

# Department of Law and Criminology

## About the department/subject

The Department of Law and Criminology has an excellent reputation for high quality research and teaching, and for its engagement in policy and practice, through active involvement with government bodies and voluntary and statutory agencies. Our interdisciplinary department is nationally and internationally recognised for our expertise in issues associated with law, criminal justice, youth, health, multiculturalism, and identity. Students benefit from being taught by an internationally renowned, research-active staff team who are enthusiastic about their areas of expertise.

## Entry requirements

The modules listed below are open to all Study Abroad, International and European Exchange students, subject to any required previous knowledge or qualifications. All second year (modules with a code beginning CR2) and third-year modules (with a code beginning CR3) require some background in either criminology (for criminology modules) or sociology (for sociology modules). Specific pre-requisites are listed below or in the linked module specifications.

Each module is either 15 or 30 RHUL credits and starts in either the Term 1 (September) or the Term 2 (January). For European students, the ECTS equivalent is half the UK credits e.g. 30 UK credits = 15 ECTS.

Term 1 only students choosing September-start 15 credit modules should select the 'v' module specification. Full-year students choosing September-start 15 credit modules should select the non 'v' module specification.

*The information contained in the module options on the following pages is correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change as part of our policy of continuous improvement and development.*



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## 2026-27 Module options for visiting students

| Module code       | Module name                 | Credit value                | Term 1, Term 2 or Full Year | Module syllabus Link and any pre-requisites  |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| CR1011<br>CR1011v | Introduction to Criminology | 30 credits<br>15 UK credits | Full Year &<br>Term 1 only  | <p>This course offers a general introduction to criminology providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the development of criminology as a discipline and the fundamental themes, concepts and theories that underpin the subject. In Term 1 students will learn how to think and write like a criminologist as well as developing practical skills to critically explore and analyse crime patterns and media representations of offending. In Term 2 focus will move to explaining criminality and students will be introduced to key theoretical perspectives that seek to understand criminality through sociological and psychological frameworks.</p> <p><a href="#">Module Description (30 credits)</a> <a href="#">Module Description (15 credits)</a></p> |
| CR1013<br>CR1013v | Criminal Justice System     | 30 Credits<br>15 Credits    | Full Year &<br>Term 1 only  | <p>The module provides students with an introduction to the criminal justice system in England and Wales, as well as introducing students to key debates on crime, justice, and punishment. Students will learn about policing, the courts system, prisons and community punishments.</p> <p><a href="#">Module Description (30 credits)</a> <a href="#">Module Description (15 credits)</a></p>   |
| CR1014<br>CR1014v | Introduction to Sociology   | 30 Credits<br>15 Credits    | Full Year &<br>Term 1 only  | <p>This course is concerned with introducing students to theories and concepts in sociology and their application. It is divided into two main parts. In term one students will be introduced to classical and contemporary social theories. Students will cover the works of the 'founding fathers' of continental European sociology, Marx, Weber and Durkheim, as well as more contemporary social theory including functionalism and symbolic interactionism. In term two students will explore a number of key areas of sociology, such as health and illness, deviance, risk and sociological understandings of gender and ethnicity.</p> <p><a href="#">Module Description (30 credits)</a> <a href="#">Module Description (15 credits)</a></p>                           |



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| CR1015<br>CR1015v | Social Problems and Social Policy           | 30 Credits<br>15 Credits | Full Year & Term 1 only     | Through the study of a range of relevant topics, this course examines the ways in which social problems are understood and how social policy responses are developed to address these. The autumn term largely focuses on policy making, the advent of the welfare state, and introduces students to some key social problems in society. In the spring term, students begin to explore social divisions in society including social class, gender and ethnicity. Key topics such as health, housing and education are introduced to help examine post-war and contemporary developments in the context of inequality.<br><b><u>Module Description (30 credits) Module Description (15 credits)</u></b> |
| CR2011<br>CR2011v | Research Methods for Social Scientists      | 30 Credits<br>15 Credits | Full Year & Term 1 only     | The aim of this course is to introduce students to the research process, a range of data collection methods, philosophical and ethical debates related to conducting research and how to conduct a range of quantitative and qualitative forms of data analysis. Students will learn about the philosophical foundations of the social sciences, the research process, sampling and ethics in social research. They will also cover the strengths and weaknesses of using different data collection methods, including questionnaires, qualitative interviews, media analysis and observational research.<br><b><u>Module Description (30 credits) Module Description (15 credits)</u></b>              |
| CR2013<br>CR2013v | Key Perspectives and Debates in Criminology | 30 Credits<br>15 Credits | Full Year & Term 1 only     | This course builds on first year core teaching, enabling students to develop detailed and more critical understandings of core criminological theory and key issues within this discipline. The course primarily draws upon sociological and psychological perspectives as a way of understanding criminal activity and criminal justice practices. This module also considers key issues such as e.g. drug use, state crime and terrorism.<br><b><u>Module Description (30 credits) Module Description (15 credits)</u></b>  |



