

SS5303: CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN HONG KONG AND THE PACIFIC

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Criminal Justice in Hong Kong and the Pacific

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5303

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

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with a basic understanding and overview of the main features of the criminal justice system in Hong Kong and the Pacific. This course will also provide students with the opportunity to study fascinating issues of crime and justice that are crucial and closely related to the modern world. This course will not only deal with how the process of various criminal justice practices is conducted, but also with the philosophical and moral reasoning behind. Different types of major criminal justice theories and models that have been adopted in Hong Kong, Asia and the Pacific will be introduced and discussed. The gaps between the criminal justice system and the actual practice in terms of moral standards and ethical code of conduct are examined. The concrete practices of the criminal justice in different countries, the challenges facing by the criminal justice system of different countries as well as the comparative criminal justice system in the Asia Pacific region will be critically evaluated.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To describe the main characteristics and process of criminal justice in Hong Kong and the Pacific.	20	x		
2	To differentiate key fundamentals, essential elements, and practices of criminal justice generated from different theoretical perspectives.	20		x	
3	To compare and contrast standards, ethical code of conduct, practices, and challenges of criminal justice in Hong Kong and countries in the Pacific.	30			x
4	To apply theories of criminal justice in evaluating local and global criminal justice practices and suggesting directions for future improvement.	30			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	Lecture	The course will be delivered through lectures supported by selected readings. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings in advance to facilitate informed discussion and critical engagement during sessions. Where appropriate, guest lecturers with subject-matter expertise will contribute to the course by delivering lectures on specialized topics.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Case Study and Discussion	The Course Leader will prepare materials relating to case studies of criminal justice in Hong Kong and the Pacific. There will be small group discussion, debriefing, and question & answer after case studies.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Student Presentation	Students will be asked to form working groups and investigate the criminal systems of two jurisdictions in the Asia Pacific Region. They will be asked to compare and contrast main features and process of the criminal justice systems. They have to make presentation of the findings in class.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	AT1: Class Assessments - Students will participate in in-class activities and discussions. They are also required to complete and submit individual worksheets, which will be used to assess their participation and understanding of the course material. This assessment task is designed to evaluate their learning outcomes.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Allow AI to (1) conduct proof reading; (2) generate initial ideas; (3) conduct preliminary analyses.	Yes
2	AT2: Quiz - Students will take a quiz during the sixth or seventh lecture. This quiz will assess their understanding of the theories, knowledge, and material covered so far, as well as their ability to apply what they have learned effectively.	1, 2, 3, 4	35	This is a closed-book quiz consisting of multiple-choice and narrative questions. The use of computers, mobile devices, the internet, and AI tools is not allowed.	No

3	AT3: Group Research Paper - In small groups, students will conduct a research project on criminal justice in Hong Kong and the Pacific. Each group will submit a research paper of approximately 2,500 words, excluding references, demonstrating both theoretical insight and practical application.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Allow AI to (1) conduct proof reading; (2) generate initial ideas; (3) conduct preliminary analyses.	Yes
4	AT4: Group Research Presentation - Each group will present their research project, with all members participating. Presentations will be held during Lectures 11 and 12, with each group allocated up to 12 minutes (timing to be confirmed). Peers will assess the presentations of other groups to support learning and reflection.	1, 2, 3, 4	15	Allow AI to (1) conduct proof reading; (2) generate initial ideas; (3) conduct preliminary analyses.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

AT1: Class Assessments (30%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

The ability to participate actively in class activities and discussions, and to complete individual worksheets that demonstrate understanding of the course material, will be assessed. These tasks are intended to evaluate students' learning outcomes. Consistent attendance and respectful collaboration are also expected.

Excellent

High (A+, A, A-)

Good

Significant (B+, B, B-)

Fair

Moderate (C+, C, C-)

Marginal

Basic (D)

Failure

Unsatisfactory (F)

Assessment Task

AT2: Quiz (35%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

The ability to demonstrate a clear understanding of key theories and concepts covered in the course will be assessed, along with capacity to apply this knowledge critically and accurately in response to the quiz questions. Marks will be awarded for clarity of argument, depth of analysis, and appropriate use of course materials.

