

Scientific Research in Criminology

Code: 100454
 ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Criminology	FB	1

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

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

Prerequisites

The teaching of the subject will be given taking into account the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Language of lectures: Catalan.

Language of the seminars:

- Seminars 11 and 12: Catalan.
- Seminar 13: Spanish.

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.

Learning Outcomes

1. CM08 (Competence) Effectively presenting the results of a criminological investigation.
2. KM06 (Knowledge) Identify the basic research methods and techniques used in criminology.
3. SM11 (Skill) Apply the right research method to conduct research.

Content

1 .	Common	General knowledge	vs.	scientific	introduction knowledge.
1.1.					

1.2. What is science? What is social science?

1.3. Traditions and paradigms of social research.

2. Methodological foundations of social science research process.

2.1. Stages and phases of the research to your aims.

2.2. Research according to your aims.

2.3. Deductive and inductive methods.

2.4. Quantitative and qualitative methods.

3. Construction of the object of study

3.1. Formulation of the initial question.

3.2. Kind of questions.

3.3. Research objectives.

4. The theoretical framework

4.1. Exploration and state of the art.

4.2. Search, selection and treatment of relevant sources.

4.3. The epistemological breakdown.

4.4. Construction of the theoretical frame of reference.

5. The analysis model

5.1. Hypothesis and structuring of the analysis model.

5.2. Conceptualization and operationalization.

5.3. Qualitative models and Grounded Theory.

6. Experimentality and field analysis designs.

6.1. Experimental

6.2. Delimitation of the field of analysis.

7. Statistical sampling and survey technique sampling.

7.1. Statistical

7.2. Survey technique.

8. Ethical aspects of research criteria.

8.1. Deontological

8.2. Historical examples and basic texts.

Activities and Methodology

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

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.
- Seminars related to the group research project, consisting of exercises performed and delivered in the same session (with subsequent evaluation and correction by the teacher). Learning from seminars have direct applicability, at the same time, 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 the individual exam, 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.

All students are required to maintain a respectful attitude towards all students. No offensive or discriminatory behavior based on origin, race, ethnicity, sex, religion, opinion, or any other personal or social circumstance will be permitted in classes or during course activities.

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

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and practice seminar performance	20%	0	0	KM06, SM11
Exam	50%	5	0.2	CM08, KM06, SM11
Group research project, distributed in two partial deliveries.	30%	0	0	CM08, KM06, SM11

a) Continuous Assessment:

- Theoretical-practical exam: 50%
- Research Project (group work): 40%
- Evaluable practical exercises: 10%
- Conditions to be assessed, requirements to pass the course, and retake:

- The final mark will be expressed in a range of 0-10 points, being 5 the lowest limit to pass the course.
- To pass the subject 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.
- 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 able to pass the subject. Only absences due to illness, due to force majeure, or for academic reasons previously authorized by the teaching staff will be justified.

- Students will be evaluable as long as 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 teacher may consider the student as non-evaluable.
- 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.

- Policy against cheating and 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 works or practices, the student will obtain a zero and will receive a warning. In case of repetition of the behavior, the student will suspend the subject (with a 0) and will lose the right to reassessment.

- Punctuality:

- Classes start on time. Late arrival is not admitted, neither leaving the class before the end, except for reasonable justification.

b) Single Assessment:

- Theoretical-practical exam: 60%

- Bibliography to prepare the exam: mandatory bibliography + Cea d'Ancona (chapters 5, 7 and 8).

- Research Project (individual work): 40%

- The work will be done throughout the semester, following the instructions that will appear on the virtual campus, and will be delivered on the day of the final exam.

- Conditions to be assessed, requirements to pass the course, and retake:

- To pass the subject a minimum average mark of 5 is required.
- To succeed in the course it is required to have a mark equal or higher than four points ($=>4$) in the research project and in the exam.
- Exam and research project will have a chance of reassessment, but in case of passing the maximum mark will be 5 out 10.

Bibliography

MANDATORY REFERENCES (to prepare the exam):

- Corbetta, P. (2003). *Metodología y técnicas de investigación social*. 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*. Limusa. (Chapters 1 to 5).

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (not to be tested):

- Babbie, E. (1999). *Fundamentos de la investigación social*. Thompson Learning.
- Bachman, R.; Schutt, K. (2001). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pine Forge Press.
- Bericat, E. (1998). *La integración de los métodos cuantitativo y cualitativo en la investigación social*. Ariel.
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- Callejo, J.; Viedma, A. (2006). *Proyectos y estrategias de investigación social: la perspectiva de la*

intervención. McGraw Hill.

- Campbell, D.T.; Stanley, J. (1982 [1966]). *Diseños experimentales y cuasiexperimentales en investigación social*. Amorrortu.
- Cea d'Ancona, Mª Ángeles (1998): *Metodología cuantitativa*. Síntesis.
- Chalmers, A. F. (1982). *¿Qué es esa cosa llamada ciencia?*. Siglo XXI.
- Cook, T.D.; Campbell, D.T. (1979). *Quasi-experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings*. Rand McNally.
- Creswell, J.W. (2003). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Sage.
- Dantzker, M. L.; Hunter, R. (2012). *Research Methods for Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Jones & Barlett Learning.
- Ellis, L; Hartley, R. Walsh, (2010). *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology: an Interdisciplinary Approach*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Jupp, V.; Davies, P.; Francis, P. (2011). *Doing Criminological Research*. Sage.
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- Maxfield, M.G.;Babbie, E. (2008). *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology*. Thomson Wadsworth.
- Popper, K.R. (1971). *La lógica de la investigación científica*. Tecnos.
- Ruiz Olabuénaga, J.I.; Arístegui, I.; Melgosa, L. (1998). *Cómo elaborar un proyecto de investigación social*. Universidad de Deusto. Cuadernos Monográficos del ICE, 7.
- Sautu, R. et al (2005). *Manual de metodología. Construcción del marco teórico, formulación de los objetivos y elección de la metodología*. Clacso.
- [<http://bibliotecavirtual.clacso.org.ar/ar/libros/campus/metodo/metodo.html>].
- Yin, R. (1994). *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. Sage.
- Ziman, J. (1984). *An introduction to science studies. The philosophical and social aspects of science and technology*. Cambridge University Press.

Software

No computer programs are required, in this subject.

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	second semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	12	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	13	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed