

Crime and the London Underworld

Module code: 4CRIM005X

Module Level: 4

Length: Three Weeks

Host course: London International Virtual Summer Programme

Pre-requisite: None

Assessment: Coursework (Reflective Report 50%, Essay 50%)

Summary of module content

The module explores London and its criminal areas from the earliest times and changing nature of London criminal 'underworld' from modernity to late modernity. Notorious criminal families as well as colourful underworld characters will be explored. Finally, the emergence of specialised law enforcement agencies to deal with this newly discovered threat will also be considered.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module the successful student will be able to:

1. demonstrate an ability to explain fundamental concepts and principles of organised crime in relation to London (4.1/4.2);
2. demonstrate some breadth and depth of understanding of the changing historical, political, social, cultural and economic processes through which London's criminal underworld was constructed, sustained and ultimately re-imagined (4.2);
3. demonstrate an ability to use literature from a prescribed range of sources (4.6);
4. demonstrate an ability to use evidence and argument to reach and support reasonable conclusions (4.6).
5. demonstrate an ability to convey information in English which is accurate and has clarity (4.2);
6. demonstrate an ability to write a report employing academic conventions in line with guidance provided (4.6/4.7).

Course outcomes the module contributes to: 4;1; 4;2; 4;6; 4;7.

Indicative Syllabus Content

- social construction of organised crime, including historical and sociological analysis of clichés such as 'criminal underworld' and the notion of the criminal 'firm'.
- exploration of sociological and historical processes through which London's criminal 'underworld' was i) constructed, ii) sustained and iii) ultimately re-imagined;
- notorious crime families and individuals in London, kinship ties and community bonds;
- normalisation of criminality.

Teaching and learning methods

Daily lectures will be used to provide an introduction to the main themes, debates and to provide a common foundation of learning to all students.

Daily seminars will provide students with the opportunity for more student-centred, interactive learning to deepen their knowledge of a particular subject. They will also be used as workshops in which students will receive formative feedback on the development of their work.

Guided independent study; students will be expected to do independent reading and research, for which guidance will be provided in the module handbook. Much student learning takes this form in terms of seminar and assessment preparation and personal reflection.

Students with disabilities will be invited to take part in an assessment of their needs through the University's Disability Support Team. Any suitable differentiation will be identified and implemented.

Activity type	Category	Student learning and teaching hours*
Lecture	Scheduled	12
Seminar	Scheduled	24
Tutorial	Scheduled	
Project supervisor	Scheduled	
Demonstration	Scheduled	
Practical Classes and workshops	Scheduled	
Supervised time in studio/workshop	Scheduled	6
Fieldwork (Virtual Field Trip)	Scheduled	6
External visits	Scheduled	
Work based learning	Scheduled	
Total Scheduled		48
Placement	Placement	
Independent study	Independent	152
Total student learning and teaching hours		200

* the hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

Assessment rationale

This module is 100% assessed by coursework and takes the form of two written pieces of work both weighted at 50%.

The assessment for this course is made up of two pieces of coursework, a Reflective Report (1500) words and an essay (1500 words).

The Reflective Report is specifically aligned to module learning outcomes 1, 3, 5 and 6.

The Essay is aligned to module learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Assessment criteria

In marking student's work, tutors will consider:

- the extent to which to remit of the assignment has been met/the question addressed;
- the accuracy with which relevant theoretical arguments, concepts and evidence are described and analysed;

- the degree to which the theories and concepts discussed are integrated and contextualised;
- the range of source material used;
- the coherence and integration of the structure of the work presented;
- the clarity (spelling, grammar etc...) and technical accuracy with which ideas are expressed.

Assessment methods and weightings

Assessment name	Weighting %	Qualifying mark %	Qualifying set	Assessment type (e.g. essay, presentation, open exam or closed exam)
Reflective Report	50%	35%		Report
Essay	50%	35%		Essay

Synoptic assessment

NA

Essential reading list

Hobbs, D. (2013) *Lush Life*. Clarendon Press

Wright, A. (2006) *Organised Crime*. Willan

Further Reading:

Arlacchi, P. (1988) *Mafia Business: the mafia ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Arnold, C. (2012) *Underworld London: Crime and Punishment in the Capital City*: Simon & Schuster

Arnott, J (2000) *The Long Firm*. London: Hodder & Stoughton.

Cressey, D. (1969) *Theft of the Nation*. New York: Harper and Row.

Foster, J (1990) *Villains: crime and community in the inner city*, London: Routledge

Gamman, L (1996). *Gone Shopping: the story of Shirley Pitts, Queen of Thieves*. (Signet Book
Hart, E (1993) *Britain's Godfather* London: Forum Press

Hobbs, D. (1995) *Bad Business: Professional Crime in Modern Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Hobbs, D. (1988), *Doing The Business: Entrepreneurship, the Working Class and Detectives in the East End of London*, (Clarendon Press)

Hobbs, J (1994) 'Professional and Organized Crime in Britain' in Mike Maguire, Robert Morgan & Robert Reiner, (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology* Oxford: Clarendon Press

Hobbs, J (1998) 'Going down the Glocal: The Local Context of Organised Crime'. *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice* 37:4 pp 407-422.

Jenkins, P. Potter, G (1986) *Corruption and Reform vol 1 no 3. pp 165-187.s)*

Linnane, F. (2004) *London's Underworld: Three Centuries of Vice and Crime*. Anova

Mayhew, H. (2010) *London Labour and the London Poor*. Oxford

Mayhew, H. (2005) *London's Underworld in the Victorian Period: Authentic First-Person Accounts by beggars, Thieves and Prostitutes*. Dover

Robson, G. (1997) 'Class, criminality and embodied consciousness: Charlie Richardson and a South East London HABITUS' *Critical Urban Studies: Occasional Papers*. London: University of London, Goldsmiths College, Centre for Urban and Community Research

Samuel, R. (1981) *The East End Underworld: Chapters in the Life of Arthur Harding*. London: Routledge

Taylor, L. (1984) *In the Underworld* Oxford: Blackwell

Periodical References:

British Journal of Criminology

WWW References

http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/gangsters_outlaws/mob_bosses/kray/index_1.html?sect=15