Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

	Basic Course Information	
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Social Sciences/City
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BA (Hons) Criminology Full-time
4.	Normal Duration:	3 years
5.	UCAS Code:	L330

6.	**Overview and general educational aims of the course**

Criminology is concerned with understanding crime, offenders, victims and the criminal justice system by using essential elements of sociology, psychology, law, public policy, and further, more specialised subjects. Four questions are at the centre of our studies: *what is crime* (the complex nature of crime and criminality); *who are the criminals/victims* (who are the key players involved in the criminal experience); *why do people commit crime* (how do we explain motivation for involvement in a wide-range of acts and activities defined as criminal); and *how does society respond to crime* (the role of the key criminal justice agencies in reducing crime and dealing with offenders).

To engage with these questions, we examine three interrelated components:

- **Theory:** using inter-disciplinary theory and research to develop a critical view of issues of crime and justice in a local, national and international/global context.
- **Policy:** understanding the national and international socio-economic, cultural, environmental, political and other policy drivers that underpin changes in criminal justice policy.
- **Practice:** understanding and shaping how criminologists and criminal justice practitioners engage with crime and crime-related issues, through working with communities, offenders, victims and others, with an emphasis upon building sustainable communities of the future.

In 2015, the university launched its five-year Strategic Plan to create the University of the future, with five key strategic themes: creating opportunity, valuing ideas, enriching society, connecting globally and empowering people. The guiding principle behind the design of the course has been to ensure the delivery of a criminology curriculum which meets the changing needs of students, employers and society. There is a strong emphasis upon equipping our graduates with the necessary employability and transferable skills.

Furthermore, we seek to demonstrate through the integration of our teaching, research and partnerships, how criminology can make a positive impact on our local, national and international/global communities. Through the introduction of service learning, practitioner inputs on many modules' opportunities for Erasmus (and International) exchange and practice-related research project options, employability is located at the heart of our course.

The course is delivered by staff who are engaged in theoretical and applied research that covers a broad spectrum of criminology and criminal justice issues. Through our research activities, we seek to provide a teaching and learning environment that is underpinned and informed by cutting edge knowledge.

The course aims to:

1. Produce skilled and competent criminology graduates who are able to operate within a range of academic, organisational and policy contexts;

2. Produce graduates who are capable of understanding and applying complex and abstract concepts in the field of criminology and criminal justice;

3. Produce graduates who can effectively evaluate and apply criminological theory and research to practical crime issues, both orally and in writing;

4. Develop students' knowledge, values, understanding and skills, in order to enhance their employment prospects;

5. Produce graduates with the information, communication and organisational skills to work effectively face-to-face and online, and who show the capacity to judge self-efficacy and to give and receive feedback.

7.	**Course outcomes** Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.
	Knowledge and understanding By the end of the course you should be able to:
	1. Critically evaluate theoretical explanations of crime and criminal behaviour, and how these perspectives shape contemporary approaches to understanding and responding to crime; 2. Critically evaluate the origins, functions and operations of key criminal justice institutions and systems within England and Wales and in the wider global context; 3. Critically appraise, historical, contemporary and

comparative/international responses to crime;

4. Demonstrate, the analytical application of knowledge in specialist areas of criminology and criminal justice;

5. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the methodological and ethical issues that inform criminological inquiry and research;

6. Critically evaluate the application of a range of quantitative and qualitative research designs and instruments to the study and analysis of crime and responses to crime;

7. Critically reflect upon the application of effective and evidence-based practice from national and international research within the UK criminal justice system and beyond;

8. Critically evaluate and reflect on the principles of effective team, multi-agency and partnership working across the criminal justice system.

Skills, qualities and attributes
By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a range of transferable skills;

2. Critically appraise and apply textual material in criminology to a practical setting;

3. Construct reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement in relation to criminal justice issues;

4. Demonstrate an aptitude for independent, critical thought and problem-solving;

5. Use quantitative and/or qualitative methods to analyse, interpret and evaluate data crime-related problems;

6. Use information technology in gathering information, analysing and presenting data and preparing written material;

7. Demonstrate research skills in a specialist area of criminology using appropriate technologies, and present findings in line with ethical protocols;

8.	**Learning and teaching methods**

Members of the criminology team bring subject expertise and student support to the heart of their delivery. They are committed and qualified teachers, using a range of creative and innovative teaching and learning methods to communicate their subjects.

In the course of the three years, you will encounter methods such as:

- Large-group formal lectures;
- Seminars. These are smaller, more informal groups, where you check your knowledge and understanding of lecture material/extra reading material completed for the seminar;
- Group/individual tutorials. You'll have regular meetings with your personal tutor and your personal tutor group, as well as one-to-one (more personalised meetings) with your personal tutor;
- Workshops of varying sizes. This learning and teaching method is a hybrid of lecture/seminar. It can involve, for instance, short lecture inputs, small group discussions, large-group feedback, listening to invited speakers, engaging in group tasks, and watching video/audio clips;
- Computer room sessions (including SCALE-UP);
- Online learning. This involves having online lectures to read/listen to, and participating in online discussion groups in our Virtual Learning Environment - Nottingham Trent University Online Workspace (NOW). This may sometimes be referred to as 'blended learning'.

NOW is the NTU's "virtual learning environment" and can be thought of as providing the foundation of students' online learning experience. Across the suite of modules this includes:

- Providing supplementary resources to support face-to-face teaching, focussing on preparation, consolidation or revision;
- Facilitating frequent communication with students, passing on important information and helping to 'humanise' the online experience;
- Presenting a 'narrative' to lead students through the material, helping to contextualise learning and make links to other parts of the curriculum;
- Creating shared spaces for students to work on prescribed tasks, and supporting collaboration and communication around these;
- Enabling online submission, marking / feedback and return of student work;
- Offering additional opportunities for assessment and feedback. NOW has a range of built-in tools that can help with this.

You will also have opportunities to do collaborative work via technology.

- Placement learning. In year two, all students work with external partners

to undertake a service learning project. This provides important opportunities for a whole range of skills both within the academy and beyond. Important employability skills are developed through the service learning module in the area of planning and managing learning beyond the University;

- Field trips. These are offered on an optional basis in some modules, to apply criminological knowledge to real-life situations;
- Independent project work;
- Individual, student-led meetings. These are available to talk through essay plans and to have feedback upon work that has been completed;
- Supervision meetings. In year three, you complete an independent research project on a topic of your choice. You meet regularly with an individual member of staff to plan and execute your project, to discuss ideas and to share drafts of your chapters for feedback;
- Independent reading. You will be required to access and read particular articles/books for particular seminars/workshops. We ask you to be aware that the teaching and learning methods mentioned here are a starting point for your work, not the end point. University students 'read for' a degree. Independent reading is expected and makes a significant difference to grades.

Our expectations of you in these teaching and learning environments develop over the three years, as we seek to help you move from having relatively high levels of support in year one to being increasingly independent learners in year three. We do not require you to have studied criminology prior to joining us but even if you have, the first year moves beyond what you have already studied. Therefore, learning and teaching in year one reflects this - we provide a safe environment in which you can start or develop your engagement with criminology. From year two, expectations in learning and teaching environments start to move more towards student-led contributions. Small research projects offer opportunities to increase your independent learning skills. In year three, independent learning increases - a key feature of year three is the 40 credit research project.

9.	**Assessment methods**
	Each module on the BA Criminology degree operationalises a mixture of formative and summative assessments.

Formative Assessment: a formative task/assessment is one which is developmental for students' learning, but does not contribute to credit points. Throughout the BA Criminology degree, formative assessment has been designed to support meaningful learning and to foster a sense of criminological 'identity'. Further, formative assessment provide students with the opportunity to:

- Make sense of criteria
- Practice assessment skills/knowledge
- Receive and generate feedback on progression towards specific summative assessment tasks
- Engage with content needed to achieve learning outcomes
- Become familiar with the 'drop box' on NOW

To achieve this, students on the BA Criminology will undertake a number of formative tasks which include:

- Tests (crosswords, multiple choice, quizzes)
- Drafts and plans
- Role-play
- Semi-formal debates
- Individual/group presentations with feedback from peers and/or tutors
- Class discussion
- Online Q&A
- Online discussions/blogs
- Small-scale formative group and individual projects related to learning outcomes.

