Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

- Credits: 4.0
- Study time: 120 h
- Contact hrs: 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

A (semester 1) Dutch
self-reliant study activities 5.0 h
guided self-study 2.5 h
lecture 37.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

- Vander Beken, Tom
- RE23
- Lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

- Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Criminological Sciences)
- Master of Science in Criminological Sciences

Dutch

Keywords
Criminal justice, Socio-economic politics, Models and strategies, Case studies

Position of the course

This is specialised course and builds on knowledge acquired during the courses the student has followed over the past few years.

It focuses on providing additional and profound knowledge regarding the criminal justice system, both sensu stricto and sensu lato. The course’s objective is to guide the students through the echelons of the criminal justice system, their internal relations, and their relations with other relevant actors from society.

More specifically:

1. Acquiring insight in the system, the possibilities, and restrictions of the criminal justice policy, both related to the political and socio-economic context and seen from the criminal justice system components, from a historical and conceptual point of view.

2. Acquiring insight in the evolution of the criminal justice policy in Belgium: conceptual, organisational, with particular attention for the components, the actors’ roles in the components, and the critical aspects for success.

3. Imparting a critical frame of reference by means of specific criminal justice measures.

Contents

- Defining the boundaries of the criminal policy: criminal policy as a result of political, socio-economic policy (the broad context) - versus the criminal policy established by the different components of the criminal justice system (limited interpretation).
- Models and trends in the criminal policy from a historical and conceptual perspective, in particular relating to the Belgian criminal policy.
- The criminal policy on the different echelons of the criminal justice system.
- The criminal policy applied to criminal phenomena.

Initial competences

No specific requirements. This course starts from the elementary knowledge, skills and attitudes that students have acquired after passing different the courses of the Bachelor years (such as Criminology of the Criminal Justice System in which they require
Final competences

1. The student should have, in relation to the individual and social reaction towards deviance and criminality, including the criminal policy, in relation to the different stages of the criminal justice system (prevention, treatment, law, investigation and prosecution, sentencing and execution of sentencing):

2. The student should be able to critically reflect on topical questions in relation to the criminal policy and to situate these questions within the socio-economic policy.

3. Knowledge of the task and functionality of the local, regional, national and international actors in the different domains of the criminal policy.

4. The student is expected to have insight in the different actors involved in the criminal policy and the room for policymaking on each of the policy levels.

5. Knowledge of the relevant sectors in relation to the criminal policy.

6. Knowledge of the policy processes in the framework of policy preparation, implementation and evaluation.

7. Knowledge of the processes of decision making in general and applied to the different policy levels.

8. To be able to independently consult, analyse and judge (Dutch and foreign language) scientific sources from the criminological sciences in relation to the criminal policy.

9. The student is interested in insights from other fields of knowledge when practically approaching criminological/criminal policy issues.

10. To be able to formulate personal, original and critical reflections on the criminological practice and to be able to make policy analyses in relation to the criminal policy.

11. Demonstrate a sense for pluralism, diversity and tolerance when identifying and assessing existing, new or evolving phenomena within the criminal justice system.

12. The student is aware of the social role and responsibility of criminologists and the implication of evolutions within criminal policy in practice.

13. To be able to independently and accurately formulate and elaborate a criminological relevant formulation of a problem in relation to the criminal policy, to be able to make concepts operational, to be able to derive hypothesis and to test these hypothesis though controlled observations.

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures: including guest lectures

Guided self-study: this guided self-study offers tools and knowledge on how to carry out a policy analysis.

Paper: founded upon a practice-based question students have to work out a policy plan (based on the links of the safety chain). This assignment’s objective is to think as a policy worker and elaborate a policy plan to approach a specific crime phenomenon.

Learning materials and price

- Book (estimated cost: +/- 25 EUR);
- Reader with literature, legal and policy documents (Minerva);
- The powerpointslides of the lectures (Minerva).

References

- DE RUYVER, B., 'Het voorstel van de parlementaire onderzoekscommissie Dutroux:

(Approved)


• SNACKEN, S. (red.), Strafrechtelijk beleid in beweging (Criminal Policy in motion), Brussel, VUB press, 2002, 320.


Course content-related study coaching

Students are free to ask questions during or after the lecture. Question may also be sent to the university teacher or assistant by mail. The student may also pass by during office hours after making an appointment.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination with open questions

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

Written examination with open questions

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

• Written exam with open questions (75%) and an individual paper (25%).

Calculation of the examination mark

• Non periodic evaluation (25%) and periodic evaluation (75%)

• Students who do not participate in all evaluations can not pass the course and can only achieve a maximum of 7/20 for this course.

• Points of the non periodic evaluation may be included in the second examination period.

Facilities for Working Students

Students may contact the lecturer in the course of the semester to gain more detailed information on the course matter and the topics that are to be studied for the exam. The academic assistants are also available to provide more information.