

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 35052**Name:** Criminology I**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 9**Academic year:** 2026-27**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1302 - Degree in Criminology	Facultat de Dret	1	Annual
1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology	Facultat de Dret	1	Annual

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1302 - Degree in Criminology	Criminology	BASIC
1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology	Year 1 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

SOLDINO GARMENDIA VIRGINIA

GISBERT GRACIA VERONICA

SUMMARY

The course *Criminology I* is a core module taught in the first year of the Criminology Degree, with an estimated workload of 9 ECTS credits. The module offers a historical and conceptual overview of the various theoretical frameworks used to understand the criminal phenomenon and, therefore, examines different paradigms for interpreting crime, the offender, the victim, and the social control of criminal behaviour. This provides a conceptual framework and a tool for understanding many of the contents covered throughout the Degree.

Alongside an introduction to the concept, subject matter, and method of the discipline, the module explores the history of Criminology and the different explanatory approaches (biological, psychological, sociological, and integrative) concerning crime, the offender, the victim, and the social control of criminal behaviour (with particular attention to preventive and reactive mechanisms, as well as the different types and institutions of social control).



PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1302 - Degree in Criminology

Comprender la importancia de la explicación científica del fenómeno criminal en su prevención/intervención G: 2 y E: 19

Comprender los fenómenos de control social y desviación en las sociedades modernas y su influencia en la criminalidad. G: 8 y E: 22

Conocer y saber aplicar las teorías y tendencias más extendidas de la criminología contemporánea G: 1 E: 1, 14 y 19

Identificar la influencia de los medios de control social en la delincuencia. G: 8 y E: 1

Manejar con cierta soltura los conceptos y la terminología de la criminológica básica. G: 1 y E: 14

Ser capaz de proporcionar una explicación analítica de la diversidad y desigualdad social, así como de sus consecuencias en relación con el hecho delictivo, la victimización y las respuestas ante el crimen y la desviación. G: 4 y 5 E: 22

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. CRIMINOLOGY AS AN EMPIRICAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE

- Criminology as a science. Concept.
- The method of Criminology: empirical and interdisciplinary. Scientific knowledge of the criminal phenomenon and the crisis of the causal-mechanistic paradigm.
- Criminology, criminal policy, and criminal law.

2. THE OBJECT OF CRIMINOLOGY

- Criminological concept of crime. Different definitions and related critiques.
- Concept of the offender. Definitions and critiques.
- The victim of crime: concept and categories. Primary, secondary, and tertiary victimisation.



- Social control: informal and formal; institutions of social control; with particular reference to penal control.

3. FUNCTIONS OF CRIMINOLOGY

- Critical discussion of the various functions attributed to Criminology, with particular emphasis on the collection and analysis of information, crime prevention, and responses to crime.

4. CLASSICAL CRIMINOLOGY

- The classical school.

5. EARLY SCIENTIFIC THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

- The pre-scientific stage of Criminology.
- The scientific stage of Criminology. The Positivist School: Cesare Lombroso, Enrico Ferri, and Raffaele Garofalo.
- Positivist Criminology in Spain. The "battle of the schools": intermediate and eclectic schools.

6. THE BIOLOGICAL MODEL

- The biological school and critiques of radical biological determinism.
- Contemporary biological models and the crisis of the doctrine of equipotentiality
- (Quasi-)experimental designs within the biological model.
- Biological correlates of criminal behaviour: genetics, epigenetics, brain mechanisms, and psychophysiology.
- Critiques of neo-biological theories.

7. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MODEL

- Psychology and crime.
- Psychological theories: psychodynamic approaches, behaviourism, cognitive approaches, and personality theories.
- Mental illness and crime.
- Special focus on psychopathy.

8. THE SOCIOLOGICAL MODEL: WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SOCIAL CONTROL

- The Chicago School. Ecological, spatial, and multifactorial theories.
- Structural theories: functionalist or anomie approaches.



- Social process theories.
- Conflict theories.
- Subcultural theories.
- Other theories.

9. CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN CRIMINOLOGY

- Modern Criminology.
- Eclectic theories and integrated models: multifactorial theories, latent trait theories, and life-course theories.
- Discourse, power, and control: with particular attention to the gender perspective in Criminology.

10. CRIME PREVENTION

- The death penalty and life imprisonment.
- Foundations of a modern criminal policy for crime prevention.
- Crime prevention programmes.
- Prevention models: The public health model and levels of prevention; Strategic approaches to different forms of intervention.

11. CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT MODELS AND SYSTEMS OF RESPONSE TO CRIME

- The deterrent model.
- The resocialisation model.
- The integrative model.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	90,00
Total hours	90,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	25,00
Independent study and work	100,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	10,00
Total hours	135,00



TEACHING METHODOLOGY

In face-to-face classes, teaching will be both theoretical and practical, with particular emphasis placed on the continuous assessment of learning through classroom activities, as reflected in the assessment criteria.

During the sessions, lectures delivered by the teaching staff will alternate with a variety of activities which, requiring active engagement from students, will serve to develop, complement, and apply the different contents of the course; these activities will be subject to assessment. By way of example, activities may include: text commentaries (analysing theoretical contributions or news reports in the media), debates on controversial issues, screenings of documentaries or films followed by discussion forums, and the presentation and discussion of supervised assignments.

Students' work outside class time will involve both strictly individual tasks and cooperative activities; it will be assessed on the basis of: (1) assessment tests, (2) classroom activities, and (3) specific outputs submitted to the teaching staff.

Common complementary activities will also be proposed, forming part of the training programme and potentially including, where appropriate, group or individual tasks subject to assessment.

EVALUATION

The final grade for the course will be determined on the basis of the marks obtained through continuous assessment, carried out within each group and accounting for 30% of the final grade, and the final examination, held on the dates set by the Faculty and accounting for 70% of the final grade.

A minimum pass mark in the final examination will be required in order to pass the course, regardless of the mark obtained in the continuous assessment.

The appendix to the Course Guide will specify the conditions of the continuous assessment and the nature of the final examination, as well as whether a mid-term examination, with or without exemption effect, will be held on the dates set by the Faculty.

Students who do not take part in the continuous assessment may sit the final examination in the first sitting. In this case, the mark obtained will be limited to the weighted value assigned to this examination in the final grade (70%), meaning that the maximum final grade obtainable will be 7.

If the first sitting is failed, the mark obtained in the continuous assessment will be carried over to the second sitting. Should the appendix to the Course Guide provide for any resit activities, it will establish the procedure for obtaining the corresponding marks in the second sitting.

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