LW4637: CRIMINOLOGY

Effective Term
Semester A 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Criminology

Subject Code
LW - Law
Course Number
4637

Academic Unit
School of Law (FL)

College/School
School of Law (FL)

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
LW4137 Criminology (LLB) (from the old curriculum)
LW4137A Criminology (AMLLB) (from the old curriculum)
LW5637 Criminology

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Criminology is an inter-disciplinary field that draws on a number of different academic traditions – including law, psychology, economics, anthropology, psychiatry, sociology, biology and statistics – to explain the causes and prevalence of criminal behaviour, and to propose appropriate preventative, punitive and rehabilitative measures in dealing with crime, the communities in which crimes take place, and its convicted offenders. Criminology, in other words, is the social scientific study of the causation, correction, and prevention of crime.

While some scholars regard criminology purely as a social science discipline (a sub-division of sociology) distinct from law and legal practice, criminology can, and has, historically played an important role in reforming criminal law and the criminal justice system. Criminology is particularly valuable as an applied discipline which may inform the various decision-makers and stakeholders in the criminal justice system to better understand the causes and prevalence of criminal behaviour and to implement appropriate preventative, punitive and rehabilitative measures in dealing with its effects. Nonetheless, given the School of Law's parallel courses in criminal law and in criminal justice, this elective will focus on the causation and prevention of crime, rather than on criminalisation and government responses to crime through the criminal justice system.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To understand and critique the established criminological theories	20	x	x	
2	To understand and critically evaluate empirical data and other sources of information that influence policy and public views on the causes, nature and the extent of crime	10	x	x	
3	To reflect on the role of criminology in the reform of criminal justice systems, particularly with regard to the causation, correction and prevention of crime and its effect on offenders, communities and victims	10	x	x	
4	To understand and critique the causes of particular crimes and the experiences of particular categories of offenders and victims	20	x	x	
5	To nurture effective research, writing and oral communication skills	20		x	
6	To suggest and critique methods of preventing, explaining and responding to crime in Hong Kong and East Asia more generally	20	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.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

	TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures and Class Discussions	Students will be didactically introduced to theoretical and empirical content. Each topic covered will be followed by an in-class discussion based on previously assigned questions, written exercises and/or small-group tasks. The lecture and discussions form the primary forum where course material can be critiqued and clarified.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3
2	Reading, Research and Writing Outside of Class Times	Students should prepare for lectures by completing and reflecting on the set readings, and by making notes on forthcoming discussion questions and exercises. The group assignment will involve substantial self-directed research and writing.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	5-6

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	In-Class Attendance and Participation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	10	Based upon attendance in lectures, contributions to in-class discussions and exercises, and oral critique of other students' group assignments
2	Group Research Assignment	5, 6	40	3000w research assignment, drafted in randomly-allocated small groups, focusing on a local or regional criminological topic
3	Group Presentation	5, 6	10	15 minute in-class presentation relaying and defending research assignment findings in small groups

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. In-Class Attendance and Participation (10%)

Criterion

Assessed on the basis of weekly attendance at lectures, oral and written contributions to in-class discussions and exercises, and oral critique of other groups' assignment presentations. Details of readings, discussion questions and exercises will be posted online the week before each lecture.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Student demonstrates a strong interest in and critical engagement with all course material, a significant understanding of established criminological theory, an exceptional ability to relate theory to the local context, clearly and persuasively communicated written or oral responses, and an obvious ability to listen to, empathise and engage with fellow students' responses.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Student demonstrates some critical engagement with course material, a more limited understanding of established criminological theory, a reasonable ability to relate theory to the local context, somewhat clear and persuasive communication by written or oral responses, and some ability to listen to and engage with fellow students' responses.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student demonstrates limited critical engagement with course material, little understanding of established criminological theory, a basic ability to relate theory to the local context, unclear written or oral responses that do not entirely persuade, and only an occasional ability to listen to and engage with fellow students' responses.

Marginal (D)

Despite otherwise participating in the teaching and learning activities, the student demonstrates no critical engagement with course material, little or no understanding of established criminological theory, infrequent ability to apply theory to the local context, provides written or oral responses devoid of persuasion, and shows little interest in engaging with fellow students' responses.

Failure (F)

Almost no participation in teaching and learning activities. The student cannot demonstrate that he or she has read or understands the course material, or that he or she understands any of the major criminological theories. The student does not attempt to apply these theories to the local context, does not contribute written or oral responses when prompted, and demonstrates no engagement with the views of fellow students on the course material.