Excellent

High (A+, A, A-)

Good

Significant (B+, B, B-)

Fair

Moderate (C+, C, C-)

Marginal

Basic (D)

Failure

Unsatisfactory (F)

Assessment Task

AT3: Group Research Paper (20%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Evaluation will be based on the clarity and relevance of the research question, the application of appropriate sociological theories, the quality of data collection and analysis, the depth of critical insight into the Hong Kong context, the coherence and structure of the written report, and the effectiveness of the group presentation. Peer evaluation will also contribute to the overall assessment.

Excellent

High (A+, A, A-)

Good

Significant (B+, B, B-)

Fair

Moderate (C+, C, C-)

Marginal

Basic (D)

Failure

Unsatisfactory (F)

Assessment Task

AT4: Group Research Presentation (15%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Assessment will be based on the clarity and organization of the presentation, the ability to communicate key findings effectively, appropriate use of sociological concepts, engagement with the audience, and equal participation among group members. Peer evaluation will also inform the final grade.

Excellent

High (A+, A, A-)

Good

Significant (B+, B, B-)

Fair

Moderate (C+, C, C-)

Marginal

Basic (D)

Failure

Unsatisfactory (F)

Assessment Task

AT1: Class Assessments (30%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

The ability to participate actively in class activities and discussions, and to complete individual worksheets that demonstrate understanding of the course material, will be assessed. These tasks are intended to evaluate students' learning outcomes. Consistent attendance and respectful collaboration are also expected.

Excellent

High (A+, A, A-)

Good

Significant (B+, B)

Marginal

Moderate (B-, C+, C)

Failure

Unsatisfactory (F)

Assessment Task

AT2: Quiz (35%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

The ability to demonstrate a clear understanding of key theories and concepts covered in the course will be assessed, along with capacity to apply this knowledge critically and accurately in response to the quiz questions. Marks will be awarded for clarity of argument, depth of analysis, and appropriate use of course materials.

Excellent

High (A+, A, A-)

Good

Significant (B+, B)

Marginal

Moderate (B-, C+, C)

Failure

Unsatisfactory (F)

Assessment Task

AT3: Group Research Paper (20%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Evaluation will be based on the clarity and relevance of the research question, the application of appropriate sociological theories, the quality of data collection and analysis, the depth of critical insight into the Hong Kong context, the coherence and structure of the written report, and the effectiveness of the group presentation. Peer evaluation will also contribute to the overall assessment.

Excellent

High (A+, A, A-)

Good

Significant (B+, B)

Marginal

Moderate (B-, C+, C)

Failure

Unsatisfactory (F)

Assessment Task

AT4: Group Research Presentation (15%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Assessment will be based on the clarity and organization of the presentation, the ability to communicate key findings effectively, appropriate use of sociological concepts, engagement with the audience, and equal participation among group members. Peer evaluation will also inform the final grade.

Excellent

High (A+, A, A-)

Good

Significant (B+, B)

Marginal

Moderate (B-, C+, C)

Failure

Unsatisfactory (F)

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Part A: Introduction: An overview of the functions of criminal justice system; Fundamentals of criminal justice: essential themes and practices; Importance of the criminal justice theory.

Part B: Theory of Criminal Justice: Foundations of criminal justice; Foundations of law and crime; Juvenile and Youth Justice: philosophy, law and practices; Purposes of punishment; Victimization and Victimology.

Part C: Practices of Criminal Justice: Policing methods and challenges; The importance of ethics in criminal justice system; Punishment in Modern Society; Court Organization: Structure, Functions, and the Trial Process; Corrections in the Community: Probation, Parole, and Other Alternatives to Incarceration.

Part D: Criminal Justice in Asia and Pacific: Criminal Justice System in Hong Kong; Criminal Justice System in the Mainland China; Criminal Justice System in Japan; Criminal Justice System in South Korea; Criminal Justice System in Australia; and Criminal Justice System in United States of America.

Part E: Comparing selected criminal justice systems in Asia Pacific: Making sense of local and global criminal justice; Conducting comparative research in a globalized world; Comparing criminal justice systems with global vision; Future directions of Criminal Justice.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Banks, C. (2013). Criminal Justice Ethics: Theory and Practice. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
2	Maguire, E.R. & Duffee D.E. (2015). Criminal Justice Theory: Explaining the Nature and Behavior of Criminal Justice. New York: Routledge.
3	Peak, K.J. (2015). Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publication.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Burke, R.H. (2013). Theorizing the criminal justice system: Four models of criminal justice development. Criminal Justice Review, 38(3): 277-290.
2	Chappell, D. & Wilson, P. (Eds) (2000). Crime and the Criminal Justice System in Australia: 2000 and Beyond. Sydney: Butterworths.
3	Cheng, K.K.Y. & Chui, W.H. (2014). Beyond the shadow of trial: decision making behind plea bargaining in Hong Kong. International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice. In Press.
4	Chui, W.H. & Chan, H.C.O. (2011). Social bonds and male juvenile delinquency while on probation: an exploratory test in Hong Kong. Children and Youth Services Review, 33(11): 2329-2334.
5	Chui, W.H. & Lo, T.W. (2011). Understanding Criminal Justice in Hong Kong. London: Routledge.
6	Ebbe O.N.I. (Ed.). (2013). Comparative and International Criminal Justice Systems: Policing, Judiciary and Corrections. Boca Raton: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.

7	Ford, R., Hershberger, S., Glenn, J., Morris, S., Szez V., Togba F., Watson, J. & Williams, R. (2013). Building a youth-led movement to keep young people out of the adult criminal justice system. <i>Children and Youth Services Review</i> , 35(8): 1268-1275.
8	Fox, K.J. (2015). Trying to restore justice: Bureaucracies, risk management and disciplinary boundaries in New Zealand criminal justice. <i>International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology</i> , 59(5): 519-538.
9	Hamai K. & Ellis, T. (2008). Japanese criminal justice: Was reintegrative shaming a chimera? <i>Punishment & Society</i> , 10(1): 25-46.
10	Hartley, R.D., Kwak, D.H., Park, M.R. & Lee, M.S. (2010). Exploring sex disparity in sentencing outcomes: A focus on narcotics offenders in South Korea. <i>International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology</i> , 55(2): 268-286.
11	Hsieh, M.L. & Boateng, F.D. (2015). Perceptions of democracy and trust in the criminal justice system: a comparison between mainland China and Taiwan. <i>International Criminal Justice Review</i> , 25(2): 153-173.
12	Hu, M. & Dai, M.Y. (2014). Confidence in the criminal justice system: Differences between citizens and criminal justice officials in China. <i>Criminology and Criminal Justice</i> , 14(4): 503-524.
13	Jones, C. & Vagg J. (2007). <i>Criminal Justice in Hong Kong</i> . New York: Routledge-Cavendish.
14	Jones, C. & Weatherburn D. (2010). Public confidence in the NSW criminal justice system: A survey of the NSW public. <i>Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology</i> , 43(3): 506-525.
15	Kraska P. B. & Brent, J.J. (2011). <i>Theorizing Criminal Justice: Eight Essential Orientations</i> . Prospect Heights: Waveland Press.
16	Kunst, M., Popelier L. & Varekamp E. (2015). Victim satisfaction with the criminal justice system and emotional recovery: a systematic and critical review of the literature. <i>Trauma, Violence & Abuse</i> 16(3), 336-358.
17	McConville, M. & Pils E. (Eds.). (2013). <i>Comparative Perspectives on Criminal Justice in China</i> . Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
18	McGrath, A.J. (2014). The subjective impact of contact with the criminal justice system: The role of gender and stigmatization. <i>Crime & Delinquency</i> , 60(6): 884-908.
19	Miyazawa, S. (2008). The politics of increasing punitiveness and the rising populism in Japanese criminal justice policy. <i>Punishment & Society</i> , 10(1): 47-77.
20	Pakes F.J. (2015). <i>Comparative Criminal Justice</i> . New York: Routledge.
21	Parker, L.C. (2013). <i>Crime and Justice in Japan and China: A Comparative View</i> . Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press.
22	Postmus, J.L. & Hahn, S.A. (2007). Comparing the policy response to violence against women in the USA and South Korea. <i>International Social Work</i> , 50(6): 770-782.
23	Siegel, L.J. & Worrall, J.L. (2013). <i>Essentials of Criminal Justice</i> . Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.
24	Takamatsu, K. (2004). Domestic violence victims as homicide offenders: A study of gender ideology in the Japanese criminal justice system. <i>Gender, technology and Development</i> , 8(2): 255-276.
25	Terrill, R.J. (2013). <i>World Criminal Justice Systems: A Comparative Survey</i> . Waltham, MA: Anderson Publication.
26	Vanoverbeke D., Maesschalck J., Nelken D. & Parmentier S. (Eds.). (2014). <i>The Changing Role of Law in Japan: Empirical Studies in Culture, Society and Policy Making</i> . MA: Edward Elgar.