



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 35061
Name: Criminal investigation
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 4.5
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1302 - Degree in Criminology	Facultat de Dret	4	First quarter
1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology	Facultat de Dret	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1302 - Degree in Criminology	Psychological interventions	COMPULSORY
1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology	Year 4 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

This subject offers a wide regard about the methodology of criminal profiling (profiling) and the structure, objectives and purposes of the criminological report, which is the outcome of a research made by a criminologist when has to offer a deposition in court. The profiling obtained a great interest in the eighties of the last century thanks to the work developed by the Behavioral Science Unit in Quantico, the site of the FBI Academy. Despite of misinformation and myths spreaded by cultural media, the methods of profiling conform a valuable recourse in criminal investigation. We explore its principles and methods while review the historical development and some of the most remarkable cases of violent criminals (mass and serial killing) in history.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS



It is recommended by the coordinator of this subject the studies of criminal psychology and general interest in the field of criminal investigation. It is recommended the prior knowledge of criminalistics. Read English knowledge is appreciated.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Saber aplicar las técnicas y estrategias para la evaluación y predicción de la conducta criminal.

Saber aplicar las teorías criminológicas para explicar la delincuencia y poder prevenir la comisión de delitos.

Saber argumentar y expresarse de modo coherente e inteligible de forma oral y escrita.

Saber asesorar en la interpretación y valoración de los informes forenses.

Saber elaborar un informe criminológico.

Saber seleccionar los datos con relevancia criminológica que sean útiles para emitir una resolución judicial.

Saber trasladar a un informe criminológico los datos psicológicos, sociales y jurídicos de relevancia criminológica.

Ser capaz de trabajar en equipo con otros profesionales de la actividad criminológica.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. PSYCHOPATHS, SERIAL KILLERS AND RECIDIVIST RAPISTS

In the first unit we will deal with the psychopathy concept and its relationship with the criminal behavior, the serial violent and sexual in particular. It is analyzed famous cases of offenders, etiological and motivational theories and differences between men and women, as well as the concept and effects of sadism, which it is most related with the most serious interpersonal violence. We will analyze three outstanding examples: BTK (Dennis Rader), Ted Bundy and coronel Russell Williams.

2. THE CRIME SCENE AND FORENSICS PIONEERS

We will study in this unit how the forensics included the behavior sciences about fifty years ago, looking



back at the pioneers in forensics who helped to create and defining the whole idea of ¿crime scene¿. Afterwards it is presented a classification of different logic inference process that can inform the criminal investigation task, to end with an analysis of the phases or stages that conform the violent crime.

3. THE PROFILING PIONEERS AND THE CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC STAGE

We will present the pioneers of profiling ant the end of XIX century and middle of the XXI, such as Dr. Thomas Bond, Karl Berg and Walter Langer, and will focus on the work of Dr. James Brussel, as the representative of the clinical diagnostic stage in the evolution of profiling.

4. THE BSU AND THE FBI SCHOOL

The BSU created the modern methods for make criminal profiling. We study its evolution together some of the most salience cases of the time, such as The Atlanta serial murderer and Harvey Glatman. It is discussed also the classical classification between organized versus unorganized serial killers.

5. THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ART OF PROFILING

This unit shows the different schools of profiling that are of wide use in several countries in the world, such as the Investigative Psychology, The Evidence Based Profiling and the integrative model known as The Behavioral Investigative Advice (BIA), all of them, however, are in debt from the BSU developed in the seventies and eighties of the XX century.

6. PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF PROFILING

The are two principles that sustain the methodology of profiling: the pattern or consistency principle, and the homology principle. From this conceptual basement is it possible to using several techniques applied to the crime scene analysis such as modus operandi and signature reading, victimology and the geographical profile. We finish the unit with an extended review of the spanish serial killer "the killer os Lesseps" and shoe



7. LINKAGE ANALYSIS

Last years have seen a great amount of research directed to analyze how can be linkage a crime series with a particular offender. We present in this unit the principles and methods that are currently used to connect crime scenes and criminal offenders, in special serial killers and rapists.

8. PSYCHOLOGICAL AUTOPSY AND THE STAGED SCENE

It not the same the cause of death and the origin or source of death. We employ the Psychological Autopsy when in a crime scene the origin of death is equivocal, it is to say, subject to interpretation. The second part of the unit deals with a particular methodology, related to the previous one, aimed to clarify is a crime scene has been ¿staged¿ or simulated.

