



Descriptif d'enseignement
Course Description
1^{er} cycle – Fall 2025

Titre du cours / Course Title

Crime and security

Type de cours : CMINT
Langue du cours : English
Level: Bachelor, year 3

Enseignante(s) / Enseignant(s) responsable(s) du cours / Professor(s)

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Horaire du cours / Course schedule

Monday, XXXXX

Zoom link

Monday, XXX: (1) – What makes a crime?
Monday, XXX: (2) – How to measure crime?
Monday, XXX: (3) – Why do we punish crime?
Monday, XXX: (4) – The institutions of punishment

Monday, XXX: (5) – The history of punishment
 Monday, XXX : (6) – Does punishment reduce crime?
Monday, XXXX : no class (“interruption pédagogique”)
 Monday, XXXX : (7) – Situational crime prevention
 Monday, XXXX : (8) – Terrorism
 Monday, XXXX : deadline for reflection paper and research essay (see assignments)

Résumé et objectifs du cours / Course description - Targets

Aims

- To provide a broad overview of concepts and facts in penal studies.
- Will benefit students interested in social science, urban governance and careers in civil service.

Description

Crime and security is a general course in ‘punishment and society’ studies, which discusses large-scale issues (penal paradigms, historical developments in crime control, explanations for the variation of punishment in time and space), different sorts of crime (from homicides to burglaries and drug trafficking, sex work, domestic violence and employee theft), and crime control policies (policing, prisons).

The course will discuss theories, concepts and controversies with an emphasis on existing policies and empirical data. It will mobilize readings from different disciplines (sociology, economics, history, criminology) and using different methods (ethnography, econometrics, meta-analysis), so as to maximize the intellectual benefit for students who are enthusiastic about learning.

Important: The course will adopt a ‘flipped classroom’ approach. Material will be distributed beforehand, and students will actively engage with the material, ask questions, debate issues during class.

Modalités d’évaluation / Assessment

- 33,34% : research essay on a topic TBA (1000-1500 words), deadline TBA (end of semester)
- 33,33% : reflection paper: 1000-1500-word essay where you:
 - o (1) briefly connect to course material from a specific session to your personal experiences, thoughts, or broader implications
 - o (2) provide a reasoned (argument- and fact-based) critique of the course session, including data, charts, graphs, references, all properly sourced
 - o deadline: TBA (end of semester)
- 33,33% : attendance, keeping the camera on, class participation, asking questions

Attendance is not required but makes up 1/3 of your final grade.

Bibliographie indicative par séance / Bibliography

1. What makes a crime?

Crime as an infraction to a social norm vs. crime as an infraction to a law enforced by a political authority; criminalization and decriminalization; types of crimes.

Ben-Yehuda, N. (1980). The European witch craze of the 14th to 17th centuries: A sociologist's perspective. *American Journal of Sociology*, 86(1), 1-31.

2. How to measure crime?

Police statistics, victimization studies, self-reporting studies; perspectives on crime (criminal law, constructivism, left realism).

Biderman, A. D., & Reiss Jr, A. J. (1967). On exploring the "dark figure" of crime. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 374(1), 1-15.

3. Why do we punish crime?

The consequences of crime; consequentialist and retributivist justifications for punishment; abolitionism; social functions of punishment: neoclassical, Durkheimian, critical theories.

Kevin Murtagh, Punishment, *Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*,
<https://iep.utm.edu/punishme/>

4. The institutions of punishment

The state's monopoly on violence and its debates; the centralization of criminal justice; the rise of the police; theorizing the evolution of the actors of law enforcement.

Max Weber, *Politics as a Vocation*, 1919, especially the first pages.

5. The history of punishment

Penal paradigms: the age of torture, the age of prison, penal-welfarism; theories of penal evolution; the inverse relation between welfare and punishment.

David Garland, chapter 2: Modern criminal justice and the penal welfare state. In *The culture of control. Crime and social order in contemporary society*, Oxford University Press, 2001.

6. Does punishment reduce crime?

The effect of the police; the deterrent effect of penal sanctions; the incapacitation effect of prisons; the ambiguous effect of penal sanctions.

Beccaria, *An Essay on Crimes and Punishments*, 1764, selected chapters

7. Situational crime prevention

The situational conception of crime, the principles of situational crime prevention, and the functions of situational crime prevention.

Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson, Social change and crime rate trends: A routine activity approach, *American Sociological Review*, 44 (4), 1979, pp. 588-608.

Clifford D. Shearing and Phillip C. Stenning. From the Panopticon to Disney World: the Development of Discipline. In *Perspectives in Criminal Law: Essays in Honour of John LL.J. Edwards*, edited by Anthony N. Doob and Edward L. Greenspan, Q.C., Canada Law Book Inc, 1984.

8. Terrorism

The problem of definition; theories and causes of terrorism; counter-terrorism strategies.

Rapoport, D. C. (2004). The four waves of modern terrorism. *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press 2004) p, 54, 3-11.

Hegghammer, T. (2013). Should I stay or should I go? Explaining variation in Western jihadists' choice between domestic and foreign fighting. *American Political Science Review*, 1-15.