

SS5424: CRIME, LAW AND SECURITY

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Crime, Law and Security

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5424

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

The course will enable students to dig into the intricate relationship between crime causation, law, and enforcement practices by exploring diverse theories and contrasting governmental strategies across different cultures. Through this

course, students will cultivate strategic thinking skills and devise practical solutions for addressing crime and security challenges.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	describe and analyse criminological theories and legal philosophies	35	x	x	x
2	examine various approaches to security enhancement and crime prevention	35	x	x	x
3	describe and analyse governmental strategies and policies with regards to crime, law and security, and promote strategic thinking and practical solutions to crime or security problems	30	x		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	To explain major theories, concepts and empirical findings, so as to enhance students' analytical thinking.	1, 2, 3	
2	Film Shows & Class Discussions	Pertinent documentary/ educational films will be shown to facilitate class discussions. Class discussions and assignments are organized to facilitate students' understandings of the theories and concepts, and to critically evaluate state measures in connection with crime and security.	1, 2	

3	Case Study and Presentations	Students can form groups of 2-3 persons to produce case studies pertinent to crime, law and security and present their analysis in class. Each group is required to submit a report of not more than 2,000 words.	1, 2, 3	
4	Individual Projects	Students are required to submit an individually written term paper for this course. The paper should critically evaluate some government policies, programmes or campaigns relating to crime, law and security and make concrete recommendations on the ways of making improvements.	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Individual Term Paper	1, 2, 3	40	Allow AI to brainstorm and generate initial ideas	Yes
2	Case Study & Presentation	1, 2	30	Allow AI to brainstorm and generate initial ideas	Yes
3	Class Assignments	1, 2, 3	30	Allow AI to brainstorm and generate initial ideas	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Individual Term Paper (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

An individually written essay (not more than 3,000 words) to critically evaluate some government policies, programmes or campaigns relating to crime, law and security and make concrete recommendations on the ways of making improvements.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Sufficient familiarity with the subject, basic evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; basic understanding of issues; basic evidence of familiarity with literature.

Marginal

(D) Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Failure

(F) No evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; no grasp of subject matter; no evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Assessment Task

2. Case Study and Presentation (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Groups of 5-8 students will produce a case study pertinent to crime, law and security and submit a group report of around 2,000 words. Each group will present their analysis for class discussion.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of excellent analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; highly able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; highly able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Evidence of good analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Evidence of basic analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; barely able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; barely able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Marginal

(D) Little evidence of analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; not able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; not able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Failure

(F) No evidence of excellent analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; not able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; not able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Assessment Task

3. Class Assignments (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students will engage in group discussions to address certain crime or legal issues and complete 2-3 assignments in class.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent participation in group discussion and highly able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good participation in group discussion and able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair participation in group discussion and barely able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Marginal

(D) Little participation in group discussion and not able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Failure

(F) No participation in group discussion and not able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Assessment Task

1. Individual Term Paper (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

An individually written essay (not more than 3,000 words) to critically evaluate some government policies, programmes or campaigns relating to crime, law and security and make concrete recommendations on the ways of making improvements.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good

(B+, B) Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Sufficient familiarity with the subject, basic evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; basic understanding of issues; basic evidence of familiarity with literature.

Failure

(F) Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

2. Case Study and Presentation (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Groups of 5-8 students will produce a case study pertinent to crime, law and security and submit a group report of around 2,000 words. Each group will present their analysis for class discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of excellent analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; highly able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; highly able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Good

(B+, B) Evidence of good analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Evidence of basic analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; barely able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; barely able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Failure

(F) Little evidence of analysis of how well the case aligns with relevant laws, regulations, and legal precedents; not able to examine the methods used in crime detection, evidence collection, and forensic analysis; not able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, policies, and security protocols.

Assessment Task

3. Class Assignments (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Students will engage in group discussions to address certain crime or legal issues and complete 2-3 assignments in class.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent participation in group discussion and highly able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Good

(B+, B) Good participation in group discussion and able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair participation in group discussion and barely able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Failure

(F) Little participation in group discussion and not able to complete in-class assignments assigned by the teacher.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

1. Criminality: The study of crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system. It involves understanding the causes of crime, criminal behavior, and patterns of criminal activity.
2. Cybersecurity and Digital Crimes: Exploring the intersection of technology and crime, including cybercrimes, data breaches, online fraud, and digital forensics. Understanding how to protect individuals and organizations from cyber threats.
3. Criminal Justice System: Investigating the components of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Analyzing issues such as racial disparities, wrongful convictions, and rehabilitation programs.
4. Terrorism and National Security: Examining the causes and consequences of terrorism, as well as strategies for preventing and responding to terrorist threats. Understanding how national security policies impact civil liberties.

5. Human Rights and Social Justice: Addressing issues of inequality, discrimination, and human rights violations within the context of crime and security. Advocating for justice, fairness, and respect for basic rights.

6. Risk Assessment and Crime Prevention: Assessing risks associated with crime and security threats, and developing strategies to prevent criminal activities. Implementing crime prevention programs, community policing initiatives, and security measures to enhance public safety.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Battersby, P. (2014). The Unlawful Society Global Crime and Security in a Complex World. Palgrave Macmillan
2	Collins, P. Ricks, T., Van Meter, C. (2015). Principles of Security and Crime Prevention. Taylor and Francis.
3	Jakobi, A.P. (2020). Crime, Security and Global Politics An Introduction to Global Crime Governance. Bloomsbury Publishing.
4	McCulloch, J. & Wilson, D. (2015). Pre-crime Pre-emption, Precaution and the Future. Taylor and Francis.
5	Moiseienko, A. & Hufnagel, S. (2020). Policing Transnational Crime Law Enforcement of Criminal Flows. Taylor and Francis.
6	Wilson, P. (2009). Aggression, Crime and International Security Moral, Political and Legal Dimensions of International Relations. Taylor and Francis.