

SS4300: ADVANCED CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Advanced Criminological Theory

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

4300

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

SS2030 Introduction to Criminology

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course explores some major issues in contemporary criminological theories. Criminologists in the 21st century are provided with a rich legacy of research and theoretical development. The course aims to build on the theoretical

understanding that students have gained in introductory-level courses. To develop a deeper understanding of the discipline of criminology, we will examine selected concepts and issues that have emerged (or remain) as important ideas or debates in criminology. Although brief reviews will be provided, the course assumes knowledge of basic concepts in criminology.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To explain a wide variety of criminological theories	30	x	x
2	To explain criminological theories and evaluate their relevance to different crimes and the Hong Kong criminal justice system	30		x
3	To discuss empirical research on these criminological theories	20		x
4	To evaluate and describe how and which criminological theory works best in the Hong Kong criminal justice context	20		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	Students will engage in lectures to gain knowledge about various criminological theories and their relevance in the context of the Hong Kong criminal justice system.	1, 2, 3, 4

2	LTA2: Group Discussion and Presentation	Students will play an active role in participating in group exercises and discussions during lectures. Co-operative peer learning enhances academic achievement by having students work together to clarify concepts, discuss ideas, and solve problems. Knowledge acquired through their weekly readings and extra information gathering (e.g., reference books, journal articles, and academic websites) would help students to better present their arguments in group exercises and discussions.	1, 2, 3	
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3	LTA3: Field Visit or Guest Lecture	Whenever possible, students would be arranged to visit one or several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide direct services to ex-prisoners, drug abusers and victims of crime. Students are expected to observe and inquire about the theoretical models used by these different NGOs in providing rehabilitative services to the forensic population. If field visit is unable to be organized due to unforeseen circumstances, guest lectures would be arranged. Relevant industry professionals and academics would be invited to share their theoretical-guided field practical and research experiences with the students. These knowledge and experiences are expected to assist students in the completion of their individual term paper and group presentation.	2, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	AT1: Individual Term Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	50
2	AT2: Group Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	20
3	AT3: In-Class Test	1, 2	30

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Individual Term Paper (50%)

Criterion

1.1 Ability to integrate literature and knowledge to support the argument
1.2 Ability to present a well-organized group presentation, with effective time management
1.3 Ability to facilitate involvement of classmates during presentation

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. Group Presentation (20%)

Criterion

2.1 Ability to make good use of literature and knowledge to support the argument
2.2 Ability to analyse the topic area in a critical manner
2.3 Ability to examine the topic by accessing and analysing relevant resources and literature such as previous research finding
2.4 Ability to write an essay that is well presented and well structured, with appropriate citation and referencing

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

3. In-Class Test (30%)

Criterion

3.1 Ability to understand the basic concepts
3.2 Ability to apply the theories/frameworks to critically analyze various delinquent and criminal behaviour

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Early criminological theories – positivism and biological approaches

Psychological theories of crime

Sociological theories of crime

Critical criminology

Developmental theories of crime

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Bernard, T., Snipes, J. and Gerould, A.L. (2010). <i>Vold's Theoretical Criminology</i> (6th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.
2	Nil

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Downes, D., and Rock, P. (2011). <i>Understanding Deviance</i> (6th ed.). Oxford: Clarendon Press.
2	Lilly, J., Cullen, F. and Ball, R. (2010). <i>Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences</i> (5th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
3	Tierney, J. (2009). <i>Criminology: Theory and Context</i> (3rd ed.). Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education.
4	Walklate, S. (2007). <i>Understanding Criminology: Current Theoretical Debates</i> (3rd ed.). Buckingham: Open University Press.
5	Williams, K.S. (2012) <i>Textbook on Criminology</i> (7th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6	Becker, H. (1973). <i>Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance</i> . New York: Free Press.
7	Braithwaite, J. (1989). <i>Crime, Shame and Reintegration</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
8	Cohen, S. (1972). <i>Folk Devils and Moral Panics: The Creation of Mods and Rockers</i> . London: MacGibbon and Kee.
9	Cornish, D.B. and Clarke, R.V., (eds). (1986). <i>The Reasoning Criminal: Rational Choice Perspectives on Offending</i> . New York: Springer-Verlag.
10	Fattah, E.A. (1997). <i>Criminology: Past, Present, and Future: A Critical Overview</i> . Basingstoke (UK): Macmillan.
11	Grabosky, P. and Sutton, A., (eds). (1989). <i>Stains on a White Collar: Fourteen Studies in Corporate Crime or Corporate Harm</i> . Sydney: Federation Press and Century Hutchinson.
12	Hale, C., Hayward, K., Wahidin, A., and Wincup, E. (eds.) (2013). <i>Criminology</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press.

13	Maguire, M., Morgan, R., and Reiner, R. (eds.) (2012). <i>Oxford Handbook of Criminology</i> (5th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
14	Taylor, I., Walton, P., and Young, J. (1973). <i>The New Criminology: For a Social Theory of Deviance</i> . London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.