

Scientific Research in Criminology

Code: 100454
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500257 Criminology	FB	1	2

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)

Some groups entirely in English: No

Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes

Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Other comments on languages

The course language will be modified (from Catalan to Spanish) in case the course is attended by international students.

Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisites.

Objectives and Contextualisation

As a general goal, the Degree of Criminology aims that a graduate of this degree must be able to use the research methods and techniques of criminological analysis to analyze data and experiences -of conflict, crime and control- in a certain social context. The course offers the fundamentals and the main methodological concepts of social research, and the dynamics of research process, with the focus on applying these concepts to the design of a criminological research project.

Skills

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- Accessing and interpreting sources of crime data.
- Clearly explaining and arguing a carried out analysis about a conflict or crime problem and its responses in front of specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Drawing up an academic text.
- Using research methods in social sciences in order to diagnose criminality problems.
- Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
- Working autonomously.
- Working in teams and networking.

Learning outcomes

1. Ability to analyse and summarise.
2. Drawing up an academic text.

3. Properly applying the research methods in order to analyse crime related figures.
4. Transmitting in a reasoned manner the results obtained in a criminological situational analysis.
5. Using the databases about delinquency in criminological researches.
6. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
7. Working autonomously.
8. Working in teams and networking.

Content

The contents of the course are structured in three parts. The first part presents conceptually the problematic of research in the social sciences - and, specifically, in criminology -, showing the complexity of any scientific research process. The second part deals with the design of the social research, from the theoretical construction to the design of the analysis. The third part shows an overview of the main observational techniques, their design and application.

PART I. INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH IN CRIMINOLOGY

1. General introduction
Common knowledge vs. scientific knowledge.
What is science?
Science, society and values.
Traditions and paradigms of social research.

2. Methodological foundations of social science research
Stages and phases of the research process.
Search according to your aims.
Description and explanation: Deduction, Induction and other explanatory strategies.
Quantitative and qualitative methods. Methodological integration.
Criteria of validity.
Ethical aspects.

PART II. THE DESIGN OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

3. From the initial question to the analytic model
Formulation of the initial question.
Exploration and state of the matter. Search, selection and treatment of relevant sources.
Construction of the theoretical frame of reference.
Hypothesis: Type and structure of the analytic model.
Conceptualization and operationalization.

4. The analysis design
Delimitation of the field of analysis.
Qualitative designs and quantitative designs.
The choice of techniques and other design decisions.

PART III. OBSERVATIONAL TECHNIQUES (panorama)

5. Questionnaire surveys
General features and applications in criminology.
Types of surveys.
Design aspects: questionnaire and field work.

6. Interviews
General features and applications in criminology.
Types of interviews.
Design aspects: script and field work.

7. Other observational techniques
External observation.

Participant observation and ethnography.
 Documentary research.
 Social experimentation.

Methodology

The required work for learning the subjects for the achieving of competences covered by the course will be based on the following activities:

Activities in the classroom:

- Lectures conducted in plenary lectures, designed to introduce the concepts and contents of the course.
- Hands-on seminar practices related to the group research project, consisting of exercises performed and delivered in the same session. Learning from seminar practices have direct applicability to the group research project.
- Public presentation of the groups research projects.

Activities outside the classroom:

- Readings, of selected texts available at the Campus Virtual, related with the contents worked in the classroom. These readings will be of use: (1) for the preparation of individual knowledge test, at the end of the course, and (2) for the project research group.
- Conducting a research group project focused on applying the course concepts in criminological research, which will be monitored both through specific activities in the classroom (seminars) as well as through the revision of partial deliveries.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	21	0.84	3, 1
Type: Supervised			
Hands-on seminar	21	0.84	3, 1, 6, 7, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Group assignment: research project	52	2.08	3, 2, 1, 4, 6, 7, 8
Reading, analysis and synthesis of materials. Preparation for the individual test.	53	2.12	3, 1, 7

Evaluation

1. Assessment Model

- This course involves active participation of the student that include regular attendance in class as a form of integration between the different learning activities.

2. Conditions to be assessed, requirements to pass the course, and resit

- The final mark will be expressed in a range of 0-10 points, being 5 the lowest limit to pass the course.

- The final grade for the course will be calculated as the weighted average rating of the 4 evaluation activities, according to the weight corresponding to each.
- To succeed in the course it is required to fulfill the following conditions:
 - a) To have a 80% minimum attendance to lectures and seminars, Only absences due to illness or similar reasons are accepted. Absences due to academic reasons should be accepted in advance by the professor
 - b) to have a mark equal or higher than four points (=> 4) in the group research project and in the exam.
- In case students do not reach the minimum mark to pass the subject, they will have the opportunity to a second assessment. The maximum mark of the evaluation activities repeated will be 5.

3. Policy against plagiarism.

- If a student is detected cheating while performing exams, he/she will obtain a fail mark, losing the possibility of reassessment
- In case of plagiarism in essays we will assess each case, and in extreme cases the option of a fail mark in the subject, losing the possibility of reassessment will be considered.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Attendance and practice seminar performance	10 %	0	0	3, 1, 6, 7, 8, 5
Exam	50%	0	0	3, 1, 7, 5
Group research project, distributed in two partial deliveries.	35%	0	0	3, 2, 1, 4, 7, 8, 5
Public presentation of the group project	5%	3	0.12	6, 8

Bibliography

MANDATORY REFERENCES (to prepare the exam):

1. Corbetta, P. (2011). *Social Research: Theory, Methods and Techniques*. London: Sage. Chapters 1 & 2. (Part One: The Logic of Social Research).
2. Quivy, R.; Van Campenhoudt, L. (2011). *Manuel de recherche en sciences sociales*. Paris : Dunod, DL 2011. (Chapitres 1 à 5)
 Quivy, R.; Van Campenhoudt, L. (1996). *Manuale di ricerca per le scienze sociali*. Roma : Borla, 1996. (Capitoli 1 a 5)
 Quivy, R.; Van Campenhoudt, L. (2008). *Manual de investigacao em ciencias sociais*. Lisboa. Gradiva 2008. (Capítulos 1 até 5

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (not to be tested):

- Readings related to the specific theme for each working group research project.