



Universidad
de Alcalá

GUÍA DOCENTE

APPLIED CRIMINOLOGY
Course Syllabus

**Cross-disciplinary/ Optional
Course**

**Degree in Law
University of Alcalá**

Academic Year 2019/2020

Year 4 Term 1

Course Guide

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|------------------------------|---|
| Subject name: | Applied Criminology |
| Code: | 400071 |
| Degree Course: | Grado en Derecho |
| Department and Subject Area: | Department of Juridical Sciences Area Criminal Law |
| Type: | Optional |
| ECTS Credits: | 6 |
| Year and Term: | Year 4 Term 1 |
| Course Convener: | Prof. Dra. Teresa Rodríguez Montañés |
| Tutorial Hours: | By appointment teresa.rodriguez@uah.es |
| Language of Instruction: | English |

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).
4. Mastering technical terms.

3. CONTENIDOS

I. Introduction. Criminology essentials: thinking like a criminologist. What is a crime? Perspectives on crime. Categorizing criminological theories.

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

III. Research methods in criminology. Crime statistics and crime data.

IV. Criminological theory (I). The origins of criminology: key thinkers: Classicism (Beccaria)/Utilitarianism (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.

Programación de los contenidos

| Unidades temáticas | Temas | Total horas, clases, créditos o tiempo de dedicación |
|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Part 1 | • I, II, III | • 2 cr. |
| Part 2 | • IV, V | • 2 cr. |

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|--------|------|---------|
| Part 3 | • VI | • 2 cr. |
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4. METODOLOGÍAS DE ENSEÑANZA-APRENDIZAJE. ACTIVIDADES FORMATIVAS

Número de horas totales: 150

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| Número de horas presenciales: | 45 hours |
| Número de horas del trabajo propio del estudiante: | 105 hours |

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Estrategias metodológicas, materiales y recursos didácticos

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|------------------------|---|
| Lectures | Core concepts. What is a crime?.- Criminological theories.- Research methods in criminology.- Contemporary criminology.- Crime statistic and crime data. |
| Seminars and workshops | Case study. Essay presentation. Q&A. Hot topics: active discussion. |
| Individual work | Preparatory Reading. Find, read and use academic journal articles. Write and present an essay. |

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:

- TREADWELL, James, Criminology. The essentials, 2nd edition, SAGE, 2013.

Additional Bibliography:

- HAGAN F.E., Introduction to Criminology, Theories, Methods and Criminal Behaviour, 9th edition, 2017.
- The SAGE Dictionary of Criminology, 3rd edition, 2013.
- STOUT B/YATES J/WILLIAMS B, Applied Criminology, SAGE 2008.
- TENA CALVO J.A., Diccionario de expresiones y términos de interés policial y criminalístico, Tecnos, 2002.