

SS2030: INTRODUCTION TO CRIME SCIENCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Introduction to Crime Science

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

2030

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

SS3300 Criminology

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aim of this course is to expose students to the fundamentals of crime science. Students are provided with a broad understanding of the crime and security problems that we face in the 21st century, and the types of strategies and responses needed to address these problems.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe a range of key concepts in social science theories and appreciate their contribution to criminology and criminal justice.	25	x	x	x
2	Discuss different perspectives for explaining social problems, crime and criminal behaviour.	25	x	x	x
3	Explain the concept of crime science.	25	x	x	x
4	Justify the function and operation of social institutions and law enforcement agencies in responding to crimes.	25	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)
1	LTA1: Lectures and Readings	Students will engage with lectures and relevant discussions on criminology.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	LTA2: Video Watching, Worksheets and Interactive Exercises	Students will engage in reflective writing based on relevant documentaries on crime and offending.	1, 2, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	AT1: In-class exercises	1, 2	20	AI permitted for initial research, generating initial ideas and proofreading	Yes

2	AT2: Quizzes	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No
3	AT3: Group project report	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
4	AT4: Group presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	10	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

AT1: In-class exercises

Criterion

To be able to critically analyse different crime problems and to propose creative and effective solutions

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

A strong grasp on issues; demonstration of creativity; ability to consider realistic solutions and issues; understanding of limitations; capability to conduct wider research to justify claims and proposals

Good (B+, B, B-)

A good grasp on issues; demonstration of creativity; ability to consider realistic solutions and issues; understanding of limitations; capability to conduct wider research to justify claims and proposals

Fair (C+, C, C-)

A sufficient grasp on issues; demonstration of creativity; ability to consider realistic solutions and issues; understanding of limitations; capability to conduct wider research to justify claims and proposals

Marginal (D)

A poor grasp on issues; demonstration of creativity; ability to consider realistic solutions and issues; understanding of limitations; capability to conduct wider research to justify claims and proposals

Failure (F)

No or token grasp on issues; demonstration of creativity; ability to consider realistic solutions and issues; understanding of limitations; capability to conduct wider research to justify claims and proposals

Assessment Task

AT2: Quizzes

Criterion

To be able to demonstrate clearly that key concepts and issues within the course have been successfully understood, and that they can be linked with wider perspectives and approaches in relevant readings.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

A strong grasp on the course content; understanding of how it applies to practical scenarios, and an ability to understand and link relevant concepts from wider readings

Good (B+, B, B-)

A good grasp on the course content; understanding of how it applies to practical scenarios, and an ability to understand and link relevant concepts from wider readings

Fair (C+, C, C-)

A sufficient grasp on the course content; understanding of how it applies to practical scenarios.

Marginal (D)

A poor grasp on the course content; understanding of how it applies to practical scenarios.

Failure (F)

No or token grasp on the course content; understanding of how it applies to practical scenarios.

Assessment Task

AT3: Group project report

Criterion

To be able to work in a group to complete a practical task relating to the application of crime science concepts to a real world problem.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

A strong grasp on key crime science concepts; practical thought; the ability to work as a team efficiently and to understand and compare past solutions to crime problems

Good (B+, B, B-)

A good grasp on key crime science concepts; practical thought; the ability to work as a team efficiently and to understand and compare past solutions to crime problems

Fair (C+, C, C-)

A sufficient grasp on key crime science concepts; practical thought; the ability to work as a team efficiently and to understand and compare past solutions to crime problems

Marginal (D)

A poor grasp on key crime science concepts; practical thought; the ability to work as a team efficiently and to understand and compare past solutions to crime problems

Failure (F)

No or token grasp on key crime science concepts; practical thought; the ability to work as a team efficiently and to understand and compare past solutions to crime problems

Assessment Task

AT4: Group presentation

Criterion

To produce a balanced and effective practitioner presentation relating to the group project report and to effectively answer questions about the presentation content.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

A strong ability to format and present a professional practitioner presentation, and to answer questions effectively.

Good (B+, B, B-)

A good ability to format and present a professional practitioner presentation, and to answer questions effectively.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

A sufficient ability to format and present a professional practitioner presentation, and to answer questions effectively.

Marginal (D)

A poor ability to format and present a professional practitioner presentation, and to answer questions effectively.

Failure (F)

No or token attempt to format and present a professional practitioner presentation, and to answer questions effectively.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Explain concepts of crime and offender in its definition, nature and perception. Examine different types of crimes with official crime data vs. non-official crime data in its crime rate, patterns and interpreting the crime data. Recognize the crime situation in Hong Kong and examine various perspectives of criminal theories. Indicate different reactions to crime in criminal justice system.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Wortley, R., et al., Eds. (2019). Routledge handbook of crime science. London, Routledge.
2	Wortley, R., and Townsley, M. (2017). Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis. (2nd. Ed). London: Routledge
3	Laycock, G. (2023). Crime, Science and Policing. London: Routledge.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Bottomley, K., and Pease, K. (1986). Crime and punishment: Interpreting the data. Milton Kenyes: Open University Press.
2	Felson, M., & Boba, R. (2010). Crime and everyday life (4th ed.). LA: Sage Publications, Inc.
3	Clarke, R. V. (1997). Situational Crime Prevention. (2nd Ed). NY: Criminal Justice Press.