



Course Code LAW-301	Course Title Criminology	ECTS Credits 6
Department Law	Semester Fall / Spring	Prerequisites LAW-242, plus one other from LAW-202, LAW-212 and LAW-252/6
Type of Course Law Elective	Field Law	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 3 rd / 4 th	Lecturer(s) None assigned
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

Why do individuals commit crime, sometimes of an extremely serious nature? Can it be explained by their social environment, their childhood or, ultimately, should we each be responsible for our own acts, singularly, without looking for causes to excuse us? Criminology will seek to provide answers to these and other questions. It will, further, examine whether punishment, including prison is effective and what, if any, the alternatives are to it.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Discuss the main causes of crime in a modern society.
2. Explain the progeny of the science; beyond the simple (and positivistic) conclusion, crime equals punishment.
3. Identify what makes some, in an equivalent social setting, commit crime and others not.
4. Demonstrate how criminological evidence is compiled and assessed.
5. Discuss the extent to which social marginalisation / exclusion is a contributing factor in the commission of crimes.
6. Explain the various postmodern interpretations of the science of criminology.
7. Assess whether custodial sentences deter or (simply) better educate criminals.
8. Evaluate how the authorities can respond better to the more general pressures and strains faced by a modern society.

Course Content:

During the course, the student will cover the following:

1. Defining crime: legal and criminological conceptions.

2. Historical development of criminology.
3. Dichotomies/controversies in criminology.
4. Sources of data.
5. Psychological and psychiatric explanations for crime.
6. Social disorganization and social ecology.
7. Class, culture and subculture.
8. Radical or critical criminology.
9. Philosophy and aims of punishment.
10. Alternatives to prison.
11. Police organization and attitudes.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, tutorials, written examinations and assignments

Assessment Methods:

One written assignment, mid-term exam, final exam

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year
Mike Maguire, Rod Morgan and Robert Reiner (eds.)	The Oxford Handbook of Criminology, 4 th edition	Oxford	2007

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Tim Newburn	Criminology	Willan	2007
Katherine S. Williams	Textbook on Criminology, 6 th edition	Oxford	2008
Chris Hale, Keith Hayward, Azrini Wahidin and Emma Wincup (eds.)	Criminology, 2 nd edition	Oxford	2009
Stephen Jones	Criminology, 4 th edition	Oxford	2009
Eugene McLaughlin and John Muncie (eds.)	The SAGE Dictionary of Criminology, 2 nd edition	Sage Publications	2005