

Scientific Research in Criminology

Code: 100454
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500257 Criminology	FB	1	2

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

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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 language of the course 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 -about 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.

Competences

- 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

1. General introduction

- Common knowledge vs. scientific knowledge.
- What is science? What is social science?
- Traditions and paradigms of social research.

2. Methodological foundations of social science research

- Stages and phases of the research process.
- Research according to your aims.
- Description, explanation and understanding.
- Deductive and inductive methods.
- Quantitative and qualitative methods.

3. Construction of the object of study

- Formulation of the initial question.
- Kind of questions.
- Research objectives.

4. The theoretical framework

- Exploration and state of the art.
- Search, selection and treatment of relevant sources.
- The epistemological breakdown.
- Construction of the theoretical frame of reference.

5. The analysis model

- Hypothesis: types and structuring of the analysis model.
- Conceptualization and operationalization.
- Qualitative models and Grounded Theory.

6. Experimentality and field of analysis

- Experimental designs.

- Delimitation of the field of analysis.

7. Sampling processes

- Types of sampling according to analytical orientation.

- Statistical sampling.

- Strategic sampling.

8. Ethical aspects of research

- Deontological criteria.

- Casuistry and basic texts.

Methodology

Statement: Teaching and assessment methods may be submitted to change in case health authorities impose restrictions to access to campus.

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, designed to introduce the concepts and contents of the course.
- Seminar practices related to the group research project, consisting of exercises performed and delivered in the same session (withouth direct evaluation). Learning from seminar practices have direct applicability and evaluation into the group research project.

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 and later feed-back of partial deliveries.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	19.5	0.78	3, 1
Practices (seminar)	19.5	0.78	3, 1, 6, 7, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Group assigment: research project	46	1.84	3, 2, 1, 4, 7, 8
Reading, analysis and synthesis of materials. Preparation for the individual test.	60	2.4	3, 1, 7

Assessment

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 (\Rightarrow 4) in the group research project and in the exam.
- If the unexcused or excused absences after the deadline (two weeks from the absence) exceed 20% of the total theory or seminar classes, the student will not be evaluated. Only absences due to illness, due to force majeure, or for academic reasons previously authorized by the teaching staff will be justified.
- The final grade for the course will be computed as the weighted average of the grade of the 3 assessment activities, according to the corresponding weight of each one.
- 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 (with a note=0), losing the possibility of reassessment.
- In case of plagiarism in essays we will assess each case, and in extreme or reiterative cases the option of a fail mark in the subject, losing the possibility of reassessment will be considered.

4. Punctuality

- Classes start on time. Late arrival is not admitted.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and practice seminar performance	10%	0	0	3, 1, 6, 7, 8, 5
Exam	50%	5	0.2	3, 1, 7, 5
Group research project, distributed in two partial deliveries.	40%	0	0	3, 2, 1, 4, 7, 8, 5

Bibliography

MANDATORY REFERENCES (to prepare the exam):

- Corbetta, P. (2003). Metodología y técnicas de investigación social. Madrid: McGraw-Hill. Chapters 1 and 2 (First part: "La lógica de la investigación social")
- Quivy, R.; Van Campenhoudt, L. (2009). *Manual de investigación en ciencias sociales*. Mexico: Limusa, 2009. (Chapters 1 to 5).

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (not to be tested):

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- Bachman, R.; Schutt, K. (2001). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pine Forge Press.

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- Chalmers, A. F. (1982). *¿Qué es esa cosa llamada ciencia?*. Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI.
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- Creswell, J.W. (2003). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
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- Yin. R. (1994). *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. California: Sage.
- Ziman, J. (1984). *An introduction to science studies. The philosophical and social aspects of science and technology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.