

BSc Applied Sociology and Criminology

Department	The Department of Health and Human Sciences
Awarding Body	University of East Anglia
Additional Accreditations	None
Full-time Duration	Three years
Part-time Duration	N/A
Full-time Annual Fee	£8,500
Part-time Annual Fee	N/A
Entry Requirements	UCAS Tariff: 96 points A Level: CCC BTEC L3 Extended Diploma: MMM GCSE Maths and English at Grade C/4 or above English language requirements: IELTS (Academic) Grade 6 IELTS 6.0 overall (minimum 5.5 in all components) where English is not the student's first language. Non-standard applicants who do not meet the published entry requirements may be considered on an individual basis and we encourage such applicants to contact Universitystudiesadmissions@easterneducationgroup.ac.uk for further guidance <i>The university does not accept International Applications for this course.</i>
Study Location	University and Professional Development Centre, 73 Western Way, Bury St Edmunds UK
Subject to Validation	Yes
Additional Potential Costs	Tuition fees will provide access to all the usual teaching and learning equipment; however, there may be additional costs such as materials and equipment that are associated with your course. Books (approx. £100 - £200 per year) Printing – all students will be credited with the equivalent of £10 printing/copying at the start of the academic year. After that, students will need to pay for their own printing/copying. Most work is submitted electronically. Student ID cards – The first issue of your ID card is free. Replacement cards

	will be charged at £10 to replace lost or stolen cards
Narrative	Get to grips with the fascinating relationship between social behaviour and crime. You'll get to focus on the social aspects of criminology, taking an in-depth look at human behaviour, deviant behaviour and complex attitudes towards deviance over time. You will cover a range of themes from criminology including victimology, cybercrime, terrorism and extremism, sex crimes in order to give you a deep critical understanding of how and why things go wrong in our world. Sociological classes will give an overview of social institutions such as religion, the family, healthcare, and political systems. The major thinkers and their critiques of and recommendations for society will be scrutinised. This programme is highly flexible, allowing you to develop your own specialist research interests. You'll learn from expert tutors who provide links to government resources, criminal justice agencies and the media. A wide range of rewarding sociology and criminology-related careers await, including social and civil police work
Key Course Features	The course is delivered on campus and requires students to attend a two days per week. Delivery of the course is through a range of methods including lectures, seminars, case-study, discussions, and workshops. Year One: The first year of the course is designed to ensure a foundational knowledge of core topics in sociology and criminology to be built upon during the remainder of the degree. Year Two: The second year deepens knowledge of sociology and criminology, moving from classic theories to contemporary research. Students are encouraged to start planning for the final year dissertation. Year Three: In the third year, students will be provided the opportunity to explore a subject area in more depth and apply their understanding of research methods and data analysis as they complete a piece of empirical research.
Career Prospects	A sociology and criminology degree is applicable in many different careers as it equips you with a range of skills and knowledge relevant to a variety of roles. Some students on similar courses have pursued postgraduate education in a range of subjects, including teaching qualifications. Others have begun employment with a wide variety of organisations, including the NHS, Home Office, and HM Prison Service.

Module Summary

Level 4 (Year 1)

Introduction to Qualitative Methods

This module is an introduction to the main sociological research methodologies with a principal focus on qualitative methods, though quantitative methods will also be outlined – their underpinning ideologies, techniques, ethics etc. Students will engage with some mathematical techniques used in quantitative research, such as regression analysis and other methods. Students will learn how to plan, conduct, and analyse sociological research. A major focus of this module will be upon interview techniques, equipping students with knowledge of how to conduct an interview and analyse it afterwards using thematic analysis. This module will review report writing and formatting, citation and referencing, methodological philosophies, and a variety of research methods.

Introduction to the Sociological Imagination

This module is an introduction to the key sociological theorists and thinkers such as Marx, Durkheim, Habermas, and de Beauvoir etc. Alongside learning a little about the biographies of the chief sociological thinkers they will grasp key principles of their major ideologies. Students will also learn about differing takes on various central themes that are popular areas of study within sociology, such as gender, employment, and crime. Differing views on the nature of epistemology within research and theory development will form a key topic. Distinctions between Left and Right Realist forms of sociology will be considered along with reference to the role politics plays within sociological research and writing. The concept of sociology as an activist discipline will be explored and critiqued.

The Big Deal – the Sociology of Drugs, Dealing, and Addiction

This module examines the ways in which the notion of drugs is constructed in British society (and comparisons to other cultures) and how these perceptions fuel social policy within the Criminal Justice System, the NHS, rehab and welfare charities, and other institutions. The triad of use-abuse-misuse will be considered, with a particular reference to public perceptions of differing substances and the self-perceptions of those who consume mind-altering substances. Varied models of drug usage will be examined, including the medical model, the social learning model, and the socio-cultural model. The functionalist understanding of criminalising drugs will be examined. The varieties and ethics of research within forensic sociology will also be considered. Students will examine official statistics around substance abuse and rehabilitation methods, learning to interpret these and understand the relationship between research and social policy to both police but also rehabilitate users.

