UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

Published Date:	10-Jun-2026
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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social Science, Humanities and Creative Industries		
Course Code(s):	SL021H01UM SL021H31UM	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
UCAS Code:	LM51		
Course Title:	BA(Hons) Sociology and Criminology		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Sociology and Criminology Bachelor of Arts Sociology and Criminology Diploma of Higher Education Sociology and Criminology Certificate of Higher Education Sociology and Criminology		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	14/Sep/2026		
Last Review:			
Course Specification valid from:			
Course Specification valid to:			

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr DENNIS HAMILTON
Head of Department:	

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership)
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The degree in Sociology and Criminology at the University of Wolverhampton explores the social factors influencing crime and criminal behaviour in society. The course also critically examines some of the fundamental questions regarding the social construction and the reality of crime. For example: What is the process behind the creation of laws in society? Does labelling contribute to deviance, delinquency and crime? What is policing by consent? Can crime be understood as a rational choice for socially marginalised and economically excluded groups? What is the function of prisons and does the criminal justice system serve the interests of all members of society? What factors contribute to the ascription and denial of victimhood status?

The course has distinctive features, such as guest speakers from the police, various areas of the criminal justice system and local politicians. It also includes visits to magistrates and crown courts. Students are encouraged to centre their learning and research around their individual lives and unique lived-experiences of the impact of crime in their area. They are also provided with opportunities to undertake applied research, by volunteering to work with public sector organisations and social enterprises, community and faith-based local initiatives and criminal justice partnership organisations. Work-based learning is applied throughout Honours level. The various modules are designed to enable students to reflect on the impact of crime. This is in terms of how global factors have real-life consequences on local level crime and policing.

The joint degree in Sociology and Criminology is suitable for inquisitive learners of all ages, ethnicities, genders and social backgrounds, who wish to acquire the requisite knowledge, problem-solving, critical thinking and research skills, needed for a career in some of the following vocations: politics and local government; various areas of social and community work; housing and employment agencies; probation services; journalism; teaching and education; legal work, public services and the criminal justice system.

Educational Aims of the Course:

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00
2021/2	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2021/2	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12950.00
2021/2	H	Part Time	£3100.00
2022/3	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£13450.00
2022/3	H	Part Time	£3120.00
2023/4	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2023/4	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14450.00
2023/4	H	Part Time	£4625
2024/5	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2024/5	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14950.00
2024/5	H	Part Time	£4625.00
2025/6	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9535.00
2025/6	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£15995.00
2025/6	H	Part Time	£4768.00
2026/7	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9790.00
2026/7	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£17600.00
2026/7	H	Part Time	£4895.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4SL015	The Sociological Imagination	30	SEM1	Core
4GK014	Succeeding at University for the Social Sciences and Humanities	30	SEM1	Core
4CJ009	Crime, Victims & Rights	30	SEM2	Core
4SL013	Media, Culture and Society	30	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

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Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5CJ012	Framing the Criminological World	30	SEM1	Core
5SL013	Race, Empire and Modernity	30	SEM1	Core
5GK019	Professional Development for the Social Sciences and Humanities	30	SEM2	Core

Option Group 04 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

5SL012	Contesting Gender and Sexuality	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Esther Asprey
5CJ015	Environmental Crime	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Prav Uppal

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type	
6CJ019	Research Methods	30	SEM1	Core	

Option Group 02 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

6SL023	Global Migration	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Sam Pryke
6SL025	The Body and Society	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Dennis Hamilton
6CJ021	Youth Crime & Justice	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Yasmin Devi-McGleish

Option Group 01 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

6CJ024	Contemporary Issues in Criminology	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Karlie Stonard
6SL021	Crime, Deviance and the Risk Society	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Dennis Hamilton

6SL026	Dissertation and Applied research project	30	SEM2	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Regulations Exemption:

NONE

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Apprenticeship Standard

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts, theories and principles associated with your area(s) of study (Knowing)	
CERTHE02 Evaluate, interpret and apply data, to develop ideas and discussion in your subject(s) of study (Knowing)	
CERTHE03 Use different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study (Doing)	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments (Doing)	
CERTHE05 Identify and undertake further training and develop new skills to support your learning (Being)	
CERTHE06 Identify personal qualities and transferable skills necessary for further study and/or employment (Being)	
DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and application of the concepts and principles of your area(s) of study (Knowing)	
DIPHE02 Demonstrate the application of those principles in an employability and/or professional practice context (Knowing)	
DIPHE03 Identify and use methods of inquiry in the subject(s) and evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in study (Doing)	
DIPHE04 Use a range of new and established techniques to explore and critique data and sources of information, to solve problems within your subject (Doing)	
DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences (Being)	
DIPHE06 Show personal responsibility and decision-making to developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to reach your employability goals (Being)	
BHONSN01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of Sociology, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge of the social impact of crime and contemporary changes in society (Knowing).	
BHONSN02 Apply sociological research methods and techniques learned at different levels, to extend, review and consolidate individual knowledge of organisational and institutional policies, practices, processes and procedures (Knowing).	
BHONSN03 Analyse relevant theoretical approaches to understand social and criminological issues, using appropriate ideas, technologies and techniques, with the aim of identifying the causal factors of crime and various forms of inequalities in local, national and global contexts (Doing).	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONSN04 Evaluate statistical evidence and theoretical arguments, against common-sense assumptions about social, demonised and criminalised groups, to reach evidential-based judgements and communicate findings effectively to relevant specialist and non-specialist audiences (Doing).	
BHONSN05 Identify the appropriateness of analytical techniques, methods and skills that can be applied in various social situations and scenarios to resolve problems and issues that require the exercise of personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances (Being).	
BHONSN06 Develop ways of maintaining an objective focus, through learned reflective knowledge, which can be transferred to enhance workplace policies, practices, processes and procedures (Being).	
BHONS01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of Sociology, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge of the social impact of crime and contemporary changes in society (Knowing).	
BHONS02 Apply sociological research methods and techniques learned at different levels, to extend, review and consolidate individual knowledge of organisational and institutional policies, practices, processes and procedures (Knowing).	
BHONS03 Analyse relevant theoretical approaches to understand social and criminological issues, using appropriate ideas, technologies and techniques, with the aim of identifying the causal factors of crime and various forms of inequalities in local, national and global contexts (Doing).	
BHONS04 Evaluate statistical evidence and theoretical arguments, against common-sense assumptions about social, demonised and criminalised groups, to reach evidential-based judgements and communicate findings effectively to relevant specialist and non-specialist audiences (Doing).	
BHONS05 Identify the appropriateness of analytical techniques, methods and skills that can be applied in various social situations and scenarios to resolve problems and issues that require the exercise of personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances (Being).	
BHONS06 Develop ways of maintaining an objective focus, through learned reflective knowledge, which can be transferred to enhance workplace policies, practices, processes and procedures (Being).	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

- The Sociology and Criminology Degree course is scaffolded to provide students with a basis of core and interdisciplinary knowledge of society at Level 4, progressing onto more cutting edge, specialist areas of sociological knowledge at Levels 5 and 6.
- Students will be taught in a variety of ways to support a flexible, inclusive and engaging learning experience. These include a blended format of lectures, seminars, workshops, collaborative work in groups or pairs, individual independent learning, placements, presentations, guest speakers, field

trips, online discussions, online activities, documentaries and research activities.
- The Sociology and Criminology Degree promotes digital fluency throughout, including the ethical use of digital tools, AI, and data. Students studying Sociology and Criminology will be supported by academic and support staff throughout, including the Level 4 Success at University module which contains specialist sessions.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

- All assessments are designed authentically to build a range of transferable skills and knowledge for the workplace.
- There are no exams. Instead, students will be engaged in undertaking employability focussed innovative assessments including campaigns, podcasts, reports and portfolios of work. Some Sociology and Criminology modules allow students to select how they are assessed.
- Every module provides students with the opportunity to submit formative work for their assessment. This enables students to practise and receive developmental feedback before their summative submission.
- All assessments are designed to be inclusive and accessible, with varied formats, clear expectations, and support for different learning needs. Every module also includes assessment unpacking videos, an assignment brief, individual support, and specialist sessions.
- The assessments will develop intellectual skills. These will include critical thinking, problem-solving, and evidence-based debating skills. Students will learn how to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions to reach sound judgements and communicate them effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Further Information for Student:

- Students are provided with their own personal tutor throughout their degree. The role of the Personal Tutor is to support each of their tutees, settle them into university and assist them to adapt to academic life.
- Student Transitional Teachers provide an extra Level of support at Levels 3 and 4.
- Students are also offered extra academic support throughout every module of their degree. Academic and learning support is provided by lecturers and seminar tutors.
- Academic skilled staff are also there to support students' training needs.
- Feedback and collaboration from students are used to enhance the student journey and learning experience.