Summative assessment: aligned with the formative assessments outlined above, summative assessment results in a final grade (and feedback) which reflects the standard of achievement of the student work against the identified learning outcomes.

Summative assessment methods which are deployed on BA Criminology include:

- Essays, of varying lengths
- Exams (essay, short answer and multiple choice)

	- Presentations (group, individual, poster and E-Poster) - Projects, and preparations for them (e.g. proposals, book reviews) - Opportunities to write in different genres (e.g. reports, 'Thought Pieces' or magazine/newspaper articles) - Contributions to online activities (e.g. Blogs, Wikipedia entries etc.); - Portfolio material demonstrating the 'student journey' - Policy paper - Research project/community based research project - Case Studies
10.	**Course structure and curriculum**
	The BA (Hons) Criminology course consists of three years of full-time study, with year one providing a generic foundation in criminology, which is then further, developed in years two and three. Year one assumes no previous knowledge of criminology so each of the core modules are introductory in nature and have been designed to ensure your understanding of: the criminal justice system, its associated agencies and processes, criminological theory, the legal system, aspects of society and social change pertinent to crime, whilst also introducing you to study skills and approaches to research in criminology. **Year one modules:** - Introduction to the Criminal Justice System (20cpts) - Explaining Criminal Behaviour (20cpts) - Understanding Crime and Society (20cpts) - Developing a Criminological Imagination (20cpts) - Law, Sentencing and Punishment (20cpts) - Introduction to Psychology and Sociology of Crime (20cpts) **Year two** develops the key knowledge of criminology and the criminal justice system which underpins the course as a whole. In term one, you will take three core modules. In term two, you will undertake one core 20 credit point module and a 40 credit point Service Learning module. Additionally, students who wish to study abroad are able to apply to participate in study abroad opportunities (such as an Erasmus Exchange) in term two. Teaching and learning methods in year two are constructed to facilitate your increased participation, for example through the use of workshop exercises,

group presentations and student-led debates. Year two also encourages the development of analytical skills and increased independent learning.

Year two modules:

Core modules:
- Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Risk (20cpts)
- Diversity of Crimes and Prejudice (20cpts)
- Policing (20cpts)
- Penology (20cpts)
- Service Learning (40cpts)

In year three, the curriculum moves towards greater specialisation. You will be required to undertake Contemporary Criminological Theory and Research (20 credits) together with a 40 credit point research project. Year three makes greater use of independent learning methods, and teaching and learning approaches support the development of critical analysis. You will work closely with an individual member of staff to enable research and analytical skills to develop in a supportive and carefully directed environment which facilitates your transition into becoming effective independent learners.

In year three, you are also required to study an additional 60 credit points by choosing three optional modules (from six), allowing you to further specialise.

Year three modules:
Core modules:
- Contemporary Criminological Theory and Research (20cpts)
- Research Project (40cpts)

Options (one from each block):
- **Block A**: Young People, Crime and Justice / Sexual and Violent Crimes (20cpts)
- **Block B**: Drugs and Society /Cultural Criminology (20cpts)
- **Block C**: Hi-Tech Crime / International Crime (20cpts)

The curriculum supports the attainment of the course learning outcomes outlined earlier.

	Interim awards:
	If you acquire 120 credits in year one and do not progress to year two, you will be eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education in Criminology. If you acquire 120 credits in year one and year two respectively, but do not progress to year three, you will be eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology. If you obtain 120 credits from year one, 120 credits from year two, and 60 rather than 120 credits from year three, you will be eligible for the award of an Ordinary Degree in Criminology.
11.	**Admission to the course**
	Entry requirements.
	For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.
12.	**Support for learning**
	We take support for learning, both academic and pastoral, very seriously.
	However successful you have been at school/college, university is a new environment with new expectations. Study skills for success in criminology at university are, therefore, embedded into our first year course, and developed in years two and three. But you are strongly encouraged to contact relevant module leaders if you need extra academic support in getting to grips with the material covered in their module. Members of staff are happy to meet up with you individually. There is also a Study Skills Advisor in the School of Social Sciences, who can offer you advice on request.
	We ask you to ensure that you attend your classes and that you complete all the weekly readings/tasks required of you, so that we're all working together to ensure your academic success. A code of conduct detailing our expectations of you will be provided at induction. You will be taught at an early stage in your course, by our dedicated subject librarian, how to make use of the Library and Learning Resources, so that you can access and use a range of materials to support your own learning.
	You will be inducted into using NOW at the beginning of your course - in NOW you will be able to locate module/course noticeboards, online discussions and

