

Comparative Criminology

Code: 103952
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500257 Criminology	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

This course requires a B2 level of English.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Goals:

- Understand the methodological problems related to the comparisons of crime across nations.
- Understand the way in which crime data are collected across nations.
- Understand the theoretical explanations of the evolution of crime across time and space.

Competences:

- Be able to critically assess the explanations of levels of crime across nations provided by researchers and by the press.
- Be able to use data to explain trends in crime across nations.
- Be able to effectively communicate about comparative criminology.

Skills

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- Accessing and interpreting sources of crime data.
- Drawing up an academic text.
- Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Reflecting on the foundations of criminology (theoretical, empirical and ethical-political ones) and expressing this in analysis and propositions.
- Students must be capable of autonomously updating their criminological knowledge.
- Students must demonstrate they comprehend the criminological theories.
- 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. Applying the variety of criminal policies and their foundations in the criminological field.
3. Drawing up an academic text.
4. Effectively using the theoretical foundations of criminology.
5. Finding and analysing crime databases.
6. Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
7. Inferring the scientific knowledge of criminology in the applied field.
8. Students must show interest for the scientific updates in the criminological field.
9. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
10. Working autonomously.
11. Working in teams and networking.

Content

1. Historical development of comparative criminology
2. Methodology of international comparisons of crime
3. Theories in comparative criminology
4. Long-term trends in violence
5. Police statistics in comparative perspective
6. Prosecution statistics in comparative perspective
7. Conviction statistics in comparative perspective
8. Prison statistics in comparative perspective
9. Probation statistics in comparative perspective
10. Self-reported delinquency studies in comparative perspective
11. Victimization studies in comparative perspective
12. Victimization of women and of ethnic minorities in comparative perspective
13. Criminal policy in comparative perspective

Methodology

The course combines lectures and a seminar. It requires reading a series of scientific articles, submitting a written assignment, and passing a final exam.

Before the starting of the course a detailed weekly schedule of activities will be provided.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
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Type: Directed

Lectures	22.5	0.9	2, 6, 7, 8, 5, 4
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Type: Supervised

Seminar	22.5	0.9	2, 7, 8, 3, 1, 9, 11, 5, 4
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Type: Autonomous

Required readings	50	2	10
Written assignment	50	2	6, 3, 1, 10, 4

Evaluation

The evaluation takes into consideration class participation, the written assignment, and the final exam.

A minimum of 80% attendance to lectures and seminaris is required to be assessed (only absences due to illness or similar reasons are accepted)

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Class participation	10%	0	0	6, 8, 9, 11
Written assignment	40%	3	0.12	6, 3, 1, 10, 5, 4
Written exam	50%	2	0.08	2, 6, 7, 3, 1, 5, 4

Bibliography**Required readings:**

1. Aebi, M.F. & Linde, A. (2016). Long-term Trends in Crime: Continuity and Change. In Knepper P. & Johansen A. (Eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Crime and Criminal Justice* (pp. 57-87). New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Aebi M.F. & Linde A. (2015). The epistemological obstacles in comparative criminology: A special issue introduction. *European Journal of Criminology*, 12(4): 381-385.
3. Aebi, M.F. (2010). Methodological Issues in the Comparison of Police-Recorded Crime Rates. In Shoham S.G., Knepper P. & Kett M. (Eds.). *International Handbook of Criminology*(pp. 211-227). Boca Raton / London / New York: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.
4. von Hofer, H. (2000). Crime Statistics as Constructs: The Case of Swedish Rape Statistics. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 8(1), pp. 7789.
5. Campistol C. & Aebi M.F. (2018). Are juvenile criminal justice statistics comparable across countries? A study of the data available in 45 European nations. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 24(1): 55-78. Published online: 17 June 2017.
6. Aebi, M.F. & Linde, A. (2010). Is There a Crime Drop in Western Europe? *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 16(4): 251-277.

7. Caneppele, S. & Aebi, M. F. (2017). Crime Drop or Police Recording Flop? On the Relationship between the Decrease of Offline Crime and the Increase of Online and Hybrid Crimes. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*. Online first.
8. Aebi, M.F. & Linde, A. (2012). Conviction Statistics as an Indicator of Crime Trends in Europe from 1990 to 2006. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 18(1): 103-144.
9. Aebi M.F. & Linde A. (2012). Crime Trends in Western Europe according to Official Statistics from 1990 to 2007. In van Dijk J., Tseloni A. and Farrell G. (Eds.). *The International Crime Drop: New Directions in Research*(pp. 37-75). New York, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
10. Aebi, M.F. & Linde, A. (2014). The persistence of lifestyles: Rates and correlates of homicide in Western Europe from 1960 to 2010. *European Journal of Criminology*, online first.
11. Aebi, M.F., Linde, A., & Delgrande, N. (2015). Is There a Relationship Between Imprisonment and Crime in Western Europe? *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 21(3): 425-446.
12. Aebi, M.F., Delgrande, N. & Marguet, Y. (2015). Have community sanctions and measures widened the net of the European criminal justice systems? *Punishment & Society*, 17(5): 575-597.
13. Aebi, M.F. (2009). *Self-reported delinquency surveys in Europe/ Enquêtes de délinquance autoreportée en Europe*. Guyancourt : CRIMPREV (68 p. + 77 p., ISBN 978-2-917565 27 8).
14. Aebi, M.F. & Linde, A. (2014). National Victimization Surveys. In Bruinsma G. & Weisburd D. (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*(pp. 3228-3242). New York: Springer