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| CR2014<br>CR2014v | Sociology of Contemporary Society | 30 Credits<br>15 Credits | Full Year & Term 1 only     | <p>The course explores the complex relationship between the economic and the cultural realms in society. This is done through engaging with the different ways Sociologists have sought to explain the changes in modern capitalist societies: the rise of mass production; mass consumption; the consequences of economic crises; changing from traditional class structure to a more diverse social structure; the rise of mass popular culture; the cultural changes that have transformed the way people relate to each other in society, the significance of postmodernism and the technological changes that affect us in every aspect of our lives.</p> <p><b><u>Module Description (30 credits) Module Description (15 credits)</u></b></p> |
| CR2017<br>CR2017v | Youth and Crime                   | 15 UK credits            | Term 1 only                 | <p>This course provides the student with a critical understanding of parameters of the youth crime 'problem', the function of the Youth Justice System, whilst introducing a range of theories that can help us to understand why young people engage in delinquent behaviours. Lectures will also focus on critical unpicking key issues or 'problems' associated with young people, such as drug use, anti-social behaviour and gang membership. <b><u>Module Description Module Description ('v module')</u></b></p>   |
| CR2019<br>CR2019v | Sociology of the Family           | 15 UK credits            | Term 2 only                 | <p>On this course students will critically discuss the role, function and nature of the family in contemporary society as well as examining changing patterns of family life. The course also explores how social identities and different social positions (for example those related to class, gender, or ethnicity) impact upon the experience of family life. Families will also be discussed in relation to other areas of social life including education, the workplace and the community. <b><u>Module Description Module Description ('v module')</u></b></p>  |



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| CR2034<br>CR2034v | Sociology of Religion         | 15 UK credits | Term 2 only                 | This module aims to introduce students to the key authors, concepts, and debates which have animated, and continue to animate, the sociology of religion. Each week, we will address a specific question about religion from a sociological perspective, looking at case-studies along the way. We will investigate the relationship between theory and empirical research and interrogate the cross-cultural applicability of the concept of religion. A key focus of this module will be the empirical study of young adults' religious trajectories during our seminars; through this component, students will find their own religious interrogations and commitments reflected in the material studied in class.<br><b><u>Module Description</u></b> <b><u>Module Description ('v' module)</u></b>                                     |
| CR3001            | Health, Illness and Society   | 15 UK credits | Term 1 only                 | All societies have institutionalised ways of managing birth, death and suffering. From this viewpoint illness is a social as well as a biological phenomenon. Within societies, individuals' chances of good health vary according to social position and exposure to specific social factors. This course critically examines these issues with particular reference to socio-economic position, gender and ethnicity. The varying ways in which chronic conditions are experienced and managed by individuals on a daily basis will be examined alongside the social factors that shape these experiences. The course also critically considers the extent to which everyday physical experiences, emotions and personality traits are being medicalised and the driving factors behind these trends.<br><b><u>Module Description</u></b> |
| CR3009<br>CR3009v | Race, Ethnicity and Migration | 15 UK credits | Term 1 only                 | This module aims to critically engage with the theoretical, historical and contemporary debates around race, racism and ethnicity. <b><u>Module Description</u></b><br><b><u>Module Description ('v' module)</u></b>  |



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| CR3015<br>CR3015v | Children, Society and Risk                 | 15 UK credits | Term 1 only                 | The impact of crime is multi-dimensional and is felt by individuals, families, groups and society. Located within a theoretical framework of modern society and risk theory, this course examines the situation of children as victims of crime. Notions of childhood, children's rights, citizenship, social harm and risk theory will be explored in the context of child welfare policy.<br><b><u>Module Description</u></b> <b><u>Module Description ('v' module)</u></b>  |
| CR3016            | Police Turning Points: Scandals and Reform | 15 UK Credits | Term 2 only                 | The course 'Police Turning Points: Scandals & Reform' includes a single introductory lecture on the theoretical underpinnings of the police service of England and Wales. As such a good understanding of the British Police Service and policing by consent is required. <b><u>Module Description</u></b> <b><u>Module Description ('v' module)</u></b>   |
| CR3018<br>CR3018v | Terrorism Studies (Part 1)                 | 15 UK credits | Term 1 only                 | This unit provides students with an introduction to the study of global non-state terrorism. It examines the different perspectives relating to the history and development of terrorism. The unit also provides students with an insight into key debates within terrorism studies (e.g. critical terrorism studies and the definition of terrorism).<br><b><u>Module Description</u></b> <b><u>Module Description ('v' module)</u></b>   |
| CR3019            | Terrorism Studies (Part 2)                 | 15 UK credits | Term 2 only                 | The module will begin by exploring the discourses of terrorism, radicalisation, extremism and counter-terrorism and their parameters. It will explore the ideological motivations for terrorism and UK counter-terrorism responses. In particular it will scrutinise the legislative response to terrorism and consider the extent to which civil liberties and human rights have been preserved in the response to terrorism. It will also assess the intelligence response, military responses to terrorism and the UK's Prevent strategy.<br><b><u>Module Description</u></b> |