Perspectives on Criminology

This module aims to introduce students to the key, critical thinkers within criminology. The module will introduce concepts and frameworks through which the nature, extent and 'causes' of crime have been conceptualised.

Through looking at the history of criminological understanding, focusing on the key researchers and schools of thought, students will begin to develop a foundation of criminological knowledge from which to progress as well as how it can often cross paths with other disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, and history. Students will examine how the assumptions underpinning the different schools of thought contribute to strategies for intervention and reducing repeat offending. Students will explore how the key thinkers and theories within criminology link to the criminal justice system, forming a foundation of knowledge for future modules and levels.

Introduction to Penology and Offender Management

This module introduces the modern penal system within England and Wales. There will be a particular focus on prisons and community sentencing, alongside current debates within penology including what the future of punishment delivery may look like. The module will consider the effect prison has on a range of offenders from sentence and transition following release and engagement with probation services. Students will explore the values and practices, such as human rights, that underpin the treatment of lawbreakers within the criminal justice system of England and Wales. The module will explore punishment delivered in other countries and societies and the development of restorative justice.

Introduction to Criminal Law

This module introduces students to the core principles, structure, and operation of criminal law in England and Wales. It covers foundational concepts such as crime, liability, punishment, and the sources of law, and introduces key offences and defences. Students explore how legal rules are created, interpreted, and applied through judicial precedent and statutory interpretation, and examine how criminal law develops over time. The module also considers how criminal law is shaped by wider contextual factors, including social values, moral debates, and policy priorities. Through engagement with case law, statutes, and introductory academic commentary, students learn to describe relevant legal principles, identify recent developments, and apply basic legal reasoning to straightforward factual scenarios. The module provides a solid foundation for understanding how criminal law operates in practice and supports progression to more advanced legal and criminological study.

Level 5 (Year 2)

Conducting Sociological Research

This module builds on the first-year research module, expanding to deepen the students' knowledge of methodologies and methods. Alongside a wider understanding of qualitative methods, this module will also address the quantitative techniques used within sociology such as content analysis. Students will extend and develop their knowledge of mathematical techniques used in sociology. Students will learn the theory and practical application of documentary analysis, both written documents and visual ones with various in-class tasks such as creating their own and interpreting each other's visual documents. They will also deepen their knowledge of interviewing and keeping transcripts. Students will learn to use appropriate computer packages to conduct analysis of sociological data. Ethnography and various ways in which it can be comprehended and documented will form a key focus.

The Sociology of Religion and Spirituality

This module explores the role of religion and spirituality both in society and the lives of individual people. This will look at both the positive benefits of faith, as outlined by thinkers such as Parsons and Durkheim, as well as the risks that can develop either from social oppression, as Marx suggested, or the push towards ideological extremism. Consideration will be given to historical shifts in religion in Britain and some other countries as well as looking at arguments around the future of religion, such as those made by Harari. As well as broad perspectives on the widely held religious views, students will be supported in exploring whichever particular belief systems interest them.

How Society Works

This module builds on the first year Introduction to Sociological Imagination, deepening the students understanding of sociological ideas and introducing them to new theorists. A central theme to this module will be exploring the ways in which social groups form and structure, how they work with or against each other, and how conflicts are resolved or perpetuated. Attention will be given to understanding the social functioning of large scale social and political institutions. Students will learn how to conduct and analyse an observation, considering ethical as well as methodological issues. Journal keeping will be encouraged with extensive use of current themes in the news and how they relate to sociological theory. Understanding the role of the media and theories related to how mass and social media operate will also provide a key focus.

Criminality in the Online Space

This module aims to introduce students to the criminological field of cybercrime. The module looks at how new forms of online communication, information and technology can lead to deviant and criminal behaviour. The module will examine case studies into different types of online crime such as white collar, sexual exploitation, and the dark web, as well as looking at how cybercrime can be monitored and policed. Prevention of

cybercrime will be discussed as well as the evolution of legislation to incorporate the ever-changing online landscape. Students to look at the characteristics of cybercrime offenders and the impact on victims of this type of crime.

Victimology

This module aims to discuss whether the victim is often forgotten in the criminal justice system and too much focus is given to the offender. The module will look at the approaches within victimology, and the impact of victimisation on the individual. This will be considered from a financial, physical, behavioural, and psychological point of view. Consideration will be given to what social components play a part in victimisation – whether some people are more likely to be a victim of crime than others, and whether those who are most vulnerable in society are at an increased risk. Students to give focus to sociocultural factors, social diversity, and inequality and their effects in relation to victimisation. Students will explore the impact of crime upon the victim and whether this differs depending on the nature of the crime committed.