The University provides a wide range of academic and pastoral support to help students succeed in their studies and personal development. This includes access to the Library and Skills for Learning service, student success coaching for students in their early stages, and tailored advice from the Careers and Enterprise teams. Students also benefit from 24/7 wellbeing support through WLV Student Life Connect, pastoral care via the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and assistance from the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. Those living in university accommodation have additional access to Residential Life support, and all students can engage with the Students' Union for advocacy, societies, and further peer-led services.

Currency:

- All lecturers are active researchers and scholars within their specialist sociological areas. This ensures learning is constantly updated and relevant, regarding the latest critical issues and debates.
- Real-world social research is central to all sociological and criminological modules. This enables students to develop conceptual understanding and critical skills, with social, political and cultural awareness.
- The University's Graduate Attributes (Global Citizen, Knowledgeable, Professional, Digitally Fluent) are embedded throughout the Sociology and Criminology degree curriculum to support student development, as a future-ready graduate.
- Students will acquire a critical understanding of society and factors influencing crime and how it is perceived by the public. This will connect local knowledge to wider national, global situations and events. Teaching of the inclusive curriculum is research led, and utilises a range of methods to examine crime and its impact, which revolve around (but not necessarily limited to) class, culture, gender, race, ethnicity and sexuality. The structure, learning content, and assessments of the

degree, equip students with essential work-based skills and the knowledge to critically assess how members of the public experience the impacts of crime. The modules also analyse the human and material consequences of inequity, and its contemporary impact on life-chances and labour market opportunities, in structural, cultural, institutional, organisational, and personal contexts and settings.
- Reflective learning is embedded in lectures and seminars, and applied to work-based volunteering, to assess the effectiveness of organisational practices. The aim of this approach is to enable students to understand how sociological and criminological theories and policies are informed by wider social, economic and political changes, and the impacts they have on enabling and controlling crime at the local level.

Personalisation Opportunities:

- The Sociology and Criminology Joint Degree provides students with the opportunity to choose modules at Levels 6 that are relevant to personal interests and career aspirations.
- The Level 6 dissertation project can be on an area of personal choice. This enables students to explore a specialist area or conduct research for their future career.
- Throughout the Sociology and Criminology Degree, students' strengths and interests are supported and celebrated by providing a choice of assessments.
- Students are supported throughout their degree, by lecturers, tutors and support staff. This enables all students to make informed choices about modules, topics and assessments, which reflect individual ambitions, interests and lived experiences.
- The Sociology and Criminology Degree integrates diverse perspectives and student identities to make learning more relevant, inclusive, and meaningful. Students are encouraged to reflect on their learning journey and use academic guidance to shape their personal development.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

- From the first Level 4 skills-based module, students will have the opportunity to meet professionals from relevant organisations. We invite guest speakers, organise trips and host events throughout the degree. This enables students to explore different career paths and select those that are most suitable.
- At Level 5, the Professional Development Module will provide students with the opportunity to undertake a micro placement of their choice. There will be continual support provided by lecturers, to gain and develop transferable skills for the workplace, and receive constructive feedback from employers.
- At Level 6, students have the chance to develop the research skills needed for their dissertation. Students are prepared from Level 4 to undertake social research in an area of their choice.
- At Level 6, the dissertation project can be based directly on a chosen career or area of specialism. Students are allocated a personal dissertation supervisor, whose role it is to provide support throughout the development of personal dissertations.
- All assessments are authentic and focussed on building employability communication skills, relevant to the workplace.
- The University's careers team work closely with students throughout their modules at each Level to provide ongoing support with individual career ambitions and professional development. Career support does not end when students complete their degree; the University will provide accessible and ongoing career support for all former students.
- Lecturers, tutors and academic support staff are at hand, to guide students to make informed choices about modules that align with special interests and help to achieve the best results.