# UAB
## Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

**Prison Law**

Code: 100458
ECTS Credits: 6

**2025/2026**

| Degree | Type | Year |
|--------|------|------|
| Criminology | OB | 3 |

## Contact

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## Teachers

Jose Luis Rodriguez Torres

Cristina Cortés Oliva

## Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this
document.

## Prerequisites

Do not apply.

The classes will be taught taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals' perspective.

Language:

Theory: The course will be in Catalan. However, if the course is attended by international students, the course
will be in Spanish.

Seminar 11: Catalan

Seminar 12: Catalan

Seminar 13: Spanish

## Objectives and Contextualisation

The main objective of the course consists in providing the student with the basic knowledge to be able to draft
any report aimed to the Prison's Administration or to the Judge responsible for the enforcement of judgments
relating to the situation of incarcerated people and, especially, about their access to prison privileges; to prison
day-release permits or permissions to leave the prison; the disciplinary procedure or about the penitentiary

classification. On the other hand, other important objectives pursued by the course are to offer the student the necessary skills to be able to inform any incarcerated person about his situation as well as to know the reality of our prisons.

## Competences

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- 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.
- Identifying the most appropriate and effective penal intervention for each particular case.
- Properly using the legal, psychological, pedagogical and sociological language.
- Respectfully interacting with other people.
- Students must demonstrate they know the legal framework and operating model of the crime control agents.
- Using non-discriminatory and respectful language when referring to the several parties involved in conflict and criminality.
- Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
- Working autonomously.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Ability to analyse and summarise.
2. Applying effectiveness criteria when using law in the field of criminology.
3. Arguing criminality arguments in a verbal and polite way and without bias.
4. Arguing with accuracy legal concepts at a forum.
5. Drawing up an academic text.
6. Effectively communicating by using specific law terms.
7. Respectfully interacting with other people.
8. Using the legislation and its means of implementation to the criminal act.
9. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
10. Working autonomously.

## Content

I: Spanish penitentiary law

1. Overview

2. Origin and evolution of the Spanish penitentiary law

3. The prison judge.

II. Evolution of the prison

1. The birth of the prison as a punishment

2. Penitentiary systems

3. The Spanish progressive model

III. Organization of the prison

1. Overview

XI Disciplinary measures

1. Overview

2. Disciplinary infractions

3. Disciplinary sanctions

4. Procedure

XI. Release from prison

1. Overview

2. Parole

3. Indult

4. Rewards

XII Women and foreigners in prison

1. Overview

2. The Spanish and the International Rules regarding the contacts between incarcerated parents and their children.

3. The exercise of motherhood in prison.

4. The rights of the children of incarcerated parents

5. The situation of foreigners in Spanish's prisons.

## Activities and Methodology

| Title | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type: Directed | | | |
| Discussion and resolution of cases studies | 7.5 | 0.3 | 4, 3, 6, 7, 9 |
| Lectures | 19.5 | 0.78 | 2, 4, 1 |
| Practical cases in classroom and correction | 7.5 | 0.3 | 4, 3, 6, 5, 1, 10 |
| Resolution of doubts, discussions and conferences | 4.5 | 0.18 | 4, 3, 6, 7, 1, 9 |
| Type: Supervised | | | |
| Assessment | 6 | 0.24 | 4, 6 |
| Type: Autonomous | | | |
| Study of the subject and preparation of individual and collective work | 105 | 4.2 | 2, 6, 5, 10, 8 |

Classes of the "Prison Law" will combine lectures and practice. The first part of the class will be devoted mainly to the theoretical study of the Prison Law based on the professor's explanation. Previously, the student will

need to study in detail the subject in question. Sometimes, when this theoretical part ended, the student will be tested in order to verify his knowledge of the subject.

The seminars will be dedicated to the correction and commentary of the works presented by the students as well as to doubts and questions about the topic raised by students. Different practical works will be carried out by the students under the supervision of the professor in this seminars. As far as possible, videos about prisons will be projected and commented as well as conferences given by the professionals of the Penitentiary Administrarion. Finaly, it will be possible to organise at the seimnars voluntary activities to be carriedo out by the students in a Catalan prison.

Classes start on time. Except for justifiable reasons, late arrival and leaving the class before the end is not admitted.

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 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assessments | 50% | 0 | 0 | 2, 6, 5, 1, 10, 8 |
| Individual practices | 25% | 0 | 0 | 2, 4, 6, 5, 7, 1, 9, 8 |
| Working groups | 25% | 0 | 0 | 2, 4, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 |

A) Continuous evaluation model

The continuous evaluation model- which is the recommended model- requires the attendance of the 80% of the classes. No attendance is only justifiable in case of illness or similar reasons. Documentary evidence will be provided in case of no attendance. The final grade for the course will be the average grade of the different works that the student has to present along the course (50%) as well as of the grades of two multiple choice exams that the student will do (50%). The mark of the exams must be, at least, a 4 in order to pass the course, provided that the average grade of both is a 5. The student will be evaluated as long as he/she carried out the 2/3 parts of the activities of this evaluation model. If the number of his/her activities is less than 2/3, the teacher can grade the student as "unevaluable".

