

Policing

Code: 100442
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Criminology	OB	2

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

- The language used for theory and seminars 11 and 12 will be Catalan. Seminar 13 will be held in Spanish.
- The teaching of the subject will be taught taking into account the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Objectives and Contextualisation

This subject has as fundamental aim to offer an overview about policing in our society. That's to say, its place in the Criminal Justice System, in the Public Administration, its relationships with the public, the functions performed by the police (preventative, reactive and supportive). The course also focuses on the scope and limit of police functions, the police culture, stressing what is common in all police organisation and what varies in function of the models and public policies.

As second objective, complementary to the previous one, this subject contextualises police, security and criminal justice as concentric circles (being security the largest). Students should clearly identify police role within the framework of Criminal justice and security in general. They should also understand the meaning of its functions, namely, its relationship with crime and law and identify the main traits of the police organisation and those of other usual police partners, especially private security. Eventually students should have basic knowledge on security planning.

Competences

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- Accessing and interpreting sources of crime data.
- Applying a crime prevention program at a community level.
- Carrying out the criminological intervention on the basis of the values of pacification, social integration and prevention of further conflicts.
- Demonstrating a comprehension of the victim's needs on the basis of the knowledge of victimological theories.
- Drawing up an academic text.
- Identifying existing social resources to intervene in the conflict and criminality.
- Students must demonstrate a comprehension of the best crime prevention and intervention models for each specific problem.
- Students must demonstrate they know a variety of criminal policies in order to face criminality and its different foundations.
- Students must demonstrate they know the legal framework and operating model of the crime control agents.
- 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. Acting in a professional way in the criminological field for pacifying, social integration and delinquency-prevention purposes.
3. Applying a prevention program for crime control agents.
4. Appropriately applying social resources to criminality.
5. Appropriately managing a security or prevention team.
6. Correctly describing in the criminological field the legal-penal framework and crime control agents.
7. Demonstrating they know the means and scientific procedures of crime prevention.
8. Drawing up an academic text.
9. Effectively developing a delinquency prevention program in the community area.
10. Interpreting crime-related police reports.
11. Intervening in the criminological field for pacifying, conciliatory and crime-prevention purposes.
12. Knowing the structural prevention strategy of delinquency.
13. Properly using the criminological prevention and intervention programs.
14. Students must be capable of carrying out a security audit in the public field.
15. Using risk analysis methods in the field of safety.
16. Using the police analysis methodologies of crime investigation.
17. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
18. Working autonomously.
19. Working in teams and networking.

Content

1. Introduction to Security
 - 1.1. What do we understand by security?
 - 1.2. The concept of security
 - 1.3. Objective and subjective security

- 1.4. Fear of crime
 - 1.4.1. Role of the media
 - 1.4.2. Social policies
 - 1.4.3. Education
 - 1.4.4. Urban design
- 1.5. Punitive populism
- 1.6. Involved actors
- 1.7. Current trends in security
- 2. Introduction to the Police
 - 2.1. History and evolution of the police
 - 2.2. Functions
 - 2.3. Police as an institution
 - 2.4. Legal framework
 - 2.5. State, regional, and local police forces
 - 2.6. Models of police-society relations
- 3. The Police Profession and Organization
 - 3.1. The police profession: culture and organization
 - 3.2. Police recruitment: single entry vs dual entry
 - 3.3. Specialization vs generalists
 - 3.4. Central and territorial units: ongoing balance
 - 3.5. Special units: intervention groups and internal affairs
 - 3.6. Non-police civil servants
 - 3.7. Police unions
 - 3.8. New internal partners: security guards, auxiliaries, and volunteers
 - 3.9. Continuous training
- 4. Data Sources
 - 4.1. Official police data
 - 4.2. Other official sources (judicial, statistical, international)
 - 4.3. Victimization and perception surveys
 - 4.4. Own and field sources
- 5. The police function of crime prevention
 - 5.1. Theories and foundations
 - 5.2. Police strategies to prevent crime

