

CRIMINOLOGY

Criminology is a fascinating course that will allow you to explore a range of criminal offences, theories of criminal behaviour and the techniques used by crime scene investigators. By the end of the course you will have gained an in-depth knowledge of how the criminal justice system works, from the moment a crime has been discovered, right up until a verdict is reached in courts.

Specific course entry requirements

College entry (please refer to the Entry Requirements section on the college website for further details).

Introduction

Criminology is a subject with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities but can be combined with any other A level subjects. The qualification carries UCAS points equivalent to one A level. It relies heavily on the use of case studies and will enable you to develop many valuable skills such as:

- Independent learning and research.
- Analysing information and arriving at logical conclusions.
- Applying your knowledge and solving problems.
- Working with others on projects and presenting your findings.

How will I be assessed?

The course is a combination of external exams and vocational style assignments. There are four units. Two of these are internally assessed controlled assessments and two are externally assessed exams.

What will I study?

In the first unit you will learn about different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported. The second unit will allow you to gain an understanding of why people commit crime. This will involve studying various possibilities such as biological theories of crime which consider a person's genetic makeup and physical appearance in an attempt to show that people are born criminals.

The third unit gives an in depth look at the criminal justice system, including the courts and the role of law enforcement officers and crime scene investigators. You will develop the skills needed to examine evidence and review verdicts in criminal cases. In the final unit, you will apply the knowledge you have gained in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the methods we use to control crime.

Where will this course lead me?

The course has been designed to support students going to university. It could lead to a variety of higher education degree courses, such as:

- BSc Criminology
- BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
- LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology

Alternatively, the qualification will give you the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment in some areas of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the police or the Courts and Tribunals Service. However these are just some of the possibilities.