

SS4116: CRIME, SOCIAL ORDER AND POLICING IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Crime, Social Order and Policing in Contemporary China

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

4116

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

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to help students understand the state of crime, criminal justice system, and policing model in Mainland China since 1949, especially after the Reform and Open-door Policy was implemented, from a sociological perspective.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe crime and its change in contemporary Chinese society by applying criminological concepts and methods;	15	x	x	
2	Explain the characteristics of crime and social control in Chinese society and the effectiveness of those control measures;	20	x	x	
3	Explain the features of criminal justice in the political context of contemporary China;	30	x	x	x
4	Analyze effective crime prevention and reduction strategies in the rapidly changing social and political context of China.	35	x	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)
LTA1: Lectures	Students will engage in lectures to gain knowledge on crime, crime control and criminal justice in contemporary China.	1, 2, 3, 4	
LTA2: Study tour	A study tour to the criminal justice system on the mainland China may be organized, subject to the availability of travel funding and approval of relevant agencies.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	AT1: Group project	1, 3	30	1) Conduct proof editing 2) Generate initial ideas 3) Conduct preliminary analysis	Yes
2	AT2: Individual paper	2, 4	50	1) Conduct proof editing 2) Generate initial ideas 3) Conduct preliminary analysis	Yes
3	AT3: Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Group project

Criterion

- 1.1 ability to coordinate with the other group members and share his/her workload and demonstrate good teamwork;
- 1.2 ability to fully understand the recommended readings;
- 1.3 ability to critically analyse the findings as contained in the readings;
- 1.4 ability to link the findings with local/international experiences and practices;
- 1.5 Ability to cite appropriate references/resources, and use a certain referencing style consistently;

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. Individual paper

Criterion

- 2.1 ability to choose a meaningful topic;
- 2.2 ability to search for related references and integrate the findings;
- 2.3 ability to write in reasonably acceptable English;
- 2.4 Ability to cite appropriate references/resources, and use a certain referencing style consistently;

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. Quiz

Criterion

- 3.1 ability to understand the basic concepts;
- 3.2 ability to apply the theories/frameworks to critically analyse crime/crime control/criminal justice in contemporary China

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

Crime, measurement of crime, social patterns of criminal behaviour, types of crime, trend of crime, migrants and crime, social control, social order, Hukou system, Danwei system, policing, Public Security Bureau, public policing and private policing, strike-hard policing (yanda), community policing, the courts, the procuratorates, and the corrections.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Trevaskes, S. (2010). Policing serious crime in China: From 'strike hard' to 'kill fewer' . London: Routledge.
2	Zhong, Lena Y. (2009). Communities, crime and social capital in contemporary China. Devon, UK: Willan.
3	Liu, Jianghong, Zhang, Lening and Messner Steve (Eds.). (2001). Crime and social control in a changing China. London: Greenwood Press.
4	Chen, A. HY. (2019). An Introduction to the Chinese Legal System (5th ed). Hong Kong: LexisNexis Hong.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Bakken, B. (Ed.). (2005). Crime, punishment and policing in China. Lanham, MD.: Rowman and Littlefield.
2	Cheng, A. H. (2004). An introduction to the legal system of the People' s Republic of China (3rd ed.). Hong Kong: LexisNexis.
3	Chen, Xiaoming (2002a). Community and policing strategies: A Chinese approach to crime control. Policing and Society, 12(1): 1-13.
4	Bian, Yanjie, Logan, J. R., Lu, Hanlong, Pan, Yunkang and Guan, Ying. (1997). Work units and housing reform in two Chinese cities. In Xiaobo Lu and E. J. Perry (Eds.), Danwei: The changing workplace in historical and comparative perspective. New York: M.E Sharpe.
5	Carrabine, E., Iganski, P., Lee, M., Plummer, K., and South, N. (2004). Criminology: A sociological introduction. London & New York: Routledge.
6	Crank, John P. (1998). Understanding police culture. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson.
7	Curran, Daniel (1998). Economic reform, the floating population, and crime. Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, 14: 262-80.
8	Deng, Xiaogang, Zhang, Lening, and Cordilia, Ann (1998). Social control and recidivism in China. Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, 14: 281-95.
9	Friday, P. (1998). Crime and crime prevention in China: A challenge to the development-crime nexus. Contemporary Criminal Justice, 14: 296-314.
10	He, Ni and Marshall, H. (1997). Social production of crime data: A critical examination of Chinese crime statistics. International Criminal Justice Review, 7: 46-63.
11	Jiang, S., Lambert, E., and Jenkins, M. (2010). East meets west: Chinese and U.S. college students' views on formal and informal crime control. International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 54(2): 264-284.
12	Jiao, A. Y. (1997). Crime control through saturated community policing: A corporate policing model. International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice, 21(1): 79-89.
13	Lau, R. (2001). Socio-political control in urban China: Changes and crisis. British Journal of Sociology, 52(4): 605-20.
14	Lee, Wei-Chin (1992). Crimes of the heart: Political loyalty in socialist China. Studies in Comparative Communism, 25(3): 228-42.
15	Leng Shao-Chuan and Chi Hungdah (1985). Criminal justice in post-Mao China: Analysis and documents. Albany, NY: State University of New York.
16	Li, Hanlin and Wang, Qi (1996). Research on the Chinese work unit society. Frankfurt am Main, DE: Peter Lang.
17	Li, Jieli (1996). The Structural strains of China' s socio-legal system: A transition to formal legalism? International Journal of the Sociology of Law, 24: 41-59.
18	Liang, Bin. (2008). The changing Chinese legal system, 1978-present: Centralization of power and rationalization of the legal system. New York: Routledge.
19	Lu, Hong, Miethe, Terance D. (2002). Legal representation and criminal processing in China. British Journal of Criminology, 42(2): 267-81.

20	Lu, P. (2003). Are migrants punished for being poor? <i>Beijing Review</i> , 25: 22-26.
21	MacDonald, J. M. (2002). The effectiveness of community policing in reducing urban violence. <i>Crime and Delinquency</i> , 4: 592-618.
22	Neocleous, M. (2000). <i>The fabrication of social order: A critical theory of police power</i> . London, UK: Pluto.
23	Shaw, V. (1996). <i>Social control in China: A study of Chinese work units</i> . Connecticut: Praeger.
24	Trevaskes, Susan (2007). <i>Courts and criminal justice in contemporary China</i> . Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
25	Yu, Olivia, and Zhang, Lening (1999). The Under-recording of crime by police in China: A case study. <i>Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management</i> , 22(3): 252-63.
26	Zhong, L. Y. & Grabosky, P. N. (2009). Pluralization of policing and the rise of private policing in China. <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> , 52 (5): 433-455.
27	Zhong, L. Y. (2009). Community policing in China: Old wine in new bottles? <i>Police Practice and Research</i> , 10: 157-169.
28	Zhong, L. Y., & Broadhurst, R. G. (2007). Building little safe and civilized communities: Community crime prevention with Chinese characteristics? <i>International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology</i> , 51(1): 52-67.
29	Zhong, L. Y. and Dai, M. (2018). The Politics of Wrongful Conviction. <i>Journal of Contemporary China</i> , 28(116), 260–276. https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2018.1511396