- 5.3. Spatial criminology
- 5.4. Crime concentration: Hot Spots
- 5.5. Available tools
- 5.6. Evaluation and limitations
- 5.7. Practical examples
- 6. Police Bias and Legitimacy
 - 6.1. Police legitimacy
 - 6.2. Police discretion: opportunities and risks
 - 6.3. Police biases
 - 6.4. Social and political effects
 - 6.5. Relevant cases and examples
 - 6.6. Police accountability mechanisms
- 7. Self-Protection and Physical Integrity of the Police
 - 7.1. Concept of self-protection
 - 7.2. Self-defense in the police context
 - 7.3. Justification and relevance
 - 7.4. Legal framework for the use of force
 - 7.5. Training and practice
- 8. Other Areas of Police Work
 - 8.1. The police in response to conflicts and antisocial behavior
 - 8.2. Public order strategies and tactics
 - 8.3. Public order in a democracy: public safety and human rights
- 9. Police systems. Tendencies.
 - 9.1. Governmental police : France, Italy, Spain and Portugal.
 - 9.2. Police as public service. Community policing with local base : the United Kingdom.
 - 9.3. A new basically local system : Belgium.
 - 9.4 Federal systems: Germany, USA and Canada
 - 9.5. A "de-centralised" system : Spain.
 - 9.6. Importance of the local police area.
 - 9.7. Towards a plural policing model.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
lectures	19.5	0.78	2, 6, 1, 17, 13
Seminar sessions	19.5	0.78	2, 6, 1, 17, 19, 13
Type: Autonomous			
in group work	26	1.04	2, 6, 11, 8, 1, 19, 13
Readings, study, paper preparation	80	3.2	2, 3, 6, 1, 18, 13

The activities that students will be required to complete during the course are:

1. A group project.
2. An individual project.
3. A final exam.

Punctuality:

Classes start promptly at the scheduled time. Entry will not be allowed once the class has begun, and students may not leave before it ends unless there is a justified reason.

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
Class attendance	12,5%	0	0	2, 4, 3, 12, 7, 6, 9, 5, 10, 11, 8, 14, 1, 17, 18, 19, 13, 15, 16
Exam	40%	5	0.2	2, 6, 1, 18, 13
Group project	15%	0	0	2, 3, 12, 7, 6, 11, 14, 1, 17, 19, 13, 15
Individual paper	20%	0	0	2, 4, 12, 6, 9, 5, 10, 11, 8, 1, 18, 13, 16
Participation in class	12,5%	0	0	2, 6, 1, 17, 13

Assessment

1. Continuous Assessment Model

The assessment model is continuous and has a formative purpose, allowing both students and instructors to monitor the degree to which the established competencies are being achieved. The following will be assessed:

- a) The individual project
- b) The group project, which must be presented
- c) The written exam
- d) Class participation

The content of the assignments will be indicated at the beginning of the course on the Virtual Campus.

1. Requirements to be Assessed

Students must have submitted the group project, the individual project, and sat the final exam.

1. Requirements to Pass the Course

- a) Students must attend 100% of classes and seminars in person. All absences must be justified by illness, force majeure, or academic reasons previously authorized by the instructor. If the student attends less than 80% of the academic activities, they will not be able to pass the course.
- b) To pass the course, students must obtain at least a 4 on the final exam, and the average of the assignments (group and individual work) must be 5 or higher. The final average grade for the course must be 5 or higher in order to pass (taking into account the group project, the individual project, and the exam).

1. Resits

If a student does not pass the individual and/or group projects, they will have the opportunity to take a resit for each part.

The final written exam may be retaken approximately two weeks later.

1. Fraudulent Conduct

Any student who cheats or attempts to cheat on an exam will receive a zero (0) for the course and lose the right to a resit. Students who submit a project or activity with signs of plagiarism or who cannot justify their arguments will receive a zero (0) and a formal warning. In case of repeated misconduct, the student will fail the course (0) and lose the right to a resit.

1. Single Assessment Model

Students may request a single assessment model. To demonstrate acquisition of the knowledge and competencies related to the course, several assessable activities will be carried out in accordance with the established syllabus.

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2.- Complementary bibliography.

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What works network (Network of good practices in crime prevention)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-works-network>

Software

The appropriate one used in the university environment.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	11	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	12	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	13	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed