DOCTORAL STUDIES COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Name of subject	Field of science, code	Faculty / Center	Institute / Department
Contemporary Criminological Issues	S 005	Faculty of Philosophy	Institute of Sociology and Social Work

Student's workload	Credits	Student's workload	Credits
Lectures		Consultations	1
Independent study	6	Seminars	

Course annotation

The nature of criminological knowledge, its theoretical, historical and political aspects. Criminological expertise in the context of other disciplines – biology, psychology, sociology and law. The criterion of verifiability in criminology, paradigms of criminology and criminology theory. The thematic criminological "triangle": the perpetrator, the victim, and controlling authorities. The classical school of criminology, its metaphysical and political origins. Positivist tendencies in criminology, its biological, psychological and social aspects. The critical (hermeneutic) tradition of criminology: its emergence and modern transformation. Contemporary trends in criminology: cultural criminology, biosocial criminology, gender criminology, rational choice criminology, green criminology, life-course and developmental criminology, global and institutional criminology, media criminology and online offending, theoretical aspects of penology and victimology.
Requirements for the final evaluation are determined individually, based on the dissertation topic, individual research interests, and the data collection and analysis tools available at the time.

Reading list

- Blokland, A. and van der Geest, V. (eds.) (2017) *The Routledge International Handbook of Life-Course Criminology*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315747996
- Brauer, J.R. and Day, J.C. (2025) 'Money in the bank: progressive problem shifts in criminological science', *Theory and Society*, 54, pp. 1021–1055. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-025-09645-z
- Brisman, A., Carrabine, E. and South, N. (eds.) (2018) *The Routledge Companion to Criminological Theory and Concepts.* Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315744902
- Brown, M. (2021) 'Truth and method in Southern criminology', *Critical Criminology*, 29, pp. 451–467. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10612-021-09588-8
- Canning, V. and Tombs, S. (2021) *From Social Harm to Zemiology*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429430497
- Case, S., Johnson, P., Manlow, D., Smith, R. and Williams, K. (2021) *The Oxford Textbook on Criminology*. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/he/9780198835837.001.0001
- Clevenger, S.L., Navarro, J.N., Marcum, C.D. and Higgins, G.E. (2024) *Understanding Victimology*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003283300
- Coyle, M.J. and Scott, D. (eds.) (2021) *The Routledge International Handbook of Penal Abolition*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429425035
- Cullen, F.T., Wright, J.P. and Blevins, K. (eds.) (2017) *Taking Stock: The Status of Criminological Theory*. Routledge, pp. 1–34. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315130620-1
- Farrell, G. and Tilley, N. (2026) 'Crime opportunity theory: the state of the art', *Crime Science*, 15,

article 12. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-026-00275-z

- Farrington, D.P., Kazemian, L. and Piquero, A.R. (eds.) (2018) *The Oxford Handbook of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190201371.001.0001
- Focquaert, F., Waller, B. and Shaw, E. (eds.) (2020) *The Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy and Science of Punishment*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429507212
- Holt, T.J. and Bossler, A.M. (eds.) (2020) *The Palgrave Handbook of International Cybercrime and Cyberdeviance*. Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-90307-1
- Linning, S.J., Bowers, K. and Eck, J.E. (2024) 'Crime radiation theory: the co-production of crime patterns through opportunity creation and exploitation', *Crime Science*. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-024-00234-6
- McGee, T. and Farrington, D. (2018) 'Developmental and life-course explanations of offending', *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 24, pp. 609–625. https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2018.1560446
- McGuire, M. and Holt, T.J. (eds.) (2017) *The Routledge Handbook of Technology, Crime and Justice*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315743981
- Nurse, A. (2017) 'Green criminology: shining a critical lens on environmental harm', *Palgrave Communications*, 3, article 17007. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-017-0007-2
- Opp, K.-D. (2020) 'How criminological theories can and should be integrated', in Opp, K.–D. *Analytical Criminology: Integrating Explanations of Crime and Deviant Behavior* pp. 76–91. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429026980-5
- Powell, A., Stratton, G. and Cameron, R. (2018) *Digital Criminology: Crime and Justice in Digital Society*. Routledge.
- Savolainen, J. and Skardhamar, T. (2026) 'The growth of knowledge in criminology: toward a more optimistic appraisal of theoretical progress', *Theory and Society*. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-026-09740-9
- Snacken, S., Cliquennois, G., Durnescu, I., Humblet, D. and Larrauri, E. (eds.) (2025) *The Routledge Handbook of European Penology*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003367888
- South, N. and Brisman, A. (eds.) (2020) *Routledge International Handbook of Green Criminology*. 2nd edn. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315207094
- Sullivan, J. (2019) 'Achieving cumulative progress in understanding crime: some insights from the philosophy of science', *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 25, pp. 561–576. https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2019.1572755
- Sullivan, C.J. and McGloin, J.M. (2026) 'Normal science and middle-range theory in criminology: assessing the contested notion of offending specialization', *Annual Review of Criminology*. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-criminol-071026-040449
- Turanovic, J. (2023) 'Victimization and its consequences over the life course', *Crime and Justice*, 52, pp. 265–342. https://doi.org/10.1086/727029
- Wikström, P.-O.H. (2025) 'Explaining criminal careers as crime events', *Monatsschrift für Kriminologie und Strafrechtsreform*, pp. 149–159. https://doi.org/10.1515/mks-2025-0031

The names of consulting teachers	Science degree	Main scientific works published in a scientific field in last 5 year period

Maryja Šupa	Dr.	Šupa, Maryja; Kaktinas, Vytautas; Stankevičiūtė, Eglė. 2025. Technology and Future Trajectories of Punitivity: Lessons Learned from Selective Persecution of Online Offenders in Lithuania, in Dobryninas, A., Nikartas, S. (eds.), *Understanding Crime Control and Punishment in Lithuania: A Punitive Society?* pp. 159–178. Basingstoke: Pal grave Macmillan. ISBN 9783032055385. *https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-05538-5* Šupa, Maryja. 2025. Researching online forums, in Kaufmann, M., Mork Lomell, H. (eds.), D*e Gruyter Handbook of Digital Criminology*, pp. 419–426. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter. ISBN 9783111061931. https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111062037 Šupa, Maryja. 2024. The Cultural Milieus of Online Offending, in Graham, Roderick S., Humer, Stephan G., Seungeun Lee, C., Nagy, V. (eds.), *The Routledge International Handbook of Online Deviance*, pp. 223–235. Abingdon: Routledge. ISBN 9781032234472. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003277675 *Šupa, Maryja; Kaktinas, Vytautas; Rinkevičiūtė, Aistė. 2023. Computer-dependent or computer-assisted? The social context of online crime in Lithuanian court judgements, International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice*, 73. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlcj.2023.100577 (Clarivate WoS) Šupa, Maryja; Kruopštaitė Ingrida. 2021. Deviance and Ethical Considerations in Online Biohacking Communities, *Deviant Behavior,* 43(10): 1245–1266. https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2021.1976606 (Clarivate WoS)

Certified during Doctoral Committee session on 2026-11-18. Protocol No. 5.2.2 E-15600-KT-4268

Committee Chairman prof. Zenonas Norkus