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| CR3023<br>CR3023v | Prisons                         | 15 UK credits | Term 2 only                 | This course will cover the origins, history and birth of the modern prison system through to the 'era of mass incarceration' in which we now find ourselves. The core aim will be to engage students in a critical assessment of those theories of punishment which underpin the use of imprisonment, with a heavy emphasis on the lived experience of incarceration. <a href="#">Module Description</a> <a href="#">Module Description ('v' module)</a>  |
| CR3028<br>CR3028v | Gender, Sexuality and Crime     | 15 UK credits | Term 1 only                 | This unit aims to enhance students' understanding of key sociological, psychological and criminal-legal approaches to gender and sexuality. It encourages students to think critically about how theories of gender and sexuality have informed the study of crime and shaped our understanding of sexual offences, and the relationship between gender, sexuality and criminal justice, from the 19th century to the present day. <a href="#">Module Description</a> <a href="#">Module Description ('v' module)</a> |
| CR3031<br>CR3031v | Interpersonal Violence and Harm | 15 UK credits | Term 1 only                 | This course will aim to provide students with a broad overview of violence and harm as committed by individuals or groups within society. Several forms of violence will be examined within the course including but not limited to intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual violence, and elder abuse. <a href="#">Module Description</a> <a href="#">Module Description ('v' module)</a>   |
| CR3032<br>CR3032v | Crimes of the Powerful          | 15 UK credits | Term 2 only                 | This course aims to provide students with a knowledge and understanding of crimes of the powerful. It will include a wide range of crimes of the powerful with a broad focus on corporate crime and state crime. It will address the nature of corporate crime, white collar crime and state crime and conceptual discussions surrounding these concepts <a href="#">Module Description</a> <a href="#">Module Description ('v' module)</a>   |



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| CR3034            | Sociology of Religion          | 15 UK credits | Term 2 only                 | The aim of this course is to give an overview of the key arguments in the Sociology of Religion. Also, an understanding of the social, cultural and political significance of Religion to the individual, social groups and society at a national and global level. <b><u>Module Description</u></b>  |
| CR3035            | Cybercrime                     | 15 UK credits | Term 2 only                 | Internet technologies are borderless and have enabled an increase in transnational crime and security threats. This module examines the variety of contemporary cybercrime and issues surrounding policing and enforcement. It also examines international powers of collecting intelligence and evidence (including surveillance) and computer, device and network forensics. <b><u>Module Description</u></b> |
| CR3036<br>CR3036v | Death, Crime and Society       | 15 UK credits | Term 1 only                 | This module will analyse the social and cultural aspects of death, dying and bereavement. This will involve looking at rituals, religion and cultural practices associated with death and dying, as well as social taboos, mourning and remembrance. <b><u>Module Description</u></b> <b><u>Module Description ('v' module)</u></b>   |
| CR3038            | Sex Work: Debates and Dilemmas | 15 UK credits | Term 2 only                 | This module draws on current sociological, legal, feminist, queer and critical race debates on sex work to explore complex questions about work, commodification and demand for sexual services, regulation, global inequalities and exclusion, migration and social policy. <b><u>Module Description</u></b>   |
| CR3043            | Children as Consumers          | 15 UK credits | Term 2 only                 | This module on children as consumers is analytically anchored in theories of consumption and consumer culture, which provide the conceptual scaffolding through which childhood is examined as a site of socialisation, identity formation, and market incorporation. <b>Syllabus not currently available</b>   |
| CR3044            | Culture, Media and Identities  | 15 UK credits | Term 1 only                 | This is a sociology of media module that will explore the complex interrelationships between identity, representation and mediated culture in contemporary society. <b>Syllabus not currently available</b>   |



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