Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

Social Sciences Board

Approved by Teaching Audit Committee 22/04/13

Title of programme
MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice & MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice (Research Methods)

Brief note about nature of change:
Changes to the title of an option module and introduction of a module combining teaching from two existing option modules.

Effective date
1 October 2013

Location of change
Examination Regulations 2012

Detail of change
1. P.693, l.26, delete “Crime, Political Ideologies and Political Culture”.
3. Ibid, P.695, l.46 delete “Crime, Political Ideologies and Political Culture”.
5. Ibid, P.696 after l.16 insert “Victims and Restorative Justice”.
6. Ibid, P.693 after l.46 insert “Victims and Restorative Justice”.
Explanatory Notes

The Politics of Crime Control is a change in course title, replacing the old title ‘Crime, Political Ideologies and Political Culture’. The change reflects some minor alterations in the substance and emphasis of the course. In particular, the revised course devotes less attention to the intersections of crime control with key ideas and traditions of political thought, and places more emphasis on the dynamics of political systems and culture and the way in which these shape, and are shaped by, questions of crime and its regulation. The new title better reflects the content of the revised course (which is listed below). It is also less cumbersome than the one that it replaces.

Content:

The Arena of Crime Control
Late-modern and Neo-liberal politicization
Political systems and the politics of crime control
Comparative penal politics
Responses to politicization: 1 - Insulating crime control
Responses to politicization: 2 - Democratizing crime control
‘Victims and Restorative Justice:’ in years where it is not possible to run ‘Restorative Justice’ and ‘Victims’ as separate options courses, they will be offered in a revised combined course.

The MSc has offered two courses – one on Victims and one on Restorative Justice for almost a decade. These courses evolved out of the research interests and expertise of Professor Carolyn Hoyle and most years both courses ran and were popular with students. There was some potential for overlap, although the two courses did not draw on the same readings. For example, both courses tackled the difficulties of the state and community responses to crimes of violence against women in the home and to crimes committed by the state – genocide and other crimes against humanity. Further, the restorative justice option explored the use and efficacy of restorative processes from the perspective of victims, as well as offenders and the wider community. Given the synergies and inter-dependencies across these two courses, it makes sense in years that Professor Hoyle is ‘over-stint’ to combine them so that students who come to Oxford to study restorative justice and other victims issues (which a number do each year) can receive some of instruction on both of these subjects rather than just one. In years where it is possible to offer both, without Professor Hoyle sacrificing other teaching, supervision and administrative commitments, both options will run, but otherwise the combined course will be offered.

The combined course compresses the literature and issues from three weeks of the victims course into two ‘introductory’ weeks on the new combined option. These seminars set the scene and introduce the students to the experience of victims and their role in the criminal
process. The third week then combines early classes on the Restorative Justice option, providing a theoretical introduction to restorative principles and consideration of how these principles play out in restorative practices. While not as in-depth or thorough as the single option, it provides sufficient grounding for the students to then take the theoretical and conceptual learning from the first three weeks to apply to domestic abuse and crimes against humanity in the fourth and fifth weeks. The final week replicates the final week of the Restorative Justice option, in that it comprises a debate (under formal debating rules) on the motion ‘Restorative Justice satisfied victims’ needs and expectations’.