

Data Sources in Criminology

Code: 100455
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
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

Languages used in the course:

Theory: Spanish

Seminars: 11 and 12: Catalan / 13: Spanish

Objectives and Contextualisation

The general objective of this course is set out as follows: "The students of the Degree in Criminology will be able to use the methods and techniques of criminological research to analyze the data and experiences of conflict, crime and control in a given social context. Also, students will be able to evaluate, in a thoughtful and critical way, possible responses, and to expose, with academic rigor, the results of their work."

In this context, the course of Data Sources in Criminology has the following concrete objectives:

- To enable students to use databases on delinquency.
- To be able to evaluate, and reflect critically about different data on crime.
- To reach competence in academic writing.

Learning Outcomes

1. CM09 (Competence) Illustrate a criminological discussion with an appropriate use of data.

2. KM05 (Knowledge) Identify criminology data sources.
3. SM10 (Skill) Using crime databases in criminological research.
4. SM12 (Skill) Use calculation programs such as Excel with solvency.
5. SM13 (Skill) Apply the academic rules of citation (APA).

Content

This course is structured in two parts. The first part of the course provides students with methodological tools which are appropriate to learn and research in the field of criminology. The second part aims to familiarize students with the main indicators of crime.

1. METHODOLOGICAL TOOLS. ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Data in criminological research. How to obtain data and how to do a bibliographic research. Formal requests for data demands. Bibliographic databases. Academic journals and systematic review of literature. APA Rules. Basic concepts of Excel.

2. INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL

Relative and absolute references (Use of \$)

Use of conditional in formulas (IF)

Doing and working with dynamic tables

Graphics in Excel

3. DELINQUENCY INDEXES

Research and sources of data in criminology. Data on crime and on criminal justice system. Incidence and prevalence of crime. Validity and reliability of different data.

4. OFFICIAL DATA SOURCES

Concept and utility of different sources. National and international sources. Types of official sources: a) Police data; b) Court data, c) Prison data. Critical assessment of different sources.

5. VICTIMIZATION SURVEYS

Concept and origin of victimization surveys. National and international victimization surveys. Victimization rates in relation to specific crimes. Advantages and disadvantages of victimization surveys.

6. SELF-REPORTED CRIME SURVEYS

Concept and origin of victimization surveys. Examples of self-reported surveys. Interpretation, validity and problems.

7. INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Main european and international databases on crime and its use.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
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Type: Directed

Lectures	19.5	0.78
Workshops	19.5	0.78
Type: Autonomous		
Group and individual work	106	4.24

Activities:

In order to reach an adequate learning of the contents of the course, students need to do two types of activities.

Directed activities: which will be done in the classroom, consisting of:

- Lectures given by the teacher, in which the theoretical contents of the course will be examined.
- Seminars and workshops, in which practical activities will be discussed in group.

Autonomus activities. As a complement to the directed activities, students will work individually or in group:

- Group essay. The objective of this essay is that students could analyze a criminological phenomenon through the use of different databases, also presenting its main results in front of an audience.
- Individual work. Students will read texts and make essays to prepare the seminars and exams

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
Evaluation: Working with data	10%	1	0.04	CM09, KM05, SM10, SM12, SM13
Group essay	30%	1	0.04	CM09, KM05, SM10, SM12, SM13
Individual essays (Methodological exercises)	30%	2	0.08	CM09, SM10, SM12
Test theoretical part	30%	1	0.04	CM09, KM05

Evaluation.

The course follows a continous method of evaluation.

Conditions to be evaluated and pass the course.

Attendance to the whole course is mandatory. In order to pass the course students need to attend to a minimum of 80% of the classes and to deliver all the individual and group avauable activities planned.

To be evaluated, it is necessary to present at least 2/3 of the programmed activities.

Students need to obtain a minimum grade of 4 in each of the mandatory evaluable activities, and a final mean grade of 5 in the whole course in order to pass.

Evaluable activities.

Individual activities (70%):

- 3 individual essays (30%)
- Practical exercises of the methodological part (Excel) 10%
- Theoretical exam (30%)

Group activities (30%)

- A group academic work using criminological data sources and their PwP presentation (25%). A meeting must be held with the tutor and the draft must be sent before the final version.

Resit

If a student don't reach the minimum mark required, professors will offer the possibility to repeat those activities that do not reach the minimum. To do this, a resit period will be opened and, if necessary, the professor will suggest a way to improve the tasks.

The chance to repeat activities exist only when students have presented the essays in due time, except if the no presentation is due to a major force cause, with the proper justification. If students don't submit an assessment, they will receive a mark of zero except in justified cases.

Excuses

Only excuses based on illness or similar reasons may be accepted under proper justification.

Fraudulent conducts

Students who are found cheating or attempting to cheat during the exams will receive a mark of 0, losing the right of reassessment.

Plagiarism in essays will be graded as 0 with no reassessment of that particular essay or activity.

Punctuality

Lectures and seminars start on time. Late arrival or leaving the class before its end without proper justification is not permitted.

