CR3020 Drugs, Crime and Society [15 credit – Semester Two]

Module Description:

This module focuses on the key issues that arise when attempting to deal with the problem of drugs and crime in contemporary society. The module takes a multi-disciplined approach to the issues discussed. It focuses primarily on demand reduction, but does cover some aspects of supply reduction, particularly drug trafficking and the policing of drug markets. The module provides a general introduction to legal and illegal substances. The aim being to deconstruct the stereotypical perceptions people have regarding drugs and their users. You will explore the physical and psychological effects of drugs, current legislation and policy applicable to the topic, thus providing a general background for the subsequent lectures. The module also examines contemporary debates surrounding drugs and crime in contemporary society. Some of the topics discussed in the module include the legalisation of drugs; the demonization of drugs and their users in the media; the growth of legal highs and Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs; drug use in prison. The main aim of this module is to focus on several fundamental but contemporary issues providing a comprehensive overview of the subject area. Within the module you will develop a critical understanding of drugs and drug use in contemporary society, and you will develop the skills required to analyse and be able to communicate the key debates surrounding illicit substances and their impact on society. You will have the opportunity to discuss and critique the key criminological theories applicable to understanding drugs and crime in society, and you will explore the fundamental issues surrounding drugs, crime and the role of the criminal justice system.

Assessment:

The assessment for this module comprises two components. Students will be asked to prepare a written assignment (2,500 words) to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by drawing on relevant theory, research and policy. The flexible assessment is designed to test students’ knowledge and provide them with an opportunity to receive formative feedback to inform their final assessment. This may include a plan, blog, podcast or oral presentation.

* Written Coursework (2500 words) (90%)
* Flexible Assessment (500 words) (10%)

Learning and Teaching:

Students will undertake a variety of synchronous activities that take place in ‘live’ sessions, and asynchronous activities that students can undertake in their own time and at their own pace. These activities will take place within weekly teaching Sessions that are structured to provide a flexible blend of contact time and guided independent study.