

SS2030: INTRODUCTION TO CRIME SCIENCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Introduction to Crime Science

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

2030

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SS3300 Criminology

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aim of this course is to expose students to the fundamentals of crime science. Students are provided with a broad understanding of the crime and security problems that we face in the 21st century, and the types of strategies and responses needed to address these problems.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe a range of key concepts in social science theories and appreciate their contribution to criminology and criminal justice.	25	x	x	x
2	Discuss different perspectives for explaining social problems, crime and criminal behaviour.	25	x	x	x
3	Explain the concept of crime science.	25	x	x	x
4	Justify the function and operation of social institutions and law enforcement agencies in responding to crimes.	25	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA1: Lectures and Readings	Students will engage with lectures and relevant discussions on criminology.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	LTA2: Video Watching, Worksheets and Interactive Exercises	Students will engage in reflective writing based on relevant documentaries on crime and offending.	1, 2, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	AT1: Worksheets and Reflection Exercises	1, 2	25	
2	AT2: Term Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
3	AT3: End of Term Summary	1, 2, 3, 4	30	

4	AT4: News Reflection Report	1, 2, 3, 4	15	
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

News Reflection

Criterion

Ability to identify crime related news and to examine said issue with criminological theories and concept

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of underlying issues

Excellent reflection of the news with relevant theories

Good (B+, B, B-)

Satisfactory understanding of underlying issues

Satisfactory reflection of the news with relevant theories

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited understanding of underlying issues

Limited reflection of the news with relevant theories

Marginal (D)

No understanding of underlying issues

Poor reflection of the news with relevant theories

Assessment Task

Group Reflective Worksheet

Criterion

1. Organisation: Refers to format and presentation: logical structure, good use of headings where appropriate# effective presentation.

2. Originality: Refers to original thinking, creativity, innovative analysis

3. Analysis of results: Refers to the quality, clarity, and depth of the analytical work involved in addressing questions and issues

4. Research effort: Includes resourcefulness, effort, and diligence in the search for and presentation of suitable information

5. English writing: Grammar, spelling, sentence construction, etc.

6. Referencing: Refers to the use of an accurate referencing system, appropriate citations in the essay, and avoidance of plagiarism.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

An excellent paper# very good mastery of the ideas or concepts, with excellent or innovative analysis. A is on the edge of this category, but still very good

Good (B+, B, B-)

A solid paper with reasonably good analysis and use of information.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Documentation, analysis, writing, use of concepts, referencing, and effort are mostly adequate for a passing grade, but with enough flaws and shortcomings that it cannot be judged to be “good” or “very good” .

Marginal (D)

Barely a pass. Many serious flaws and shortcomings, but adequate effort and some research

Failure (F)

does not demonstrate the minimum research effort and documentation# or substantial plagiarism

Assessment Task

Individual Term Paper

Criterion

1. Organisation: Refers to format and presentation: logical structure, good use of headings where appropriate# effective presentation.
2. Originality: Refers to original thinking, creativity, innovative analysis
3. Analysis: Refers to the quality, clarity, and depth of the analytical work involved in addressing questions and issues
4. Research effort: Includes resourcefulness, effort, and diligence in the search for and presentation of suitable information
5. English writing: Grammar, spelling, sentence construction, etc.
6. English writing: Grammar, spelling, sentence construction, etc.
7. Referencing: Refers to the use of an accurate referencing system, appropriate citations in the essay, and avoidance of plagiarism.

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Failure (F)

does not demonstrate the minimum research effort and documentation# or substantial plagiarism

Assessment Task

End of Term Summary

Criterion

To demonstrate an understanding of crime-related concepts and the ability to apply concepts and theories in their reflective summary

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of theories and concepts covered in class
Demonstrates wider extensive reading and research of related issues

Good (B+, B, B-)

Satisfactory understanding of theories and concepts covered in class
 Demonstrates satisfactory reading and research of related issues

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited understanding of theories and concepts covered in class
 Limited reading and research of related issues

Marginal (D)

No understanding of theories and concepts covered in class
 Poor reading and research of related issues

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Explain concepts of crime and offender in its definition, nature and perception. Examine different types of crimes with official crime data vs. non-official crime data in its crime rate, patterns and interpreting the crime data. Recognize the crime situation in Hong Kong and examine various perspectives of criminal theories. Indicate different reactions to crime in criminal justice system.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Wortley, R., et al., Eds. (2019). Routledge handbook of crime science. London, Routledge.
2	Wortley, R., and Townsley, M. (2017). Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis. (2nd. Ed). London: Routledge
3	Laycock, G. (2023). Crime, Science and Policing. London: Routledge.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Bottomley, K., and Pease, K. (1986). Crime and punishment: Interpreting the data. Milton Kenyes: Open University Press.
2	Felson, M., & Boba, R. (2010). Crime and everyday life (4th ed.). LA: Sage Publications, Inc.
3	Clarke, R. V. (1997). Situational Crime Prevention. (2nd Ed). NY: Criminal Justice Press.