

Compulsory courses

Master Forensics, Criminology and Law compulsory courses

Faculty of Law

Psychology and Law

Full course description

Focuses on the psychological aspects of criminal law, such as the reliability of testimonies. Special attention is paid to the ways criminal evidence is gathered and interpreted by law enforcement officials, public prosecutors, lawyers and judges from a legal psychology perspective.

Course objectives

At the end of the course the student is able:

- 1) To get acquainted with a criminal file;
- 2) To be able to distil the problems of the case;
- 3) To be able to search for relevant literature;
- 4) To obtain knowledge about common theories in legal psychology and to apply these theories.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Lassiter & Meissner (2010). Police interrogations and false confessions: Current research, practice, and policy recommendations. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Toglia, Read, Ross, & Lindsay (Eds.), (2007). Handbook of eyewitness psychology: Volume I: Memory for events. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum Associates.
- Lindsay, Ross, Read, & Toglia (Eds.), (2007). Handbook of eyewitness psychology: Volume II: Memory for people. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum Associates.

CRI4015

Period 1

2 Sep 2019

25 Oct 2019

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

[R. Horselenberg](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Portfolio, Assignment

Keywords:

Police investigation, forensic interview, evidence evaluation, identification procedures, Criminal law

Faculty of Law

Criminological Perspectives

Full course description

The course Criminological Perspectives will introduce students to the field of crime, crime causation and crime control. More specifically, the course will provide a better understanding of: 1) The assumptions our scientific knowledge of crime (development) is based upon; 2) Various explanations of crime from different disciplines and on various levels; 3) Possibilities to apply and integrate criminological theories; 4) The rationale behind the contemporary response to crime. By reviewing current as well as former insights, the development of criminology as a science is portrayed, as well as the way it is influenced by developments in society. The course is characterized by tutorial groups where, according to the PBL model, students apply their insights to current cases, real-life problems and policy issues. In addition, a number of lectures will be given

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student must:

- be able to recognise the differences and similarities between the various theoretical movements as to research questions, explanations, assumptions, levels of explication and opportunities for theoretical integration;
- know the contents of the main criminological explications and be able to apply them to concrete (knowledge) issues;
- be able to draw conclusions based on information about research results as to the empirical tenability of theories;
- be able to comprehend the rationale behind the current fight against and prevention of crime and substantiate this with practical examples.

CRI4017

Period 2

28 Oct 2019

20 Dec 2019

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

[M.R. Vanderhallen](#)

[J.M. Nelen](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Crime causation and crime control

Faculty of Law

Evidence

Full course description

This master course deals with how we may reconstruct past events for purposes of a criminal trial. What is evidence, with which purpose is evidence collected and by whom? These are some of the questions that will be raised in this course. Evidence in criminal proceedings may be collected before the actual trial or (much later) at the main hearing. What are the consequences of this division especially in view of the probative value of evidence? Attention will be paid to how conclusions can be drawn from the evidence that is on the table. Does the evidence that is presented prove that the accused committed the offence as charged? Why is the burden of proof on the prosecution and how does this relate to the presumption of innocence? What are the consequences of evidence that was illegally obtained on the one hand, but might still be reliable and relevant on the other? Evidence may be direct evidence or indirect: for example, a witness may report what she saw herself or what she heard somebody else stating (hearsay). There are different sources of evidence and different qualities that complicate both admission and evaluation of the evidence in a criminal court. In the final part of the course, you will apply the acquired knowledge by analyzing the famous English case of *Rex v. Bywaters and Thompson*: you will make your own assessment of the evidence provided and decide whether the accused Frederick Bywaters and Edith Thompson were guilty of murder of Edith's husband Percy Thompson.

During the course a visit will be paid to a criminal court to see evidence gathering in practice. You will be invited to describe what you see and interpret the practice of the relevant court in line of the literature.

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to gain a deep understanding of the complications relating to the collection, admission, interpretation, evaluation and assessment of evidence in different criminal justice systems. Students will be able to identify that whether a fact is proof of a certain probandum may depend on several factors such as the method of analysis. Students will be taught to distinguish between the different criminal justice systems and the way these deal with evidence. In addition, the course aims at a thorough understanding of the choices that these systems made in establishing rules of evidence. The ability to apply this theoretical knowledge to actual case problems will be the outcome of this course. Lastly, students will be able to understand the meaning of evidence in the larger context of criminal proceedings and its relation with the concept of the truth, both in law as well in other disciplines.

Prerequisites

basic knowledge of criminal procedure

Recommended reading

- Terence Anderson, David Schum and William Twining, Analysis of Evidence, Cambridge University Press, Second Edition, November 2009
- Coursebook
- Reader

CRI4021

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

[A.H. Klip](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Written exam

Keywords:

Evidence, burden of proof, probabilities, weight, probative force, evaluation, analysis, fair trial, admission, presumption of innocence, principle of orality, witness testimony, expert evidence, self-incrimination, comparative criminal procedure, evidentiary systems, beyond reasonable doubt, exclusion, truth

Faculty of Law

Advanced Criminal Procedure

Full course description

The course focuses on advanced topics of criminal procedure from a human rights perspective. Major topics of criminal procedure are discussed through the study of jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights: torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and violent police conduct; the right to liberty in relation to arrest and pre-trial detention; the application of presumption of innocence during and after criminal proceedings; the right to fair trial in relation to illegally obtained evidence and cross-examination; the right to privacy in relation to investigative measures. The course has also a practice-oriented element, i.e. the procedure before the European Court of Human Rights and how an application to the Court can be drafted.

Course objectives

- The student identifies the context and application of defence and fair trial rights as these are defined by the European Court of Human Rights;

- The student outlines the most recent developments in the interpretation of procedural rights;
- The student criticises the relationship between individual rights and measures of criminal procedure and assesses the balance between crime control and due process;
- The student deduces legal problems regarding procedural rights from facts and formulates them into a formal legal complaint;
- The student composes an application for the European Court of Human Rights

Prerequisites

Bachelor in Law. In case of a Bachelor in other discipline entrance exam for the master Forensics Criminology and Law is required

Recommended reading

- Harris, O'Boyle and Warbrick, Law of the European Convention on Human Rights, 3rd. Ed., Oxford University Press, 2014
- Human Rights Handbooks nrs. 1, 3, 5, 6 available on the ECtHR website:
<http://www.coe.int/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/human-rights-handbooks>

CRI4024

Period 2

28 Oct 2019

20 Dec 2019

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

[C. Peristeridou](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Human rights and criminal procedure; Torture; Deprivation of liberty; Fair trial; Presumption of innocence; Right to silence; Criminal procedure and privacy; European Court of Human Rights; European Convention of Human Rights

Specialisation courses

Specialisation Forensics

Faculty of Law

European Criminal Law

Full course description

During this course we will focus on the influence of European Union law on national criminal law and criminal procedure. The goal of this course is to understand the indirect and direct influence of European norms on national substantive and procedural criminal norms; also the emerging of European criminal norms will be analysed. This course does not deal with issues of cooperation between the Member States, such as the European Arrest Warrant and Europol; those topics are the subjects of the bachelor course European Criminal Justice Area (LAW3012). In the first session, the students are familiarised with the field of European Criminal law by understanding the competence of the Union in this field, the obligation of the Member States and the interaction between European and criminal law in the context of European law enforcement. The second session deals with the influence of European law by criminal law and vice versa in the field of the four freedoms. In the following sessions we examine the emerging of European criminal norms of substantive and procedural criminal law. Further issues on the relation between criminal law, general principles of Union law and human rights are addressed. Special attention is paid to the enforcement of European law by national authorities and on the method of preliminary rulings in criminal law. During the tutorials, students are required to apply advance research and analytical skills such as writing ECJ preliminary reference questions (or answers) and conducting research on the implementing national legislation of European Criminal law instruments. Because of the content of the course, a good knowledge of European law and criminal law is required.

Course objectives

The goal of the course is to examine the influence of European Union law on criminal law and analyse the emergence of European Criminal law norms. The course also aims at a deeper understanding of the practical areas of European Criminal law such as the implementation of EU rules and the preliminary reference procedure before the ECJ.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of European law and of a national criminal justice system.

Recommended reading

Literature:

- André Klip, European Criminal Law: An Integrative Approach, Intersentia, third edition, Cambridge-Antwerpen 2016;
- André Klip, Materials on European Criminal Law, third edition Cambridge-Antwerpen 2017
- Reader with additional literature and case law, as announced in the course book

CRI4007

Period 4

3 Feb 2020

3 Apr 2020

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

[A.H. Klip](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Final paper

Keywords:

European Criminal law, national criminal substantive and procedural law

Faculty of Law

International Criminal Law

Full course description

This master course builds upon earlier acquired basic knowledge of substantive criminal law and criminal procedure and international law, and consists of seven tutorials, as well as several mandatory lectures. In the first week, we will focus on the question of what international criminal law is, how it came into being and why. We will also address the question of whether criminal prosecutions are always the best way to go. Quite a number of states have established Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in some form or found other ways of dealing with the dark pages in their past. What reasons exist for doing so? Next, we will examine who or what can trigger a prosecution and under what conditions international criminal courts and tribunals exercise jurisdiction. Sources of international criminal law, jurisdiction as well as admissibility will hence be the topics discussed in week 2. In week 3 and 4, we will take a closer look at substantive criminal law, namely the four core crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. This has various elements. Over which crimes do the ICTY, ICTR, ICC and several other courts have jurisdiction? When can we speak of genocide? What are the elements of a crime against humanity? What conduct amounts to a war crime? How is aggression defined? In a next step, these crimes need to be connected to a perpetrator: how can individuals become responsible for international crimes? Is the perpetrator individually criminally responsible? What forms of participation are recognized in international criminal law? How is criminal liability imposed in situations of command responsibility? Modes of liability will be looked at in week 5. In week 6, we will identify possible justifications and excuses (defenses) for committing international crimes. Was the person forced to commit the crime? Was s/he acting in self- defense? What role do defenses play in international criminal law more generally? Once a perpetrator has been found guilty, the question arises how s/he should be punished. Which penalties are provided for in the statutes of the international courts and tribunals? What purpose does sentencing serve and how are respective sentences established? And where and under what conditions are sentences enforced? Obligations to cooperate with the international criminal courts and tribunals are related to these questions. These topics will be discussed in week 6. In week 7, we will focus on several contemporary issues and challenges within international criminal law. There are many. Some of these include the challenge of reconciling fair trial rights of the accused with including victims in international criminal proceedings or conducting them in the absence of the accused. Immunities, applicable under public international law but inapplicable under international criminal law are another challenge to the courts and tribunals. How are these challenges handled and

how do states react to this? That will be analyzed in session 7. We will also see how international crimes can be prosecuted at national level.

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to gain a deep understanding of both the substantial and procedural law of the vast and fragmented area of international criminal law. Students will be able to identify the elements of international crimes as well as the modalities of criminal responsibility for those crimes. They shall recognize possible defenses as well as assess different factors relevant for determining a penalty. Students will be taught to distinguish between the different jurisdictional models of international criminal courts and tribunals as well as national criminal justice systems. In addition, the course also aims at a thorough understanding of the choices to be made between national and international prosecution of international crimes. The ability to apply this theoretical knowledge to actual case problems will be the outcome of this course. Lastly, students shall interpret and evaluate the challenges connected to international criminal prosecutions, appraise different answers to these challenges and justify possible alternative international criminal proceedings.

Prerequisites

- Good knowledge of substantive criminal law and criminal procedure
- Basic knowledge of international law, especially international humanitarian law

Recommended reading

- R. Cryer, H. Friman, D. Robinson, E. Wilmshurst, *An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure*, Cambridge University Press 2019, 4th ed.
- Additional literature indicated for each week

CRI4023

Period 5

13 Apr 2020

12 Jun 2020

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

[A.H. Klip](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Final paper

Keywords:

International criminal law / international criminal courts and tribunals / international crimes / individual, responsibility and command responsibility / defenses / sentencing / national prosecutions / transitional justice

Faculty of Law

Forensic Psychopathology

Full course description

Deals primarily with offenders' criminal liability (e.g. the issue of diminished responsibility). Emphasis is put on a number of mental disorders and the meaning and relevance of these disorders in relation to criminal behavior and criminal liability. Special attention will be given to offenders with either psychosis or personality disorders.

Course objectives

- Learning to identify different kinds of psychopathology (e.g., being able to distinguish psychotic disorders from personality disorders); - Obtaining knowledge about the development, symptoms and treatment of these disorders;
- Creating the ability to determine how different types of mental disorders may predispose to criminal behavior (i.e., being able to evaluate how a particular constellation of symptoms can put somebody at risk of committing a certain type of crime);
- Applying the obtained knowledge by critically examining the putative link between psychopathology and criminal behavior in true court cases.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

A reader with articles on forensic psychopathology will be made available.

CRI4016

Year

1 Sep 2019

31 Aug 2020

Period 5

6 Apr 2020

5 Jun 2020

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

[M. Jelacic](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Offenders, criminal responsibility, mental disorders.