9. THE LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS: THE CASE OF UNABOMBER

The linguistic analysis extends the criminal profiling offering a methodology to compare several written texts in order to know if they belong to a same author, not by studying the calligraphy but the content and style of the way of writing. This unit explain the development and utilities of this technique and present in a detailed way the case of Unabomber, which it was the first one that show how useful could be this technique in the search of a killer or other kind of serial offender.

10. MULTIPLE KILLERS IN ONE SEQUENCE OF ACTION (MASS MURDERERS)

Multiple killer murder three or more people in the same action sequence. They have traits and etiologies quite different to serial killers, and in this unit different examples are provided, putting our attention to the Utoya killer and others.

11. THE ANGELS OF DEATH (CARE WORK KILLERS)

Nurses and doctors and care facilities workers are those that are called angels of death if they are convicted for multiple murder. Clearly separated in the modus operandi and crime scene whole approach, we study its uniqueness and present different and relevant cases of Europe and United States, such as Dr. Harold Shipman and the ¿lidocaine killer¿.



12. THE CRIMINOLOGICAL REPORT IN SPAIN

In this unit it is explained the criminological report in its application in Spain, showing its purposes and differences in relation to other reports coming from psychology, medical or social work professionals.

13. THE CRIMINOLOGICAL REPORT METHOD AND ITS PRESENTATION IN COURT

The Criminological report has a structure quite similar to other types of reports because in all of them are followed a rational and coherent way of presenting the objective, the used methodology, the result and the conclusions. It is the objectives and content which make a difference. We finish this unit explained the peculiarities of presenting the report un court.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	45,00
Total hours	45,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	3,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	10,00
Preparation of lessons	10,00
Preparation for assessment activities	25,00
Resolution of case studies	19,50
Total hours	67,50

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology is based on three pillars: guiding teacher explanation, commentary on examples cases, and practical activities in the classroom from the student. Since the content of the subject requires analysis crime of different types of aggressors and murderers, the student must work constantly with questions and issues that arise throughout the entire semester, class by class. In addition, viewing of ad



hoc documentaries and analysis of case studies allow that at all times learning is by the application of the assimilated in the resolution of the various issues that arise both assimilation of information in each case to examine. The student carries out some activities alone, but most require discuss in working groups to present the results in the classroom.

EVALUATION

The evaluation will be carried out according to these parameters:

- Final exam of knowledge: 60% of the grade.
- Continuous evaluation 40% of the grade.

The continuous evaluation is composed of different activities whose value is as follows:

- 10% attendance to the conferences indicated by the professors, in which a brief handmade summary of the most relevant ideas must be presented at the end.

OR:

- 10% practical activities and participation in class.

PLUS:

- 30% final work of the subject consisting of the preparation of a Criminological Profile. Its circumstances will be detailed in class.

Anyway, to pass the subject it is necessary to pass the exam and the final work of the subject. Those students who can not attend theoretical-practical classes, must also pass the final exam and the Criminological Profile (also in the second opportunity). The final exam will be formed by a test with 60 three options items and will be the same for all the groups of the same degree.

Practices and class participation, for those students who are absent for justified reasons, could be compensated with a complementary activity stipulated by the professor.

The teacher will be able to determinate the type of exam for a student when, in reason of the motives reglamentary envisaged, have to change the date officially determinated for the whole group, mantaining the level of difficulty and exigency.

When a student is in the track of continuous evaluation and present the tasks required does not present to the final exam, the mark will be Not presented.

REFERENCES

- Referencia b1: Garrido, V. (2020). Nuevos Perfiles Criminales. Barcelona: Ariel. Referencia b2: Climent, C., Garrido, V, y Guardiola, J. (2012). El informe criminológico forense. Valencia: Tirant Lo Blanch.
- Referencia c1: Garrido, V., y López, P. (2013). El secreto de Bretón. Barcelona: Ariel Referencia c2: Garrido, V., y López, P. (2006). El rastro del asesino. Barcelona: Ariel reReferencia c3: Garrido, V. (2006). La mente criminal. Temas de Hoy.
- Referencia c34: Garrido, V., y López, P. (2014). Crímenes sin resolver. Barcelona: Ariel.



VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

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