Outcomes for the programme, the level, and the specific module.

All of your written assessments will have a word count that reflects the university guidelines. In level 4, assessed written assignments will require you to write 3,000 words. The word count for written work in level 5 is 4,000 words. The extended word count in level 6 will allow you to explore issues in greater depth in the final year of your studies. You will be given assessment criteria that will vary depending on the assessment task. Assessment will be phased in such a way as to avoid assessment deadlines producing an unnecessary burden.

Progression and Graduation Requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- University Strategic Plan
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Further Information

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (school)
- Module handbooks (school)

3CL010 removed from the offering from 18/19 onwards. Rob Creasy informed Quality. Nov 2018.