Faculty of Law

Organisational Crime

Full course description

Organisational Crime is an elective, specifically designed for students of the master Forensics, Criminology and Law (English and Dutch track), but accessible for students of other master programs as well. Organisational criminology studies violations of rules and ethics (deviant behavior) by legitimate organisations (e.g. corporations, governments, etc.) and their management. In the fields of criminal justice and criminology, it is a relatively new concept. It concerns the kind of offences that were never labeled outright as criminal before, at best, only in an indirect way. As with the concept, the academic field of organisational criminology is relatively new, hence its study is still in its adolescent phase making it a real challenge for practitioners. Many issues are still in dire need of elucidation. Therefore, during tutorial sessions students will deal with a number of sub-aspects about which (academic) discussions are far from reaching a consensus, offering students the opportunity to become actively involved in maturing this fascinating domain. During the first part of the course, the subject matter will be introduced and several different approaches to studying the phenomenon of organisational crime will be discussed. During the second part of the course, we study and analyze different cases of organizational crimes focusing on different levels of analysis (micro, meso, macro) while paying attention to different crucial criminological elements (means, motives, opportunities, control, etc.) The policy implications of different approaches are discussed as well. The critical multidisciplinary approach taken in this course is relevant given the structure and the notions underlying the master in Forensics, Criminology and Law, which takes a multidisciplinary approach to crime and criminal justice in order to develop a more critical understanding of various forensic disciplines in relation to the law.

Course objectives

By the end of the course the participants should have developed the following capacities and accumulated insights in respect of the following areas of substantive knowledge:

Capacity:

- The capacity to conceptualize behaviours and events that belong to the area of interest of organisational criminology.
- The capacity to identify aspects of these behaviours in event that are relevant to categorise them within existing definitions in the discipline.
- The capacity to construct and apply definitions to these behaviours and events to support a critical analysis of why and how they occur.
- Different theoretical explanations that exist for organisational crime at the macro, meso and micro level.
- The capacity to critically reflect on existing and potential measures to limit and prevent instances of organisational crime with due regard for the insights developed regarding the definition and explanation of these events and behaviours.
- The capacity to write an analytical academic paper.
- The capacity to reproduce substantive knowledge built during the course.

- The capacity to apply the knowledge and capacities built during the course in the analysis of a case.
- The capacity to present orally the main research findings of the case study in a concise and coherent manner.

Area of Substantive Knowledge:

- Different definitions that exist in the field of organisational criminology.
- Different theoretical insights and proposals for preventing and limiting instances of organisational crime.

Prerequisites

Prior (basic) courses in criminology are not required but strongly recommended.

Recommended reading

E-reader

CRI4020

Period 4

3 Feb 2020

3 Apr 2020

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

[J.M. Nelen](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Project-Centered Learning

Assessment methods:

Presentation and paper

Keywords:

Corporate crime, white collar crime, state and governmental crime, criminology

Faculty of Law

Criminalistics and Forensic DNA

Full course description

Criminalistics deals with technical evidence in criminal cases. The course is aimed at enabling students to recognise and formulate forensic research opportunities and to create awareness of the need for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and attorneys to ask the right questions to forensic experts in

court. In the course special emphasis will be on DNA, on general reasoning about evidence, and problems of bias.

Course objectives

students should be able to:

- demonstrate a basic understanding of several areas of technical forensic research;
- formulate hypotheses and research questions for criminalistic investigations;
- recognise the correctness of research questions, bias risks, evaluation possibilities, explanations and assumptions;
- express the value of conclusions and the validity of theories based on research findings of forensic areas of expertise;
- recognise prosecutors and defence fallacies in interpreting forensic results;
- distinguish between the source level and activity level of forensic trace evidence;
- formulate the difference in evidential value of macro and micro traces;
- explain the essentials of forensic DNA research and evaluation of DNA fingerprint comparison;
- recognise the value of reference databases for comparison of research results;
- recognise the value of databases for judicial experts in various areas of law.

Recommended reading

- Richard Saferstein, *Criminalistics An Introduction to Forensic Science* (Pearson, Global Edition) Edition 11 (2015). ISBN: 978-1-292-06202-, and
- selected texts in the reader of the course

CRI4026

Period 4

3 Feb 2020

3 Apr 2020

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

D.E.J. Mattheijs

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Final paper

Keywords:

Criminalistics, Forensic Evidence, DNA, Likelihood Ratio, bias

Thesis

Master thesis Forensics, Criminology and Law

Faculty of Law

Master thesis forensica, crimin

LAW4070

Year

1 Sep 2019

31 Aug 2020

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

12.0

Instruction language:

Dutch

Coordinator:

[D.L.F. de Vocht](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam