Course Specifications
Valid in the academic year 2018-2019

Research design in criminology (B001496)

Course size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Study time</th>
<th>Contact hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>150 h</td>
<td>45.0 h</td>
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 1) Dutch
- group work 15.0 h
- lecture 30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

- Hardyns, Wim RE23 lecturer-in-charge
- Colman, Charlotte RE23 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

- Master of Science in Criminological Sciences crdts offering 5 A

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
Empirical-analytical, interpretative and ideological-emancipatory approaches to science, methodology, research design, conceptual design, technical design, research goals, research model, research questions, definition of concepts, research materials, research strategy, research planning.

Position of the course

Contents
In the first part of this course, students are familiarized with different meta-theoretical approaches to science in general and criminology particularly. Approaches discussed can be divided in the following three classes: empirical-analytical approaches, interpretative approaches, and ideological-emancipatory approaches. Apart from a theoretical exposition on these approaches, students are shown how a choice for either one of the approaches affects research design, methodology, and results. This is illustrated using ongoing research.

In the second part of the course, the focus is on the different (necessary) components of a research project, from planning to execution. Regarding research design, both the conceptual design (the general goal a researcher wishes to reach by his or her research) and the methodological-technical design (how a researchers seeks to reach his or her goal). The following aspects are discussed:
- The general framework of the project and the goals of the research;
- The research model;
- Formulating research questions;
- Definition of concepts and operationalization;
- Selection of research strategies;
- Functional selection of the type of empirical material needed to answer the research questions;
- Research planning;
- Reporting findings.

Initial competences
In order to achieve the goals of this course, students are expected to have met the goals of the bachelor in criminology track. Students are thus expected to have a general and multidisciplinary scientific background with attention to the theoretical aspects of and research methods in criminology.

Final competences

(Approved) 1
1 Independently evaluate existing research and the meta-theoretical approaches used in it
2 Evaluate research results on the basis of the meta-theoretical assumptions underlying them
3 Independently formulate criminologically relevant research questions, research these questions and answer them, using meta-theoretical insights, a broader vision on society and knowledge of criminological research methods and techniques
4 Independently identify the most appropriate approach to research a carefully formulated problem formulation
5 Acknowledge the societal role and relevance of criminological research as well as the ethical, cultural and judicial issues that are inevitably linked to it
6 Develop a critical scientific attitude towards existing criminological research in order to judge the quality thereof and to enable students to develop a proper, small-scale, research project themselves
7 Acknowledge the values and moral obligations on which criminological empirical research are founded
8 Acknowledge the importance of a highly qualitative execution of a given research project
9 Critically analyze crime and deviance and societal reactions thereon based on a clear vision on the relation between theory and research

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract
Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods
Group work, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods
In the lectures, students are introduced to the main research programs and the general design of a scientific research project. This knowledge is complemented by plenary exercises where concrete examples are elaborated. This way, students are familiarized with the logical connections between research questions and research design, the key role of a research design in the actual research, the development of a suitable design for their own research project, and the identification of the proper method of data collection suited to this research design.

Regarding the group work, students are divided into small groups which are assigned a specific research subject. Each group will develop a research design pertaining to this subject on the basis of a template (the course structure). The end product consists of a powerpoint presentation.

Learning materials and price

References

Course content-related study coaching
Interactive coaching is provided through the e-platform Minerva: among other materials, slides of lectures, suggestions for literature, voluntary assignments to support the learning process are provided. During and after the lectures, students are given the opportunity to ask questions, either orally or in written form. Questions can also be addressed to the lecturers or assistant through email. These questions will be dealt with in the next lecture. With regard to the course and lectures, the lecturers and assistant are available for personal feedback during office hours or on appointment.

Evaluation methods
(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
Oral examination
Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
   examination during the second examination period is possible
Extra information on the examination methods
   Oral exam consisting of two parts. In the first part, students are expected to present the results of their group assignment (group score 50%), whilst in the second part students answer oral questions relating to the course content from the lecturers individually (individual score 50%).
Calculation of the examination mark
   Non-periodical evaluation (100%).
   Regarding the group assignment: If there is clearly a different input from different group members, then the final mark per student belonging to the same group can still differ.

Facilities for Working Students
   In case of questions or problems regarding the course materials or structure of the course, the group assignment or examination, working students can always contact the lecturers or assistant. They can do so by email or phone, or in person during office hours.
   Working students that are unable to take the exam due to their situation at work are invited to contact the lecturers, which can grant the student the possibility to take the exam on another date and/or time (lecturers are not obliged to do so, however).