The Criminology of Serious Crime

This module aims to explore severe and violent crimes including sexual offending and murder. The module will reflect upon previous study to consider psychological and sociological reasons for this type of offending. Students will examine punishments applied to the most serious offenders and questions whether the penal system should focus on rehabilitation as opposed to punishment.

Level 6 (Year 3)

Dissertation

The dissertation module requires students to conduct valid, independent, small-scale research, developing key skills in data and information gathering, evaluation, analysis, and communication, on a topic within the overlap between sociology and criminology. The module develops and applies the techniques and principles of research learned in the research methods module(s).

Sociology of Medicine

This module considers the ways in which social forces shape our collective understanding health and illness (including mental illness). We will look at the social role of the medical professional, how they are understood by patients and how they understand themselves. Comparisons will be drawn

between the health systems of different countries and historical periods to illustrate differing constructions of conceptions of health and illness, and who participates in processes of maintaining and supporting health and who is excluded. Social models of disability will be reflected on along with views on salutogenesis and the construal of vitality and health.

Critical Perspectives on Policing

This module aims to explore the role of the police force in England and Wales. Students will examine policing and the legal and ethical frameworks that underpin the force and the recognition of equality and diversity. Students will compare and contrast the differing models and styles of policing, as well as the contemporary issues that come with policing crime on a UK, international and global scale. The module aims to examine police priorities and discuss whether there are differing views on how the police should work to keep England and Wales safe. Students will analyse the debates within modern policing, exploring the relationship the police have with minority groups, police use of force and police accountability, with key focus on the complexities of legal and ethical issues such as human rights.

Interrogating Criminal Profiling

This module aims to explore criminal offender profiling. Students will explore the notion of offender profiling and how it can be used within the criminal justice system. Students will look at methods of criminal profiling, exploring the FBI approach and using case studies to support learning. The module will look at offender typologies, including those of serial murder and rape, as well as profiling white collar crime, cybercrime, terrorism, and other violent crime. The module will also explore techniques surrounding psychological profiling, including statistical crime analysis and geographical profiling of an offender. Students will analyse the debates within criminal profiling and whether it can be effectively used within criminal investigation and the criminal justice sector. Finally, students will explore the legal and ethical issues within this topic.

Politics, Propaganda, and International Relations

This module invites students to examine political ideologies (such as capitalism, communism, socialism etc.), the historical development, variations, and practical implications for those countries that adhere to them. Systems of power will also be examined (such as democracy, totalitarianism etc.), with a view to their interaction with ideologies. Voting demographics will be examined to assess the appeal of ideologies, policies, and politicians. Noam Chomsky's arguments around the power of propaganda and the collusion of mass media will be explored and critiqued. The theory will be applied in left, right, and centrist contexts to the politics of Britain, America, and other countries with further consideration given to the involvement of social media as a route for the dissemination of political views and propaganda. Furthering the exploration of social media, students will consider the ways in which political polarisation is fostered by echo chambers online, group dynamics and the

	ways in which the political component of social identity is reinforced. Building on arguments from Kriesi, Wheatley and others, the relevance of the left-right divide will be contemplated along with the suggestion that new ideological camps are forming (such as cosmopolitan vs communitarian). The move away from party politics to single-issue political campaigning will also be considered.
Staff Team	Lecturing staff are educated to at least undergraduate degree level in psychology, criminology, or associated subjects. Some are further qualified to master's or doctoral level in psychology or associated subjects.

Assessment Methods

A variety of assessment methods are used which include essays, presentations, research reports, critical reviews, case studies, scenarios, and portfolios. Modules have between one and three summative assessments. The number of summative assessments for each module is made clear in the assessment schedule and module handbook. Modules are assessed by the module leader and internally verified by another member of staff.

Typical Module Diet

All modules are 20 credits unless stated

Year 1 (L4)	Year 2 (L5)	Year 3 (L6)
Introduction to Qualitative Methods	Conducting Sociological Research	Dissertation (40 Credits)
Introduction to the Sociological Imagination	The Sociology of Religion and Spirituality	Sociology of Medicine Critical Perspectives on Policing
The Big Deal – Sociology of Drugs, Dealing, and Addiction	How Society Works	Interrogating Criminal Profiling
Perspectives in Criminology	Criminality in the Online Space	Politics, Propaganda, and International Relations
	Victimology	
Introduction to Penology and Offender Management	Criminological Perspectives on Serious and Violent Crime	
Introduction to Criminal Law		

Study Hours

Study Hours per 20 credit Module: 200 hours

Lectures and Seminars: 36 – 48 hours

Assessments: 30 hours

Preparation and Independent study: 122 – 134 hours

*Typically, three 20 credit modules will be studied per Semester. There are two Semesters a year.

This programme is regulated by the Office for Students under the Quality Assurance Agency framework for UK Higher Education. Where studying may incur additional incidental or optional costs these are listed on the relevant course page on our website. Our Terms and Conditions, Admissions Policy (including baseline English language requirements) can be accessed via the University Studies website at <https://www.universitystudies.wsc.ac.uk/policies>