

COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Course unit code
Criminological Theories	

Lecturer(s)	Department where the course unit is delivered
Coordinator: Prof. Aleksandras Dobryninas	Department of Sociology

Cycle	Type of the course unit
Second (Mater)	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when the course unit is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	Year 1, Spring semester	Lithuanian

Prerequisites
Introduction to Sociology Introduction to Criminology Contemporary sociological theories

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload	Contact hours	Individual work
6	160	32	128

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed
<p>Generic competences to be developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main aims of the course are to provide students with deep knowledge about classic and modern criminological theories, their methodological premises, social and historical contexts, main trends and perspectives. - Ability to find, analyze, systematize information from various sources. - Cross-cultural understanding and appreciation, especially regarding racial, ethnic, gender, religious differences in values, perception and behavior. - Practical knowledge application and problem-solving ability <p>Subject-specific competences to be developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will be able critically evaluate various criminological ideas, to analyse criminogenic events and process in the framework of criminological theories, to apply gained theoretical knowledge implementing crime control and crime prevention policy. - Ability to carry out social criminology research, assess data quality and present research results

- Ability to use the knowledge of the related and inter-field disciplines necessary for criminological problems' analysis.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
The students will be able to understand cross-cultural differences, especially regarding differences in values, perception and behavior, ability to reflect on one's theoretical and practical position in the context of social diversity.	Lectures, reading of textbooks, class discussions	Test (close and open-ended questions)
The students will be able to track, understand and critically assess the sociology and criminological literature of the frontier research, perceive the relation between the sociology innovations and criminology tradition.		
The students will be able to present the application possibilities of the criminological theories while analyzing the local, regional and global social and criminal justice problems for professional and non-professional audiences.		
The students will be able to perform analysis and critical assessment of the contemporary criminology theories, be argumentative and reasonable in their choice of the theoretical and methodological sociology model relevant for a given scientific problem of criminology research. The students will be able to choose and to apply relevant search systems, national and international data basis, and relevant software for the search, analysis and systematization of social information.	Analysis of the text	Reading original theoretical texts, short essay writing (2000 characters) and following discussions
The students will be able to describe and analyse the criminogenic phenomena and processes of the micro/mezzo/macro levels related to societal structures and institutions of the local and global context, to select relevant sociological and criminological theories and methodologies for the objectives and tasks of the analysis. The students will know the main research areas of the related and inter-field disciplines (sociology, law, psychology, etc.), will be able to find relevant information in the scientific sources and apply it in the analysis of the criminological problem.	Analysis of the texts and cases related to the criminal justice	Essay writing (20000 characters)

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Individual work: time and assignments						
	Lectures		Seminars	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Individual work

1. Introduction (Interdisciplinary nature of criminological knowledge. Historic, cultural, political, and scientific context of the development of criminological theories)	2					2	8	Ball, R. A., Cullen, F. T. and Lilly R. J. (1995) <i>Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences</i> Dobryninas, A., et al. (2014) <i>Perception of Criminal Justice in Society</i> .
2. Classic criminological school (C. Beccaria, I. Bentham, and their predecessors and followers)	2					2	8	Dobryninas, A., et al. (2014) <i>Perception of Criminal Justice in Society</i> . Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) <i>Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings)</i> .
3. Positivist (modern) school in criminology (Biological and mathematical approach: C. Lomroso and A. Quetelet), macro and micro sociological approach: E. Durhmeim and G. Tarde)	4					4	16	Dobryninas, A., et al. (2014) <i>Perception of Criminal Justice in Society</i> . Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) <i>Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings)</i> .
4. Chicago criminological school (Ecological ideas: R. Park, E. Burgess; Empirical research on social disorganization: C. R. McKay and H.D. Show)	4					4	16	Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) <i>Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings)</i> .
5. E. Sutherland theory of differential association (application of learning theory to juvenile delinquency, professional thieves, and white color crime)	2					2	8	Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) <i>Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings)</i> .
6. Strain theory (R. Merton theory of cultural conflict and its criminological applications)	2					2	8	Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) <i>Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings)</i> .
7. Subcultural theories (A. Cohen theory of delinquent subculture; D. Matza theory of subculture of delinquency; R. Cloward and L. Ohlin on the theory of opportunity)	4					4	16	Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) <i>Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings)</i> .
8. Control theory (W. Reckless containment theory; T. Hirshy theory of crime)	2					2	8	Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) <i>Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings)</i> .

