

Degree programme	Type	Course
Criminology	OP	4

Contact lecturer

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Prerequisites

It is strongly recommended to have passed the course of penology. To follow the course a minimum level of B1 in English is required and a B2 level is advisable.

The subject follows the sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The course is taught in English.

Group languages

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

Objectives

The subject belongs to the specialization on "Intervention with offenders" and pretends to approach students to innovative international penological experiences that may be useful to orientate their work in the field of corrections.

Learning outcomes

1. Working autonomously.
2. Working in teams and networking.
3. Ability to analyse and summarise.
4. Drawing up an academic text.
5. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
6. Applying the appropriate foundations of criminal policy depending on the type of crime observed.
7. Applying the scientific and criminological knowledge to the punishment studies.
8. Carrying out penology researches with well-formulated hypothesis.
9. Accurately applying the most efficient criminal proceedings to the criminal act.
10. Suggesting the correct action that should be applied in a penal execution.
11. Inferring those criminological proceedings that try to avoid criminal relapse.

Contents

A) INTRODUCTION

- 1) What is comparative penology?
- 2) How to assess good penological practices?

3) The European criminal policy

B) ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

4) Systems of alternatives to prison in the international context

5) Effectiveness of alternatives to imprisonment

6) Alternatives for high-risk offenders

7) Restorative justice in the international context

C) IMPRISONMENT AND REENTRY

8) Explaining different rates of imprisonment

9) Keys for humane containment

10) Research on desistance

11) Effectiveness of reentry programs

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Lectures	19.5	0.78	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Group work	51	2.04	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10
Tutorial	1	0.04	3, 5, 8
Reading of penological papers	55	2.2	1, 3, 4, 7
Oral presentation of the group work	4	0.16	3, 5
Seminars	19.5	0.78	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

Teaching activities

The course will be organized as follows:

a) Lectures, in which the professor will expose innovative practices in comparative penology.

b) Seminars to discuss readings: students will come to the seminar having read the paper. In the class they will answer some questions about the reading. After that, the seminar will be organized around one point of debate. Students will discuss first in small groups to prepare the debate and then the debate with the whole group will take place. A group of students will comment the debate and decide the winner group.

c) Seminars to present the progress in the Group Research Project: each group of students (maximum of three students) will choose a topic to work during the semester. The topic should be related with a penological problem in the country of the origin of students and the work of the semester will consist of comparing the countries and identify the best practices. During the seminars students will present their progress and will receive feed-back from students and professor.

d) Seminars to prepare criminological reports or to prepare an expert opinion on a rehabilitation intervention.

e) Tutorials: students need to ask for at least two tutorials to receive the advice of the professor to complete the group work. This tutorial is mandatory for students.

Before the beginning of the course a week schedule of activities will be provided, as well as more specific indications for the Group Research Project.

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	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Participation	20%	0	0	5, 7, 10, 11
Group work	35%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11
Essays	35%	0	0	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11
Attendance	10%	0	0	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Criteria of evaluation

a) Essays on readings in class (35%). Showing understanding of the reading and critical opinion on it are the more valuable aspects of these essays.

b) Group work (35%). The aspects most valued are: choosing a relevant topic, attention to international penological practices, extension of the references, quality of the proposal of reform, and respect for formal academic standards. 75% of the mark is based on the written work and 25% on the oral presentation.

c) Attendance (10%)

d) Participation (20%). Participation is mainly assessed by the active role in debates. Preparation of the debate and solid argumentation of the position based on criminological arguments will be the specially rewarded.

e) Other essays in class. May increase the final mark up to 0,5 point over 10.

Minimum requirements to pass the subject and to be assessed

Students that fail to attend more than 20% of the sessions will not be eligible to pass the course. Absences are only acceptable for illness or similar serious reasons, always with a medical certificate. Absences for academic reasons are only justifiable provided they have been accepted by the professor in advance. Classes start on time. Provided there is not reasonable justification, students are supposed to arrive on time and to attend the classes until the end.

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.

Resit

In case a student does not reach the required grade in any reading or in the group work, he/she will have one opportunity to improve the work done. In this case, the maximum mark will be 5.

Fraudulent conduct

Essays in class should be handwritten and electronic devices are not allowed. The group work should be original and cited references must be fully known by students. Any fraud will conduct to a fail mark.

APA rules

These rules should be followed in writing essays and group research work.

<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples>

Single assessment system

It will consist of three parts. Each single exam should be passed. The exam must be written in English.

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

2nd) A practical exercise on a single case, proposing an intervention plan, considering desistance theories.

3rd) A comment on different rates of imprisonment in two countries

Bibliography

Recommended handbook

-Cavadino, M. & Dignan J. (2006). *Penal systems. A comparative approach*. Sage.

Mandatory readings

1. Díez-Ripollés, J. L. (2013). Social inclusion and comparative criminal justice policy. *Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology and Crime Prevention*, 14(1), 62-78. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14043858.2013.773693>

2. Cavadino, M. & Dignan, J. (2006). Introducing comparative penology. *Penal systems: a comparative approach* (pp. 1-39). Sage.

3. Lappi-Seppälä, T. (2012). Criminology, crime and criminal justice in Finland. *European Journal of Criminology*, 9(2), 206-222. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370811424372>

4. Cavadino, M. & Dignan, J. (2006). Japan: iron fist in a velvet penal glove. *Penal systems: a comparative approach* (pp. 171-196). Sage.

5. Petersilia, Joan (1997). Probation in the United States. *Crime and Justice. An Annual Review of Research*, 22, 149-200.

6. Dunkel, F. (2017). European penology: the rise and fall of prison population rates in Europe in times of migrant crises and terrorism. *European Journal of Criminology*, 14(6), 629-653. <https://doi.org/10.1177/147737081773396>

7. Bottoms A. & Shapland, Joana (2011). Steps towards desistance among male young adult recidivists. In S. Farrall., M. Hough., S. Maruna, & R. Sparks (Eds.), *Scape routes. Contemporary perspectives on life after punishment* (pp. 42-77). Routledge.

8. Travis J. (2005). *But they all come back. Facing the challenges of prisoner reentry* (pp. 319-352). The Urban Institute

Other recommended references

-Cid, J. (2009). *La elección del castigo. Suspensión de la pena o probation versus prisión*. Bosch.

Software

No specific computer program is used in the course.

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this [link](#). To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	1	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiantis per grup)	11	English	first semester	morning-mixed