

Comparative Penology

Code: 100461
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500257 Criminology	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

It is strongly recommended to have passed the course of penology. To follow the course a minimum level of B1 in English is required.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The subject belongs to the specialization on "Intervention with offenders" and pretends to approach students to innovative international penological experiences that may be useful to orientate their work in the field of corrections.

Skills

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- Applying an intervention proposal about a person serving a sentence.
- Carrying out the criminological intervention on the basis of the values of pacification, social integration and prevention of further conflicts.
- Drawing up an academic text.
- Formulating research hypothesis in the criminological field.
- Identifying the most appropriate and effective penal intervention for each particular case.
- Reflecting on the foundations of criminology (theoretical, empirical and ethical-political ones) and expressing this in analysis and propositions.
- Students must demonstrate they know a variety of criminal policies in order to face criminality and its different foundations.
- Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
- Working autonomously.
- Working in teams and networking.

Learning outcomes

1. Ability to analyse and summarise.
2. Accurately applying the most efficient criminal proceedings to the criminal act.
3. Applying the appropriate foundations of criminal policy depending on the type of crime observed.
4. Applying the scientific and criminological knowledge to the punishment studies.

5. Carrying out penology researches with well-formulated hypothesis.
6. Drawing up an academic text.
7. Inferring those criminological proceedings that try to avoid criminal relapse.
8. Suggesting the correct action that should be applied in a penal execution.
9. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
10. Working autonomously.
11. Working in teams and networking.

Content

A) INTRODUCTION

- 1) Penological systems in the international context
- 2) Good practices in the penological field
- 3) Spanish penological practices and the European penological policy

B) ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

- 4) Alternatives to imprisonment versus imprisonment
- 5) Comparative effectiveness of alternatives to imprisonment
- 6) Restorative justice in the international context
- 7) Alternatives for high-risk offenders
- 8) Alternatives to imprisonment in Spain

C) IMPRISONMENT AND REENTRY

- 9) Explaining different rates of imprisonment
- 10) Keys for humane containment
- 11) Research on desistance
- 12) Effectiveness of reentry programs
- 13) Reentry programs in Spain

Methodology

The course will be **organized** as follows:

- a) Lectures, in which the professor will expose innovative practices in comparative penology.
- b) Seminars to discuss readings: students will come to the seminar having read the paper and written an essay. Each student will propose a point of debate. The seminar will be structured around the discussion of the points of debate suggested by students.
- c) Seminars to present the progress in the group work: each group of students (maximum of three students) will choose a topic to work during the semester. The topic should be related with a penological problem in the country of the origin of students and the work of the semester will consist of looking for good practices in comparative penology. During the seminars students will present their progress and will receive feed-back from students and professor.

d) Essays in class: students will be invited to write an essay on one of the topics of the course. Students will be allowed to use any bibliographical support to complete the essay.

e) Tutorials: students need to ask for at least one tutorial to receive the advice of the professor to complete the group work.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	22.5	0.9	2, 4, 3, 5, 7, 8
Seminars	22.5	0.9	3, 5, 6, 1, 9, 11
Tutorial	0.5	0.02	5, 1, 9
Type: Supervised			
Group work	55	2.2	4, 5, 8, 6, 1, 9, 10, 11
Oral presentation of the group work	0.5	0.02	1, 9
Type: Autonomous			
Reading of penological papers and writing essays	49	1.96	4, 6, 1, 10

Evaluation

Criteria of evaluation

a) Essays (40%). To produce a good summary of the reading and to discuss in deep a relevant point of it are the more valued aspects.

b) Group work (40%). The aspects most valued are: choosing a relevant topic, attention to international penological practices, extension of the references, quality of the proposal of reform, and respect for formal academic standards. 75% of the mark is based on the written work and 25% on the oral presentation.

c) Attendance (10%) and participation (10%). Participation is intended as showing positive motivation in all the activities of the course. Students that do not attend more that 20% of the sessions will not be assessed. Absences are only acceptable for illness or similar serious reasons. Absences for academic reasons should be accepted in advance by the professor.

d) Essays in classes. May increase the final mark up to 1 point over 10.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Attendance and participation	20%	0	0	1, 9, 11
Essays	40%	0	0	4, 3, 5, 7, 6, 1, 10
Group work	40%	0	0	2, 5, 7, 8, 6, 1, 9, 10, 11

Bibliography

Recommended handbooks

-Cid J (2009). La elección del castigo. Suspensión de la pena y probation versus prison. Barcelona: Bosch.

-Cavadino M.; Dignan J (2006). Penal systems. A comparative approach. London: Sage.

Mandatory readings

1. Diez Ripollés JL. (2011). La dimensión inclusión/exclusión social como guía de la política criminal comprada. Revista electrónica de ciencia penal y criminología, 13-12, 1-36.

<http://criminet.ugr.es/recpc/13/recpc13-12.pdf>

2. Cavadino M; Dignan J (2006). Introducing comparative penology. Penal systems: a comparative approach. London: Sage, 1-39

343.24 Cav

3. Cid J (2010). La política criminal europea y la realidad española: una brecha que debe superarse. Estudios penales y criminológicos, 30, 55-83

http://dspace.usc.es/bitstream/10347/4155/1/pg_055-084_penales30.pdf

4. Downes D (1988). The criminal justice systems of the Netherlands and England. Contrasts in tolerance. Post-War penal policy in TheNetherlands and Englandand Wales. London. Clarendon Press, 1-26

343.8(492+410)"1945/1986" Dow

5. Petersilia J (1997). Probation in the United States. Crime and Justice. An annual review of research, 22, 149-200.

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6. Smith LG; Akers R (1993). A comparison of recidivism of Florida's community control and prison: a five years survival analysis. Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, 30/3, 267-292.

7. Blumstein A (2004). Prisons: a policy challenge. Wilson JQ; Petersilia J (eds.) Crime. Public policies for crime control. Oakland: ICS Press, 451-482.

343.85 Cri

8. Bottoms A; Shapland J (2011) Steps towards desistance among male young adult recidivists. Farrall, S. et al (eds) Scape routes. Contemporary perspectives on life after punishment. London: Routledge, 42-77.

343.825 Esc

9. Travis J (2005). But they all come back. Facing the challenges of prisoner reentry. Wahsington: The Urban Institute, 319-352 (caps. 12 y 13).

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