9. Labeling theory (F. Tannenbaum, E. Lamert and H. Becker on delinquency and deviance)	2					2	8	Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings).
10. Critical criminological tradition (R. Quinney conflict theory, D. Melossi and M. Foucault on crime and punishment; European abolitionism (St. Cohen, N. Christie, Th. Mathiesen, L. Houlsmann))	6					6	24	Dobryninas, A., et al. (2014) Perception of Criminal Justice in Society. Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings). Swaaningen, R. Van (1996) Critical Criminology: Vision from Europe.
11. Contemporary trends in criminological theories (feminist criminology, criminology of rational choice, life course criminology, cultural criminology)	2					2	8	Dobryninas, A., et al. (2014) Perception of Criminal Justice in Society. Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.) (2006) Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings).
Total	32					3 2	128	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Short essays. Discussions.	20	During all course	12 short essays (2000 characters each) based on the reading of original criminological theoretical text. Clarity, consistency, contact with others during discussions and analysis of the essay and text in the class; ability to respond and answer questions, to take part in discussions actively.
Written exam	40	End of the course (June)	Test, consisting of eight closed and open-ended questions. Students are given half point for each correct (true) answer. Length of exam: 30 min.
Essay	40	One week before written exam	20000 characters; clear structure (introduction, main part, conclusions, literature resources); logical consistency, strong theoretical background with demonstrated ability to provide original interpretation of social events and process in the framework of chosen criminological theory(ies). 4 points original thinking around a clearly articulated thesis; good structure and be well organized; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of the subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge; clear and effective writing style and appropriate referencing format. 3 points: clear thesis with sound argumentation; coherent structure and organization of the material understanding of relevant issues; familiarity with the most relevant literature

			<p>2 point: clear thesis statement, but little effort is made to structure the paper around an argument; acceptable but uninspired work; no serious faults but will lack style and vigour.</p> <p>1 point: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; no thesis statement is made; weaknesses in critical and analytic skills; major errors are made in discussions of the subject matter; the literature used is limited or irrelevant</p> <p>0 points: no thesis presented.</p>
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Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue No or volume	Publishing house or Internet site
Required reading				
Ball, R. A., Cullen, F. T. and Lilly R. J.	1995	Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences		SAGE
Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R. (eds.)	2006	Criminological Theory: Past to Present (Essential Readings). Third Edition		Roxbury Publishing
Dobryninas, A., Čėsniėnė, I., Dobrynina, M., Giedraitis, V., Merkevičius, R.	2014	Perception of Criminal Justice in Society		Baltijos kopija
Swaaningen, R. van	1997	Critical Criminology: Vision from Europe.		SAGE
Tierney, J.	1996	Criminology: Theory and context.		Prentice Hall/Harvester Wheatsheaf
Williams III, F. P., McShane, M. D.	2004	Criminological Theory (4th Edition).		Prentice Hall
Optional reading				
Becker, H.	1964	Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance		The Free Press.
Bekarija, Č.	1995	On Crime and Punishments		Cambridge University Press
Christie, N.	2000	Crime Control as Industry		Routledge
Cohen, A.	1955	Delinquent Boys: The Culture of the Gang		The Free Press

Cohen, St.	2002	Folk Devils and Moral Panic: Thirtieth Anniversary Edition		Routledge
Durkheim, E.	1982	The Rules of Sociological Methods		The Free Press
Ferri, E.	1900	Criminal Sociology		Little Brown
Hirshi, T.	1969	Causes of Delinquency		University of California Press
Matza, D.	1964	Delinquency and Drift		Wiley
Mclaughlin, E., Newburn, T. (eds.)	2010	The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory		SAGE
Merton, R.	1938	Social Structure and Anomie	American Sociological Review, vol. 3(5), pp. 672-682.	
Quinney, R.	1970	The Social Reality of Crime		Little Brown & Company
Shaw, C. & McKay H.	1942	Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas		Chicago Univ. Press