module content, such as Power point slides, as appropriate. You'll also submit most of your coursework via a drop box in NOW. Computer facilities are available for all students. The course offers you opportunities to prepare for life after university, with career planning talks/individual meetings with careers advisors and placement learning available to you in core modules, one to one/group tutorials and beyond.

You will be allocated a personal tutor at the beginning of your first year, who you can approach for individual pastoral care as well as to discuss academic concerns. Personal tutors also meet regularly with their tutor groups. However, you will also have the opportunity to meet with your personal tutor on a one to one, regular basis. Your personal tutor will ordinarily remain your tutor throughout your time here at NTU. Each year has its own dedicated year tutor and there is also a Course Leader, all of whom are also available to approach for assistance. Registers are taken at classes and if your attendance gives cause for concern, your year tutor/course administrator will write and ask you to come in for a meeting. External to the course, we have strong links with Student Support Services, and a clear referral system to services such as counselling. You are also strongly encouraged to make contact with Student Support Services yourself if you need assistance from them.

All course information is also included in course handbooks which are made available electronically via NOW. University-level information is also provided in a School handbook and via the University's student website.

13.	**Graduate destinations/employability**
	KIS data from 2015/2016 reveals 92% of graduates with Positive Outcomes (PO) – 'the proportion of graduates who were available for employment and had secured employment or further study'. In addition, a direct comparison between 2014/15 and 2015/16 reveals a sharp increase from 58% to 72% in terms of Graduate Prospects (GP) – 'the proportion of graduates who were available for employment and had secured graduate-level employment or graduate-level further study'. The percentage of graduates in full-time study has increased slightly from 2014/15 to 2015/16 (from 17% to 20% respectively). The course, therefore, produces graduates prepared to enter a wide range of employment contexts and postgraduate courses. 'Employability' is a golden thread of the course with our Criminology students being encouraged to attend employability events and workshops.

	They have access to career consultants and a placements team who in turn can facilitate one-to one support with CV preparation, job application and interview support. Students are encouraged to grasp opportunities for volunteering as well as placement and work experience support, with the link we have to the Acceler8 employability award: https://www4.ntu.ac.uk/employability/employability_award/index.html
14.	**Course standards and quality**
	The principal mechanisms by which the standards and quality of the provision are maintained and enhanced are: • Course Committees and Staff-Student Consultation Forums, for which student representatives (elected by you) work with their designated year tutor to write reports for consideration; course committee minutes inform the development of the Annual Course Report - a report on the course for the previous academic year, which is reviewed at School and University level; • Criminology Course Teaching Team meetings/Department of Sociology meetings; • Assessment Boards, at which External Examiner Reports are received; • University-level reviews. We strongly encourage informal and constructive student feedback, either individually or via your student representatives, throughout the academic year, not just at Course Committees. We expect students with issues about a particular module to approach the relevant module leader in the first instance and as early as they can, so that issues can be resolved speedily and as close to their point of origin as possible. Module leaders also provide opportunities for student feedback at significant points in modules. You are also invited to offer end of year feedback.
15.	**Assessment regulations** This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:
	The course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations.
16.	**Additional information** Collaborative partner(s): Course referenced to national (QAA) QAA Benchmark Statements for Benchmark Statements: Criminology Course recognised by:

Date this course specification approved:	March, 2018
Any additional information:	

QAA Benchmark Statements: The QAA Benchmark Statements for Sociology have been referenced in the design of this course.