

## Victimology (B001508)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)  
Credits 3.0 Study time 90 h Contact hrs 30.0 h

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

B (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture	22.5 h
			guided self-study	7.5 h

### Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Janssens, Jelle	RE23	lecturer-in-charge
Vander Laenen, Freya	RE23	co-lecturer

### Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Criminological Sciences</a>	crdts	offering
	3	B

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Victims, victimhood, harm, victimisation, victimological perspectives, measuring victimisation, secondary victimization, social construction, victimisation, empowerment, impact of victimisation, restorative justice, specific types of victimisations and victims, feelings of safety, fear of crime, invisible victims, victimless crime, reporting behavior

### Position of the course

The course is taught in the third bachelor year. The aim of the course is to gain an understanding of the causes, mechanisms, dynamics and complexity of various victimisations and their victims, their social construction as well as societal and (criminal) policy reactions thereto.

### Contents

- Introduction: basic concepts of victimology, origin of victimology
- Victimological perspectives
- Typologies of victims and victimisations
- Consequences of victimisation and factors affecting the severity of harm
- Social construction of the victim: the notion of 'ideal victim', victimhood, victim identity, therapy culture, societal reaction to victims and victimisations
- Victim and the criminal justice system: victims' rights, secondary victimisation, restorative justice initiatives, 'victimless crime', victim support
- Specific types of victimisations
- Invisible victims: hidden victimisations, 'non-ideal victims'
- Victimological multi-actor perspectives: victim (various types), offender, state, NGOs, prosecution service, courts, police, community, criminal law, RJ actors, victim support groups
- (Future) challenges of victimological research, new perspectives within victimology
- Measuring victimisation
- Characteristics of victims, emotional aspects, feelings of (un)safety, fear of crime, reporting behavior

### Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge is required. Basic knowledge of criminology and criminological methods is recommended.

### Final competences

- 1 Having knowledge on victimological theory, different perspectives and research

- traditions
- 2 Knowing victimological terminology and being able to use it correctly
  - 3 Being able to understand, interpret, use and critically evaluate victimologically relevant sources
  - 4 Being able to critically analyse victimological phenomena (and reactions thereto) from different theoretical perspectives
  - 5 Having a critical-scientific mindset to reflect on legislative or policy developments in relation to victims
  - 6 Being aware of the social responsibility of being a criminologist and being able to place various approaches to victims within a social, economic, historical and political context
  - 7 Respect for cultural differences, pluralism, gender and ethical standards
  - 8 Being open to insights from other scientific fields when addressing victimological issues
  - 9 Knowledge about the etiology of victimology and the etiology of fear of crime.

#### 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

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

- **Lecture** (22,5h): combination of lectures by the lecturer and by guest lecturer(s) (i.e. expert(s) on certain topics).
- **Guided self-study** - (7,5h)
  - The guided self-study is a set of guided sessions and independent learning situations in which students acquire and/or process knowledge for (a part of) a course on an individual basis.
  - Guided self-study differs from distance learning in that the former involves personal contact (whether collective or individual, online or in person) with the lecturer and assistants who guide and/or steer the process.
  - The guided self-study is twofold:
    - Guided self-study in preparation of a part of the course or the independent processing of a part of the course. For certain course modules students are asked to read a text or watch a video prior to the lecture. The content of the module 'consequences of victimisation' must be processed independently. The students are guided in the processing of the content by means of a presentation.
    - Each student independently selects one article from a scientific journal or one chapter from a scientific publication in which results of empirical research about a group of victims (it can be about prevalence research, research about victims' experiences, research about the response to victimisation) are described. Students should briefly argue why this group of victims deserves attention; the argumentation should be supported by scientific sources. This results in a short written piece of work that is submitted after 6 weeks. The workpieces are assessed and processed into a lecture in which the 'results' at group level are presented and discussed in the lesson, together with the lecturer (which target groups are covered, which target groups are missing,...).

#### Learning materials and price

Course slides and other learning material accessible through the Ufora platform  
Students' own lecture notes

#### References

- Karmen, A. (1990). *Crime Victims: An Introduction to Victimology*. Belmont: Wadsworth.
- Wallace, H. (2011). *Victimology: Legal, Psychological, and Social Perspectives*. Boston: Prentice Hall.
- van Wijk, J. (2013). Who is the 'little old lady' of international crimes? Nils Christie's concept of the ideal victim reinterpreted, *International Review of Victimology*, 19: 159-179.
- Spalek, B. (2006). *Crime Victims: Theory, Policy and Practice*. Basingstoke, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Sebba, L. and Berenblum, T. (2014). Victimology and the sociology of new disciplines: A research agenda, *International Review of Victimology*, 20(1): 7-30.
- Davies, P., Francis, P. and Wyatt, T. (eds). (2014). *Invisible Crimes and Social Harms*. Basingstoke, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Peršak, N. (ed.) (2014). *Temida - Special issue on Invisible Victims*, year 2014, no. 4. Available at: <http://www.doiserbia.nb.rs/issue.aspx?issueid=2415>
- Walklate, S. (2007). *Imagining the Victim of Crime*. New York: Open University Press.

Shdaimah, C.S. and Wiechelt, S.A. (2013). Crime and compassion: Women in prostitution at the intersection of criminality and victimization, *International Review of Victimology*, 19: 23-35.

Peršak, N. (2014). The framing of prostitution as victimhood and violence for criminalisation purposes, in: N. Peršak and G. Vermeulen (eds.), *Reframing Prostitution: From Discourse to Description, from Moralisation to Normalisation?* Antwerp, Apeldoorn, Portland: Maklu.

Wemmers, J-A. (2013). Victims' experiences in the criminal justice system and their recovery from crime, *International Review of Victimology*, 19: 221-233.

Gekoski, A., Adler, J.A. and Gray, J.M. (2013). Interviewing women bereaved by homicide: Reports of secondary victimization by the criminal justice system, *International Review of Victimology*, 19: 307-329.

Mardorossian, C.M. (2014). *Framing the Rape Victim: Gender and Agency Reconsidered*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Allen, C. (2015). 'People hate you because of the way you dress': Understanding the invisible experiences of veiled British Muslim women victims of Islamophobia, *International Review of Victimology*, 21: 287-301.

Shapland, J. (2014). Implications of growth: Challenges for restorative justice, *International Review of Victimology*, 20(1): 111-127.

Elias, R. (1986). *The Politics of Victimization: Victims, Victimology and Human Rights*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

#### Course content-related study coaching

Individual, if requested.

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination

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

Written examination

#### 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 comprises open questions which test the knowledge, insights and academic competencies of the student.

The evaluation of the work piece is based on the relevance and scholarly substantiation of the topic chosen by the students.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic evaluation (80%): 16/20

Non-periodic evaluation (20%): 4/20

Students are obliged to participate to all evaluations (both periodical and non-periodical evaluations). Students who do not participate in all evaluations will fail this course. Even when the final score would surpass 10/20, the final score will be reduced to the highest failed grade.