

Criminological theory

Academic Year 2018-2019, Autumn Term

Lecturer:

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Brief course description:

The course aims to cover the most relevant theories of criminology starting with the classical theory of Cesare Beccaria and finishing with the theories defining the postmodern era. The course will also cover theories regarding the explanations of categories of crime like violent crimes or property crimes.

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to understand the main paradigms of criminology and identify their most important characteristics, aims and core thought patterns. On this course we will also look at the most important studies and empirical research-based results of each topic.

Assessment:

- 1) Each student has to write an essay (min. 3000 words - max. 4000 words) on one of the previously announced topics (the topics and the essay guidelines will be announced before the 18th October),
- 2) Attendance: students are required to attend at least 80% of the seminars.

Submission deadline for essays: 17 December 2018

Schedule:

Week 1 (20 September). *UNESCO Sport Day (no lecture!)*.

Week 2 (27 September). *Introduction, course requirements, assignments. The main paradigms of criminology, what is criminology, historical perspectives, classical school.*

Week 3 (4 October). *Biological positivism (Italian school, family tree research, Gluecks, modern theories: genetics, aggression, stress, hormones, etc.)*.

Week 4 (11 October). *Sociological positivism 1.*

Week 5 (18 October). *Sociological positivism 2.*

Week 6 (25 October). *Sociological positivism 3.*

Week 7 (1 November). *Autumn Break (no lecture!)*

Week 8 (8 November). *Interactionism and labelling theories.*

Week 9 (15 November). *Realism and critical theories*

Week 10 (22 November). *Alcohol, drugs and crime*

Week 11 (29 November). *Violent crimes*

Week 12 (6 December). *Property crimes*

Week 13 (13 December). *Individual work on essays*