APPLIED CRIMINOLOGY
Course Syllabus

Cross-disciplinary/ Optional Course
Degree in Law
University of Alcalá

Academic Year 2019/2020
Year 4 Term 1
1. PRESENTACIÓN

Criminologists are interested in crime and the way in which societies deal with crime, involving a multi-disciplinary academic consideration of crime. It contains arguments derived from philosophy, psychology, sociology, medicine, law, architecture, geography and biology, to name but a few.

Criminology can be a very complicated subject due to its complex terminology, its variety and size. However, this course is just an introduction. It will provide the students an overview on core concepts, topic areas and the works of leading criminologists. The book recommended as basic bibliography will provide them a guide that they can use as a reference point. However it is important to learn how to direct their reading towards other relevant sources and material. I will try to help my students in this part of the journey.

The key to success in any criminology course is not simply to learn and use academic language. Nor is it simply to
understand “core” theories, although knowing the terms and concepts is certainly important. This course will help the students to understand and use criminological theory and how to apply and critique this theory in a debate upon crime, criminality and the criminal justice system.

Aim of the course is to understand what a crime is, why crime happens and how we can fight effectively against crime from a criminological perspective, that means, thinking like a criminologist. Over and above, I will try to make you think, to make you doubt and to make you feel the need to go further.

Although some previous knowledge of Criminal Law can be useful, it is not compulsory. Criminology is not a legal subject but a social science. That makes it appropriate and useful not only for Law students but also for everyone interested in crime and the way societies deal with crime.

2. COMPETENCIAS

Competencias genéricas:

1. Ability to focus attention on key issues.
2. Ability to write an essay in a clear and well organized way.
3. Ability to present on a topic and discuss about it.
4. Teamwork

Competencias específicas:

1. Ability to deal with criminological theories.
2. Ability to think critically about criminological theories
3. Ability to test theories against six criteria (Logical consistency; Scope; Parsimony; Testability; Empirical validity; Usefulness and applicability).

3. CONTENIDOS

II. Running themes: inequality, power, evidence, discrimination, sex and gender, age, ideology, application and implication of theories, justice.


IV. Criminological theory (I). The origins of criminology: key thinkers: Classicism (Beccaria)/Utilitarism (Bentham, Stuart Mill).

V. Criminological theory (II). Main approaches: locating the crime within the individual (biological and psychological approaches)/crime as external to the individual (sociological theories)

VI. Contemporary criminology: Theories.-Hot issues: Youth and crime; Gender and crime.- Cybercrime; Human Trafficking; Organized Crime; White collar crime. Corporate crimes; Terrorism; Serial Killing.

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### Estrategias metodológicas, materiales y recursos didácticos

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<td>What is a crime?.-</td>
<td>Essay presentation. Q&amp;A.</td>
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<td>Crime statistic and crime data.</td>
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### 5. EVALUACIÓN

**Criteria:**

- Ability to deal with criminological theories and to think critically about them.
- Ability to focus attention on key issues.
- Ability to write an essay in a clear and well organized way.
- Ability to present.
- Individual and team work
**Methods:**

a) Continuous evaluation:
- Active attendance and participation in lectures, seminars and workshops: 40%
- Essay: 30%
- Test: 30%

b) Final evaluation (Available only in exceptional circumstances and on request at Dean office):
- Test exam: 50%
- Essay: 50% (3000-3500 words); to be handed on the test day

**ESSAY TOPICS:**
- Youth and crime
- Gender and crime
- Cybercrime
- Human Trafficking
- Organized Crime
- White collar crime. Corporate crimes
- Terrorism
- Serial Killing

**6. BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

**Basic Bibliography:**

**Aditional Bibliography:**