Assessment Task

2. Group Research Assignment (40%)

Criterion

3000w research assignment, drafted in randomly allocated small groups, focusing on a local or regional criminological topic. Assignment to be assessed on the basis of analysis, originality, breadth and depth of research, English expression, citation style and overall structure. All group members receive the same mark, absent exceptional circumstances.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Student demonstrates a strong interest in and critical engagement with all course material, a significant understanding of established criminological theory, an exceptional ability to relate theory to the local context, clearly and persuasively communicated written or oral responses, and an obvious ability to listen to, empathise and engage with fellow students' responses.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Student demonstrates some critical engagement with course material, a more limited understanding of established criminological theory, a reasonable ability to relate theory to the local context, somewhat clear and persuasive communication by written or oral responses, and some ability to listen to and engage with fellow students' responses.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student demonstrates limited critical engagement with course material, little understanding of established criminological theory, a basic ability to relate theory to the local context, unclear written or oral responses that do not entirely persuade, and only an occasional ability to listen to and engage with fellow students' responses.

Marginal (D)

Despite otherwise participating in the teaching and learning activities, the student demonstrates no critical engagement with course material, little or no understanding of established criminological theory, infrequent ability to apply theory to the local context, provides written or oral responses devoid of persuasion, and shows little interest in engaging with fellow students' responses.

Failure (F)

Almost no participation in teaching and learning activities. The student cannot demonstrate that he or she has read or understands the course material, or that he or she understands any of the major criminological theories. The student does not attempt to apply these theories to the local context, does not contribute written or oral responses when prompted, and demonstrates no engagement with the views of fellow students on the course material.

Assessment Task

3. Group Presentation (10%)

Criterion

15 minute in-class presentation relaying and defending group research assignment findings (see task #2). Each group member must speak and answer questions from the class and course leader, where applicable. Assessed on the basis of oral presentation skills, visual aids if appropriate, timekeeping, and ability to defend findings against class and course leader critique. All group members receive the same mark, absent exceptional circumstances.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Student demonstrates a strong interest in and critical engagement with all course material, a significant understanding of established criminological theory, an exceptional ability to relate theory to the local context, clearly and persuasively communicated written or oral responses, and an obvious ability to listen to, empathise and engage with fellow students' responses.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Student demonstrates some critical engagement with course material, a more limited understanding of established criminological theory, a reasonable ability to relate theory to the local context, somewhat clear and persuasive communication by written or oral responses, and some ability to listen to and engage with fellow students' responses.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student demonstrates limited critical engagement with course material, little understanding of established criminological theory, a basic ability to relate theory to the local context, unclear written or oral responses that do not entirely persuade, and only an occasional ability to listen to and engage with fellow students' responses.

Marginal (D)

Despite otherwise participating in the teaching and learning activities, the student demonstrates no critical engagement with course material, little or no understanding of established criminological theory, infrequent ability to apply theory to the local context, provides written or oral responses devoid of persuasion, and shows little interest in engaging with fellow students' responses.

Failure (F)

Almost no participation in teaching and learning activities. The student cannot demonstrate that he or she has read or understands the course material, or that he or she understands any of the major criminological theories. The student does not attempt to apply these theories to the local context, does not contribute written or oral responses when prompted, and demonstrates no engagement with the views of fellow students on the course material.

Assessment Task

4. Examination (40%)

Criterion

2 hour unseen examination testing knowledge of, critical evaluation of and ability to relay and discuss lecture materials and readings. Exam may consist of essay questions and/or short answer questions.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Student demonstrates a strong interest in and critical engagement with all course material, a significant understanding of established criminological theory, an exceptional ability to relate theory to the local context, clearly and persuasively communicated written or oral responses, and an obvious ability to listen to, empathise and engage with fellow students' responses.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Student demonstrates some critical engagement with course material, a more limited understanding of established criminological theory, a reasonable ability to relate theory to the local context, somewhat clear and persuasive communication by written or oral responses, and some ability to listen to and engage with fellow students' responses.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student demonstrates limited critical engagement with course material, little understanding of established criminological theory, a basic ability to relate theory to the local context, unclear written or oral responses that do not entirely persuade, and only an occasional ability to listen to and engage with fellow students' responses.

Marginal (D)

Despite otherwise participating in the teaching and learning activities, the student demonstrates no critical engagement with course material, little or no understanding of established criminological theory, infrequent ability to apply theory to the local context, provides written or oral responses devoid of persuasion, and shows little interest in engaging with fellow students' responses.

Failure (F)

Almost no participation in teaching and learning activities. The student cannot demonstrate that he or she has read or understands the course material, or that he or she understands any of the major criminological theories. The student does not attempt to apply these theories to the local context, does not contribute written or oral responses when prompted, and demonstrates no engagement with the views of fellow students on the course material.

Additional Information for AR

Grading of Student Achievement: Standard (A+, A, A-⋯F).

Further details of the assessment scheme will be provided during the first lecture. Students will need to pay careful attention to their time management skills, and to the university's Academic Honesty policy: http://www.cityu.edu.hk/provost/academic_honesty/rules_on_academic_honesty.htm

To pass the course, LLB students must achieve an overall mark of 40% or above. There is no minimum examination mark required to pass the course.

