



Office of Education Development  
and Gateway Education

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## “Learning by Doing”: Experiential Learning of Local Hong Kong Crime Cases for DEC- oriented Teaching and Learning of Criminology Courses

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### **Abstract:**

News that involve violence have always garnered global media attention and public interest. Nevertheless, reliable and comprehensive background information on local Hong Kong crime cases is lacking, let alone to trace back to the 1970s. Thus, the lack of local crime cases with rich details has made teaching criminology topics at the University-level a tremendous challenge. Nonlocal crime cases may not always be applicable to the local context, in view of the different cultural practices and values. Considering that, with the involvement of criminology students, this project has two primary objectives: (1) to compile a set of local crime cases with rich case information to facilitate future teaching and learning and (2) to initiate and strengthen collaborative ties with local disciplinary forces in order to provide first-hand learning experience to our criminology students. This two-pronged approach (i.e., research and practical experience) aims to enhance the learning experience of our criminology students – “Learning by Doing.” Specifically, students, in groups, would perform different research activities to gather first-hand information (e.g., archival, observation, and/or interview research) about selected local crime cases of different nature (e.g., domestic violence, sexual offense, physical violence, robbery, and financial fraud). In addition, students would be exposed to real life applications of the criminological concepts, principles, and theories through different activities (e.g., seminars by professionals with experience in handling different types of crimes, field visits to relevant agencies, and community activities). Through different DEC-oriented learning activities, students are anticipated to foster a more mature and critical mindset, and with a particular improved attitudes toward conducting empirical research (e.g., academic responsibility and research ethics) and social responsibility (e.g., community engagement). The set of local crime cases with rich details would be a valuable teaching asset for future teaching and learning on relevant criminology courses (e.g., SS4304 Sexual Offending, SS4718 Forensic Criminology, GE2221 Violence and Crime, and SS5304 Psychology and Crime). Undoubtedly, students are anticipated to enhance their learning experience through – “Learning by Doing.”