A minimum mark of 5 in the two items of assessment is required. In the case of failure of one of the two items of assessment (works and exams) a second chance will be given.

The student that cheat or attempt to cheat in the exam will fail it and will lose the right to a second chance. Plagiarism will conduct to a fail the essay. In the case of recidivism, the student will receive a fail mark.

*Use of AI: For this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as bibliographic or information searches, text correction, or translations. Students must clearly identify which parts have been generated using such technologies, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these tools have influenced both the process and the final outcome of the activity. Failure to transparently disclose the use of AI in this assessed activity will be considered a breach of academic integrity and may result in partial or total penalties on the activity grade.*

Students are expected to uphold a respectful attitude toward all peers. Any behavior that may be considered offensive or discriminatory on the grounds of birth, race, sex, religion, opinion, or any other personal or social condition will not be permitted in the classroom.

B) Single evaluation model

Students who follow this model of evaluation will have to take a final assessment in which they will demonstrate the acquisition of the subject's skills. This evaluation will include three types of activities:

a) Theoretical exam (50%). The format will be multiple choice. Duration: 60 minutes

b) Oral presentation (25%) to a University Tribunal: Two sections or subsections of the programme wil be offered and the student must select one to present it orally.The student will be given a maximum of 10 minutes to prepare the presentation; next, the student will make the oral defense (5 minutes), and, finally, the student will answer the questions arisen by teaching staff.

c) Case paper (25%): The question(s) formulated in the case paper will have to be answered. The student can use the Ley Orgánica General Penitenciaria and the Reglamento Penitenciario in this activity. Duration: 60 minutes

To pass the course, the student needs a minimum score of 2,5 points in the exam, 1,25 points in the oral presentation and 1,25 points in the case paper. In the case of failure of the final assessment a second chance will be given.

## Bibliography

Compulsory readings:

- Coyle, A. (2009). *La Administración Penitenciaria en el contexto de los derechos humanos. Manual para el personal penitenciario (pp. 11-23).* Centro Internacional de Estudios Penitenciarios*.*
*https://www.prisonstudies.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/spanish_handbook.pdf*

- Güerri, Cristina & Larrauri, Elena (2022). ¿De qué se quejan las personas presas? Estudio del sistema de peticiones y quejas ante la administración penitenciaria en España. *Revista Electrónica de Ciencia Penal y Criminología,* 24, 1-26.

- Navarro, Carmen (2018). *El encarcelamiento femenino.* Atelier, 6-101.

- Navarro, Carmen (2017). Las recientes reformas de la ejecución de la pena privativa de libertad*. Justicia, 2,*

275-318.

- Rovira M., Larrauri, Elena & Alarcón, P. (2018) La concesión de permisos. *Revista electrónica de Ciencia Penal y Criminología*, 20, 1-26.

- Vicente, M.A. (2019). Cuatro mujeres. *Revista de Estudios Penitenciarios, Extra 2019,* 357-375.

Recommended bibliography

- Cervelló, Vicenta (2022). *Derecho penitenciario.* Tirant lo Blanch (avalaible in the UAB digital library).

- Cid J., Pedrosa A., Navarro Carmen (2021). La experiencia del encarcelamiento en España, *Revista de Derecho Penal y Criminología,* 24, 161-192.

- García Valdés C., (2019). Recuerdos de memoria: cómo se elaboró la Ley Orgánica General Penitenciaria. *Revista de Estudios Penitenciarios, Extra 2019,* 25-35.

- Jewkes, Yvonne & Johnston, Helen (2006). *Prison readings: a critical introduction to prisons and imprisonment.* Willan.

- Juanatey, Carmen (2016). *Manual de derecho penitenciario*. Iustel.

- Mir, C. (2015). *Derecho Penitenciario. El cumplimiento de la pena privativa de libertad.* Atelier.

- Navarro, Carmen (2019). *Ejecución de la pena privativa de libertad*. Juruá (avalaible in the UAB digital library)

- Navarro, Carmen (2002). *La ejecución de la pena privativa de libertad. Garantías procesales*. J.M. Bosch editor.

- Nistal, J. (2016). *El sistema penitenciario español "de un vistazo".* Grupo Criminología y Justicia.

- Tamarit, J. M. et al. (2005). *Curso de derecho penitenciario.* Tirant lo Blanch.

## Software

The subject does not require any specific software.

## 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 |