

Introduction to criminology (B001623)

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 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture	55.0 h
			lecture: plenary exercises	5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Cools, Marc RE23 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Criminological Sciences	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	6	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Criminology, crime, deviance, causes of crime and deviance, reactions to crime and deviance

Position of the course

This introductory course aims at giving knowledge of and insight into the basic concepts and the historical development of criminology and in the important fields of research with a focus on theoretical insights and research methods.

Contents

In the first part attention is paid to some of the basic concepts of criminology: the definitions of crime, the scientific-theoretical status of criminology, the measurement of crime and the distinction between fundamental and applied criminology.

In the second part the evolution of thinking about the criminal and crime is discussed from a historical perspective: classical thoughts from the 18th century, the individual - and social - positivistic thoughts from the 19th century and the developments in biological, psychological-psychiatric, sociological and integrated criminology from the 20th and the 21st century.

The third part deals with the important fields of research of criminology: the processes, the actors and factors which form the basis of the criminalisation of behaviour, the causes of the extent, types and evolution of crime with a focus on perpetrators and victims and the informal and formal reactions on crime (media and crime, feelings of insecurity, policing, justice, the execution of sanctions ...).

The fourth part offers an introductory outline of the most important quantitative and qualitative research methods in criminology.

Initial competences

No additional preliminary knowledge required. The course starts from elementary knowledge, competences and attitudes, which can be expected from students, having obtained a diploma of secondary school.

Final competences

- 1 To identify the specific definition of crime, the scientific-theoretical vision on crime and the fundamental or applied character in a criminological publication.

- 2 To identify the disciplinary approach and the specific theoretical framework within this disciplinary approach in a criminological publication.
- 3 To identify the specific method of research in a criminological publication.
- 4 To identify the specific interpretation of crime data in a criminological publication.
- 5 To clarify the historical development of the thinking about crime, deviance and crime control.
- 6 Starting to reflect critically upon the complexity and the versatility of the social construction of crime and deviance.

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

Lecture, lecture: plenary exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

During the academic year 2020-2021, the educational innovation project 'Cannabis Sativa: proces van een plant' is integrated in the course 'Introduction to Criminology'. Students must participate the performance and reflect on criminological-theoretical aspects which are linked with the cannabis as a drugphenomenon.

Lectures: including two guest lectures.

Plenary exercises: movie content analysis and performance 'Cannabis Sativa'.

Due to COVID 19, amended work methods can be applied if necessary.

Learning materials and price

Syllabus 'Criminologie' and articles, obtainable at Top Copy (Cost: 10EUR).

References

LISSENBERG, E., VAN RULLER, S., VAN SWAANINGEN, R. (red.), *Tegen de regels IV. Een inleiding in de criminologie*, Nijmegen, Ars Aequi, 2001.

Course content-related study coaching

Students can download schemes of the colleges via the digital learning environment MINERVA. There is a possibility to ask questions (oral and written) during and after the lectures and by appointment.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with open questions fit in with the intended final competences

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

Individual explanation by the professor (appointment).