School Policy on Late Submission of Assessment Tasks

Unless there are valid extenuating circumstances under Academic Regulations, late submission of coursework shall attract the following penalty: deduction of 5 marks (out of 100) for every single day (including public holidays) of delay up to maximum 7 days. Papers received later than 7 days of the submission deadline shall not be marked. No penalty for late submission will be imposed in cases where a student can submit only a hard or soft copy of the coursework assignment by the specified deadline and provides an explanation to the course leader.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus
· Introduction to Criminology
· Criminological Theory (3 lectures)
· Crime Statistics, Crime and the Media
· Race, Gender and Crime
· Violent Crime, Sexual Crime and Property Crime
· Alcohol, Drugs and Sex Work
· Corporate and Organised Crime
· Terrorism and Public Order Crimes
· Crime Victims

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Course Textbook: Tim Newburn, Criminology (3rd ed, Routledge 2017)

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Stephen Jones, Criminology (6th ed, Oxford University Press 2017; 7th ed 2021)
2	Alison Liebling and others, The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (6th ed, Oxford University Press 2017)
3	Eric Wing Hong Chui and T. Wing Lo (eds), Understanding Criminal Justice in Hong Kong (2nd ed, Routledge 2016; 1st ed, Willian Publishing 2008)
4	Jianhong Liu and others (eds), Handbook of Asian Criminology (Springer 2013)
5	Jianhong Liu and others (eds), Comparative Criminology in Asia (Springer 2017)
6	Mary Bosworth and Carolyn Hoyle (eds), What is Criminology (Oxford University Press 2012)
7	Liqun Cao and others (eds), The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Criminology (Routledge 2014)
8	James Sheptycki and Ali Wardak (eds), Transnational and Comparative Criminology (GlassHouse Press 2005)
9	Borge Bakken (ed), Crime and the Chinese Dream (Hong Kong University Press 2018)
10	Kam C Wong, Policing in Hong Kong (Routledge 2016)
11	Peng Wang, The Chinese Mafia: Organized Crime, Corruption, and Extra-legal Protection (Oxford University Press 2017)
12	Cindy J Smith and others (eds), Routledge Handbook of International Criminology (Routledge 2011)
13	Carol Jones and Jon Vagg, Criminal Justice in Hong Kong (Taylor and Francis 2017)
14	Mark S Gaylord and others, Introduction to Crime, Law and Justice in Hong Kong (Hong Kong University Press 2009)
15	Mike McConville and Eva Pils (eds), Comparative Perspectives on Criminal Justice in China (Edward Elgar 2013)

16	Francis Pakes, 'Comparative Criminology' in David Scott Clark (ed), Comparative Law and Society (Edward Elgar 2012)
17	A Keith Bottomley and Ken Pease, Crime and punishment: Interpreting the data (Open University Press 1986)
18	Victor Jupp, Methods of criminological research (Unwin Hyman 1989)
19	Jon Vagg, Research on the Social Causes of Juvenile Crime: Final Report (Hong Kong Fight Crime Committee 1995)
20	Dennis SW Wong, 'Delinquency control and juvenile justice in China' (1999) 32(1) Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology 27.
21	T Wing Lo, 'Beyond Social Capital: Triad Organized Crime in Hong Kong and China' (2010) 50(5) The British Journal of Criminology 851
22	Fanny M Cheung and others, Research on Rape and Sexual Crime in Hong Kong (Centre for Hong Kong Studies, Institute of Social Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong 1990)
23	Federico Varese and Rebecca Wong, 'Resurgent Triads? Democratic mobilization and organized crime in Hong Kong' (2018) 51(1) Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology 23
24	Nicole Cheung and Yuet Cheung, 'Self-Control, Social Factors, and Delinquency: A Test of The General Theory of Crime Among Adolescents in Hong Kong' (2008) 37(4) Journal of Youth and Adolescence 412
25	Sonny Shiu-Hing Lo, 'The Politics of Crime in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao' (2008) 39(2) Asian Affairs 251
26	David Garland and Richard Sparks, Criminology and Social Theory (Oxford University Press 2000)
27	Dennis SW Wong, 'Culturally Specific Causes of Delinquency: Implications for Juvenile Justice in Hong Kong' (1999) 9(1) Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development 98
28	Narcotics Division, Security Bureau: https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/
29	Judiciary: https://www.judiciary.hk/en/home/index.html
30	Social Welfare Department: https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/
31	Department of Justice: https://www.doj.gov.hk/eng/index.html
32	Census and Statistics Department: https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/home/index.jsp
33	Hong Kong Police Force: https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/
34	ICAC: https://www.icac.org.hk/en/home/index.html
35	Hong Kong Correctional Services: https://www.csd.gov.hk/english/home/home.html