

Introduction to Criminology

Code: 100434
ECTS Credits: 6

2024/2025

Degree	Type	Year
2500257 Criminology	FB	1

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

A minimum B1 English level is highly advised to follow the course.

The subject is adapted to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Language of the course:

Lectures: Catalan (But in case the course would be attended by exchange students with lack of knowledge of Catalan, the language will change to Spanish)

Seminars:

11 (Prof. Úrsula Ruiz): Catalan

12 (Prof. Ferran Restrepo): Catalan

13 (Prof. Helena Mulero): Spanish

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of this subject consist of approaching the student to the criminological perspective of social problems, understanding the configuration or criminology as an autonomous discipline and reflecting on its main dimensions as a science and as a practice.

Competences

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- Accessing and interpreting sources of crime data.
- Drawing up an academic text.
- Reflecting on the foundations of criminology (theoretical, empirical and ethical-political ones) and expressing this in analysis and propositions.
- 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. Applying the scientific research methods in order to analyse criminality figures.
3. Carrying out analysis and propositions about criminological problems using the scientific method of the criminological science.
4. Drawing up an academic text.
5. Finding and using the databases of criminological content.
6. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
7. Working autonomously.
8. Working in teams and networking.

Content

I. DEFINITION OF CRIMINOLOGY

1. What is criminology?
2. Object of criminology: crime, crime control methods, and victims.
3. Similarities and differences between criminology and other disciplines (Psychology, Sociology, Education, Law). Criminology, criminal investigation and crime science.

II CRIMINOLOGY AS A SCIENCE

4. Theories of crime and its historical formation
5. The process of scientific research. The problem of causality.
6. Research methods.

III. CRIMINOLOGY AS A PRACTICE

7. Crime prevention strategies
8. Actors and methods of crime prevention

9. Relation between theory and practice

IV. LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

10. The focus of criminology in the process of criminalization

11. The law as a framework for criminological intervention

V. VALUES IN CRIMINOLOGY

12. Values in research and in practice

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	19.5	0.78	2, 3, 1, 6, 5
Seminars	19.5	0.78	4, 6, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Group research project	31	1.24	
Individual assignments	75	3	2, 3, 4, 1, 7

Methodologies

The process of learning will be achieved through the following activities:

(i) Lectures. The professor will stimulate participation of students. Exercises will be done at the end of lectures to test the assimilation of the concepts.

(ii) Seminars for discussing papers. The student should have read the paper and write an essay answering the questions proposed by the professor. The maximum length is 800 words. During the seminar the paper will be discussed in small groups.

(iii) Seminars for the Group Research Project. The Group Research Project Students will be devoted to deepen into an specific crime problem. Students will have the possibility to chose among different subjects. During the seminar students will present their progress in the group work and will receive the feedback of the professors.

(iv) Tutorials. The student is expected to ask for individual and group tutorials to the professors of the course to solve problems.

(v) Exam preparation.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and participation	25%	0	0	2, 3, 1, 6
Essays	25%	0	0	2, 3, 4, 1, 7
Exam	25%	5	0.2	2, 3, 1, 7, 5
Group research work	25%	0	0	2, 3, 4, 1, 6, 8

1. Model of assessment

Continuous assessment. The student will be able to know the achievement and he/she will receive indications to improve.

Items of evaluation: Individual Essays (25%), Group Research Project (25%); Exam (25%) Attendance and Participation (25%). Attendance is 12.5 of the grade and participation the other 12.5%. There are 6 levels of participation: A (Excellent); B (Very Good); C (Good); D (Pass); E (Need to improve); F (Improvement very needed)

2. Minimum requirements for passing the course and for being assessed

Minimum attendance of 80% to lectures and seminars, presentation of the 5 essays, do the group research work and do the exam, are requirement to pass the course.

Students will be assessed if they have carried out a set of activities whose weight is equivalent to a minimum of 2/3 of the total grade for the subject. If the value of the activities carried out does not reach this threshold, the subject's teaching staff may consider the student as non-assessable.

3. Requirements for passing the subject and resit

Minimum mark of 5 in the four items of assessment. In case of failure of the individual essays, group work and exam, a second chance will be given. In case of resit de maximum mark is 5.

4. Excellent achievement

The student with an average of 8/10 in the course and 8/10 in the exam will be granted 1 point extra. After counting this extra point, the honours will be granted to the students with the best final marks, equal or higher than 9.

5. Essays out of time

Essays not presented at due time, will not be accepted and the student will get a 0 in the essay. Only excuses due to illness or similar serious reasons will be considered.

6. Excuses

Failure to comply with duties due to illness or other serious reasons will be considered, provided there is a valid certification. Absences due to academic reasons must be accepted by the professor in advance.

7. Consequences of fraud

An student that cheat or attempt to cheat in the exam will get a 0,losing the right to a second chance. Plagiarism will conduct to a fail of the essay and, in case of recidivism the student will receive a fail mark, losing the right of being reassessed. Use of AI is not allowed to write essays and will be treated equally as plagiarism.

8. Punctuality

Classes start on time. Late arrival or leaving the calls before the end is not admitted, provided there is not reasonable justification.

9. Single assessment system

It will consist of three exams:

1st) 4 questions on the book of S. Redondo and V. Garrido (2023). *Principios de Criminología* (5th ed). Tirant lo Blanch. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 23.

2nd) 2 questions on the mandatory reading of the course

3rd) Exercise on a crime problem in which students should answer to some questions regarding on how they will carry out research on this topic.

Bibliography

1. TEXTBOOK

Students need to consult at least one of the following handbooks. These handbooks are also useful for several subjects of the degree.

Garrido, V. & Redondo, S. (2023). *Principios de criminología* (5th ed.). Tirant lo Blanch.

Newburn, T. (2017). *Criminology* (3rd ed.). Routledge.

2. COMPULSORY READINGS

Part 1 Definition of criminology

Newburn, T. (2017). Understanding crime and criminology . *Criminology* (Chapter 1). Routledge.

Part 2. Criminology and science

Snipes, J., Bernard, T., & Gerould, A. (2019). Theory and crime. *Vold's theoretical criminology* (8th ed.). (pp. 1-13). Oxford University Press.

Part 3 Criminology and practice

Wilson. J. Q. & Kelling G. (1982). Broken windows: the police and neighbourhood safety. *Atlantic Monthly* , March, 29-38.

Part 4. Criminology and law

Sutherland, E. (1949). The problem of white collar crime (pp. 3-10). *White collar crime*. Yale University Press.

Part 5. Criminology and values

Newburn, T. (2017). Race, crime and justice . *Criminology* (3rd ed.). (Chapter 32). Routledge.

3. OTHER REFERENCE HANDBOOKS

Medina, J. (2011). *Políticas y estrategias de prevencion del delito y seguridad ciudadana*. Edisofer.

Larrauri, Elena (2018). *Introducción a la criminología y al sistema penal* (2nd ed.). Trotta.

Software

No computer program is used in this course.

Language list

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed