



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 35081
Name: Psychobiology of violence
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

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 | Applied criminology | ELECTIVES |
| 1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology | Year 4 optional subjects | ELECTIVES |

COORDINATION

ROMERO MARTINEZ ANGEL

SUMMARY

The course provides knowledge about the **contribution of biology to aggressive and violent behavior**, which is considered essential for professionals with a degree in Criminology. Biological knowledge includes both the role of biological variables in **individual differences in violent behavior**, as well as the contribution of **biological interventions** for its prevention and control. Additionally, the **impact of violence on victims** is addressed. The course also offers Criminology graduates guidance on **reliable sources of information** to consult in order to expand and update their knowledge throughout their professional careers.

To this end, the course begins with the **conceptual definition and typology of violence**. It then analyzes the **main theories on the etiology of violence** and delves into the **methodologies used in animal and human research**, both in field and laboratory studies, within the framework of the **Biopsychosocial Theory**.

Next, the course explores the **neuroanatomical, neurochemical, neuroendocrine, and genetic bases of violence**, with particular emphasis on the **bidirectional relationship between biology and violent behavior**. It also addresses the **biopsychosocial consequences of violence on victims**. Finally, the course covers key topics related to the **prevention and treatment of violent behavior** from the perspective of **social**



neuroscience, including **empathy** and **positive psychobiology**.

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

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

Saber aplicar técnicas y procedimientos para la resolución de problemas y la toma de decisiones.

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

Saber atender las necesidades de la víctima, con especial referencia a las víctimas de violencia de género o los menores.

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 capaces de elaborar informes para evaluar las situaciones de riesgo de los menores, medidas aplicables a los infractores y medidas de protección a los que estén en situación de abandono.

Ser capaz de analizar el delito, el delincuente y la víctima, y diseñar estrategias de prevención e intervención, desde el respeto a los derechos humanos, la igualdad entre hombres y mujeres, la paz, sostenibilidad, accesibilidad universal y diseño para todos y valores democráticos.

Ser capaz de apreciar la complejidad y diversidad del fenómeno criminal.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

Concept and Classification of Violence
Theories on the Causes of Violence
Methods and Techniques in the Scientific Study of Violence



Genetics of Violence
Abuse and the Brain
Neuroanatomy of Violence
Neurochemistry of Violence
Psychoendocrinology of Violence
Neural Bases of Cooperative and Empathic Behaviors

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

| Activity | Hours |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Theoretical and practical classes | 60,00 |
| Total hours | 60,00 |

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

| Activity | Hours |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Attendance at other activities | 3,00 |
| Individual or group project | 20,00 |
| Independent study and work | 50,00 |
| Preparation of lessons | 9,00 |
| Preparation for assessment activities | 3,00 |
| Resolution of case studies | 5,00 |
| Total hours | 90,00 |

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

EVALUATION

Assessment systems

- 1st and 2nd calls: Assessment of theoretical and practical contents by means of a written test (questions and problem-solving similar to those having been addressed during the classes) about the level of practical and theoretical knowledge acquired by the student (it will account for 70% of the final mark).
- 1st call: Oral or written presentation of reports, individually and/or in groups, which will show that the student has achieved knowledge, skills, comprehension and application of the contents in the course. These will be handed in or presented throughout the course, within the deadlines in every case (20% of the final mark). The mark obtained in this block will be carried onto the 2nd call. Those students who did not complete this task will only be able to reach half of the mark percentage (that is, the maximum score will be a 10% of the final mark) by writing an individual project or by sitting a test, in addition to the exam of theoretical and practical contents described in the previous block.



- 1st call: Active participation in class activities, seminars and workshops (weighing 10% of the final mark). The works related to these activities will be handed in at the end of the session or within the deadline established by the professor. This 10% of the mark cannot be applied to the second call.

As part of the continuous assessment, the professor will give individual or collective feedback to the students about the reports, activities or works carried out throughout the course.

Whenever it is deemed necessary, the professor may require the students to write an additional work or sit an additional exam to obtain First Honors (A+).

Minimum requirements:

- To pass the course, students must achieve a minimum score of 50% in the first block of assessment (evaluation of theoretical and practical knowledge)
- During tutoring hours, the professor may require individual or collective interviews to verify the degree of participation and achievements in the aims set for any given task. To refuse said verification will entail failing the task or activity in question.

Warning

Evidence of copying or plagiarism in any of the assessable tasks will result in failure to pass the subject and in appropriate disciplinary action being taken.

Please note that, in accordance with article 13. d) of the Statute of the University Student (RD 1791/2010, of 30 December), it is the duty of students to refrain from using or participating in dishonest means in assessment tests, assignments or university official documents.

During tutorials, lecturers may require individual or group interviews in order to verify the degree of participation and achievement of goals for any given task. Failure to accept the verification will result in such task or activity being failed.

Grading system

The assessment of the subject and the challenge of the allotted qualification will abide to what is stipulated in the Reglament d'Avaluació i Qualificació de la Universitat de València per a títols de Grau i Màster (ACGUV 108/2017 of May 30, 2017). [Http://www.uv.es/graus/normatives/2017_108_reglament_avaluacio_qualificacio.pdf](http://www.uv.es/graus/normatives/2017_108_reglament_avaluacio_qualificacio.pdf)

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REFERENCES



- Davis, J. (2022). Sedados. Capitán Swing.
- Moya-Albiol, L. (2018). La empatía. Entenderla para entender a los demás. Plataforma.
- Moya-Albiol, L. y Romero-Martínez, Á. (2020). Neurocriminología. Pirámide.
- Stahl, S.M. (2018). Psicofarmacología Esencial de Stahl. Casos Clínicos. Grupo Aula Médica.
- Perry, B., y Szalavitz, M. (2020). El chico a quien criaron como perro. Capitán Swing.
- Raine, A. (2013). The anatomy of violence. Pantheon Books.