Single assessment system

It will consist of three exams:

1st) 4 questions on the mandatory readings of the course.

2nd) 1 exercise to show the knowledge on Excel.

3rd) Exercise to show the skills in finding data on crime and justice.

Bibliography

1. Handbooks and lectures for consultation

- Aebi, M. (2008). *Temas de criminología*. Dykinson.

- Aebi, M. & Chopin, J. (2017). *Annual penal statistics of the council of Europe*. SPACEI & SPACE II. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/space>
- Aebi, M. & Linde, A. (2010). El misterioso caso de la desaparición de las estadísticas policiales españolas. *Revista Electrónica de Ciencia Penal y Criminología*, 12, 1-30.
- Fernández-Molina, E., & Bartolomé, R. (2020). Juvenile crime drop: What is happening with youth in Spain and why?. *European Journal of Criminology*, 17(3), 306-331. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370818792383>
- García-España, E., Díez-Ripollés, J. L., Pérez-Jiménez, F., Benítez-Jiménez, M.J. & Cerezo-Domínguez, A.I. (2010). Evolución de la delincuencia en España: análisis longitudinal con encuestas de victimización. *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 8, 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v8i0.52>
- Junger-Tas, J., & Marshall, I. H. (1999). The self-report methodology in crime research. *Crime and justice*, 25, 291-367. <https://doi.org/10.1086/449291>
- Perestelo-Pérez, L. (2013). Standards on how to develop and report systematic reviews in Psychology and Health. *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology*, 13(1), 49-57. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1697-2600\(13\)70007-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1697-2600(13)70007-3)
- Pérez-Cepeda, A. I. & Benito-Sánchez, D. (2013). Estudio de los instrumentos existentes para medir la delincuencia. *Revista Electrónica de Ciencia Penal y Criminología*, 15, 1-34.
- Rodríguez-Yagüe, C. (2018). Un análisis de las estrategias contra la sobrepoblación penitenciaria en España a la luz de los estándares europeos. *Revista Electrónica de Ciencia Penal y Criminología*, 20, 1-68.

2. Mandatory readings

- Cerezo, A., & Izco, M. (2022). Análisis de las fuentes de datos estadísticos oficiales en materia de violencia de género en España. *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 19(2), 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v19i2.503>
- Giménez-Salinas, A., & Pérez Ramírez, M. (2022). La trazabilidad de los datos oficiales sobre delincuencia en España. *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 19(2), 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v19i2.525>
- Linde García, A., & Summers, L. (2021). Fuentes de datos para la investigación de la delincuencia en España. *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 19(2), 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v19i2.633>
- López-Riba, J. M. (2021). El análisis cuantitativo de las identificaciones y las detenciones policiales en España: Datos disponibles, limitaciones e implicaciones. *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 19(2), 1-30. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v19i2.499>
- Martí, M., Güerri, C., & Pedrosa, A. (2021). Fuentes de datos para la investigación criminológica en el ámbito penitenciario en España. *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 19(2), 1-31. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v19i2.515>
- Pedrosa, A. (2018). ¿Discrimina el código penal español a las mujeres?. *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 16, 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v16i0.150>
- Siddaway, A. P., Wood, A. M., & Hedges, L. V. (2019). How to do a systematic review: a best practice guide for conducting and reporting narrative reviews, meta-analyses, and meta-syntheses. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 70, 747-770. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-psych-010418-102803>
- Sobrino Garcés, C., Murrià Sangenis, M., & González Murciano, C. (2021). Las encuestas de victimización como fuente de datos para la investigación criminológica. Un ejemplo a partir de la Encuesta de Victimización del Área Metropolitana de Barcelona. *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 19(2), 1-31. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v19i2.509>

3.Websites

APA style website: <https://apastyle.apa.org/>

Boletín Criminológico - <http://www.uma.es/criminologia/boletin.html>

Bureau of Justice Statistics - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

Consejo General del Poder Judicial - <http://www.poderjudicial.es/eversuite>

Encuesta Social Europea. <http://www.upf.edu/ess/>

Estadísticas Penitenciarias Catalanas. http://www.gencat.cat/justicia/estadistiques_serveis_penitenciaris/

European Sourcebook - <http://www.europeansourcebook.org/>

Eurostat. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/home?>

Indecat. Web Estadística Oficial de Catalunya - <http://www.idescat.cat/>

Instituto Nacional de Estadística - <http://www.ine.es/>

Memorias Fiscalia General del Estado - http://www.fiscal.es/Documentos.html?cid=1240559967610&pagename=PFiscal%2FPage%2FFGE_sinContenido

Ministerio del Interior (español). Instituciones penitenciarias - <http://www.mir.es/INSTPEN/>

Revista Electrónica de Ciencia penal y Criminología - <http://criminnet.ugr.es/recpc/>

Sociedad Española de Investigación Criminológica (SEIC)- <http://www.criminologia.net/reic.html>

*Additional readings will be provided to students through moodle resource

Software

To do some of the evaluation tasks of the course is necessary to use the software Microsoft Excel.

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	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed