Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Preparatory Essay Master's Dissertation (B001170)

Course

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
Hardyns, Wim

Course offerings in academic year 2018-2019
1 (semester 1)
Dutch

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019
Master of Science in Criminological Sciences
4

Contact hrs
Study time 120 h
Credits 4.0
Contact hrs 30.0 h

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
Self-reliant scientific work, written dissertation, oral defence

Position of the course
In a portfolio, students make the progression of the Master's Dissertation visible, on the one hand by collecting 'evidence' and on the other by maintaining a consultation structure.
The evidence shows that the student in question has thought about the structure and content of his master's dissertation without, however, requiring those documents to be in a completed stage. In addition, the student will be required to explain these documents and further elaborate on them in intensive discussion moments with the promotor.
The course unit is aimed:
  • to evaluate the Master’s Dissertation not only on the basis of the end result, but also in function of its process oriented character. Through this course unit, the process oriented character of the realization of the Master’s Dissertation is assessed separately by its promotor.
  • to use the composition of this portfolio to stimulate a pluralistic view of science practice and to give a more concrete form to the educational vision on ‘guided self-development’.
  • to ensure that the student testifies to what extent he or she is working towards the objectives of the master program of criminological sciences, in particular graduating as a competent, independent and critical criminologist. Concretely, this means: describing a relevant criminological problem, developing research questions, determining a methodology, analyzing and explaining a selected topic from all available social-scientific sources.

Contents
The portfolio is conceived as follows:
The student in question is responsible for the composition of the portfolio in digital form (e-portfolio via Minerva) the digital learning environment, which makes it possible for the promotor to follow it up. The portfolio will be definitively closed on the first day of the first examination period of the first semester. The portfolio is quoted by the promotor.
The portfolio contains at least the following documents, all of which must be realized in the course of the first semester of the academic year in which the student in question wishes to take his/her Master’s Dissertation. This implies that each of these documents will be dated and submitted electronically on the personal account of the student in question.
The following documents are concerned:
  • An assignment of conceptual nature of min. 3,000 to max. 4,000 words, where explicitly the problem and theoretical background, the objective, the question (with

(Approved) 1
main and secondary questions) and the definition of the Master’s Dissertation are discussed.
• An assignment of methodological nature of min 3,000 to max. 4,000 words, which explicitly outlines the methodological framework of the Master’s Dissertation.
• A detailed bibliography consisting of at least 40 references to national and international scientific literature related to the subject of the dissertation. This list of literature must show current, relevant source material, and must contain sufficient references to foreign-language literature.
• At least two written reports of the discussion moments with the promotor should be uploaded in the portfolio on Minerva (the digital learning environment). The student must make an appointment with the promotor prior to each discussion moment.

Initial competences
• To be acquainted with relevant criminological sources (law, jurisprudence, legal doctrine, manuals and books of reference, monographs, scientific magazines, professional literature, data bases, internet...)
• To have profound knowledge of and insight in criminological basics, theoretical insights and research methods of the most important disciplines contributing (or having contributed) to the criminological study of deviance and criminality phenomena.
• Being able to work in a task-oriented manner with a view to successfully delivering a high-quality end product.
• To be acquainted with time management skills.
• To be acquainted with oral skills such as reporting, consultation, assertiveness, interview techniques, discussion skills, clear communication, arguments, etc. In short, taking an active role in discussion moments with the promotor.

Final competences
1 To dispose of profound, in-depth and specialized knowledge and insight in criminality and deviance phenomena and to be able to critically reflect upon the reactions to these phenomena from general and criminological frames of reference and different paradigms, perspectives and research traditions
2 To be able to demonstrate scientifically correct, and if required practice oriented connections between different subdisciplines of criminological science
3 To be able to master a (meta) criminological theme as a critical, independent intellectual
4 To be able to differentiate between essence and detail
5 To acknowledge societal evolutions and international influences
6 The ability to independently pursue and sustain in pursuing to unravel a chosen theme
7 To take, define and argument a personal view in light of diverging vision in the criminological debate
8 The ability to translate a complex problem within the knowledge domain into a intelligible and fluent report
9 To define correct and finely meshed research questions within a research project
10 To identify, appraise, select, process and critically apply relevant criminological sources and scientific literature in a high quality paper
11 The persistence to furrow through the masse in sources, in different sub- and related disciplines, in different databases and libraries, in different languages
12 To demonstrate an active interest in current affairs
13 The openness to analyze diverging points of view and evaluate them in an objective manner
14 Self-discipline in setting up and reporting on a research project
15 Openness to and monitoring of evolutions in the ethical, cultural and legal aspects of criminological issues
16 To have a critical-reflective attitude towards crime, deviance and the social reactions to it

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods
Guided self-study, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods
Portfolio

Learning materials and price
Orientation note (see the digital learning environment)

(Approved)
Continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

Extra information on the examination methods

Calculation of the examination mark

References


Course content-related study coaching

Individual supervision by the promotor (and/or doctor-assistants) involved in the programme of criminological sciences. The promotor is available on the days and hours that he/she explicitly communicates or after appointment with the student(s) in question.

Evaluation methods

- continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

- examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment

Calculation of the examination mark

- 50% in writing based on preparations that are part of the portfolio,
- 50% via oral discussion moments during which the written preparations are indicated and intensively discussed

(Approved)