

COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Course unit code
Criminological Discourses	

Lecturer(s)	Department where the course unit is delivered
Coordinator: Prof. Aleksandras Dobryninas	Department of Sociology

Cycle	Type of the course unit
Second (Master)	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when the course unit is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	Year 2, Autumn semester	Lithuanian, English

Prerequisites
Introduction to Sociology Introduction to Criminology Contemporary sociological theories.

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload	Contact hours	Individual work
6	160	32	128

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed
<p>Generic competences to be developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main aims of the course to provide student with knowledge about discursive variety and peculiarity of social understanding of crime, as well as with basic skills for critical analysis and evaluation of different types of discourses about crime and criminal justice. - Ability to find, analyze, systematize information from various sources. - Cross-cultural understanding and appreciation, especially regarding racial, ethnic, gender, religious differences in values, perception and behavior. - Practical knowledge application and problem-solving ability <p>Subject-specific competences to be developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will be able critically analyse various type of criminological discourses, their peculiarities and impact on criminal justice policy and society. - Understanding of sociology and criminology theories and their development, the ability to apply them for the purpose of the analysis of social criminal justice problems. - The ability to identify and analyze criminological problems - Ability to analyze criminogenic factors by means of application of sociology and criminology theories and methodologies

- Ability to analyze quantitative as well as qualitative criminological information with the application of the methods of statistical analysis, to model, interpret analysis results and forecast the local as well as global criminological processes		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
The students will be able to understand cross-cultural differences, especially regarding differences in values, perception and behaviour, ability to reflect on one's theoretical and practical position in the context of social diversity.		
The students will be able to track, understand and critically assess the sociology and criminological literature of the frontier research, perceive the relation between the sociology innovations and criminology tradition.		
The students will be able to present the application possibilities of the criminological discourses while analysing the local, regional and global social and criminal justice problems for non-professional audiences.		
The students will be able to identify and analyse criminological problems related to definite societal structures and institutions, to analyse the causes and consequences of these problems based on criminological discourses, to present the results of such analysis to different audiences, to offer social political solutions to these problems. Being able to formulate, analyze, solve complicated problems and make decisions having insufficient or limited information available in a new and unfamiliar environments; ability to implement these decisions in a relevant social policy.		
The students will know the main research areas of the related and inter-field disciplines (sociology, law, psychology, etc.), will be able to find relevant information in the scientific sources and apply it in the analysis of the criminological problem. The students will be able to find necessary quantitative and qualitative criminological information from local and international sources, assess the quality of the data presented there, manage the databases and compile quantitative data for analysis.	Analysis of the texts and cases related to the criminal justice	Essay writing (20000 characters)

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Individual work: time and assignments							Assignments
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Individual work	
1. Introduction (The notion of discourse. Characteristics of criminological discourse. Social aspects of criminological knowledge)	2					2	8	Dobryninas, A. et al. (2014) Perception of Criminal Justice in Society. Foucault, M. (1981) The Order of Discourse

								Schutz, A. (1946) The Well-Informed Citizen: An Essay on the Social Distribution of Knowledge
2. Professional criminological discourse (Legal and sociological/psychological paradigms in criminology. Semantic and linguistic analysis of criminological terms. Criminological paradoxes. Contemporary criminological theories)	10					10	40	Beirne, P., Messerschmidt, J. (1991) Criminology. Dobryninas, A. et al. (2014) Perception of Criminal Justice in Society. Henry, S., Milovanovic, D. (1996) Constitutive Criminology: Beyond Postmodernism
3. Public criminological discourse (Public opinion and crime. "Moral panic" and fear of crime. The role of mass media in creation of image of crime in society. Mythological and commercial aspects of "virtualization" of crime)	10					10	40	Cohen, St. (2002) Folk Devil and Moral Panic. Dobryninas, A. (2001) Virtuali nusikaltimų tikrovė/Virtual Reality of Crime. Dobryninas, A. et al. (2014) Perception of Criminal Justice in Society. Ferrel, J., Hayward K., Young, J. (2008) Cultural Criminology.
4. Political criminological discourse (Crime and political ideologies. Notion of criminal justice policy. Political rhetoric in crime control and prevention. Compiling of criminological discourses in post-communist societies. Peculiarities of Lithuanian criminological discourses.)	8					8	32	Dobryninas, A. (1996) Democratic Change and Crime Control in Lithuania: Compiling New Criminological Discourses. Dobryninas, A. et al. (2014) Perception of Criminal Justice in Society. Radzinowicz, L. (1966) Ideology and Crime
5. Closing remarks (Criminological knowledge: between Public Relations and Hermeneutics)	2					2	8	Loader, I., Sparks, R. (2011) Public Criminology? Dobryninas, A. et al. (2014) Perception of Criminal Justice in Society.
Total	32					32	128	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Discussions and group work	20	During all course	Clarity, consistency, contact with others; ability to respond and answer questions, to take part on seminars actively.
Written exam	40	End of the course (January)	Test, consisting of eight closed and open-ended questions. Students are given half point for each correct (true) answer. Length of exam: 30 min.

Essay	40	One week before written exam	<p>20000 characters; clear structure (introduction, main part, conclusions, literature resources); logical consistency, strong theoretical background with demonstrated ability to provide original interpretation of social events and process.</p> <p>4 points original thinking around a clearly articulated thesis; good structure and be well organized; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of the subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge; clear and effective writing style and appropriate referencing format.</p> <p>3 points: clear thesis with sound argumentation; coherent structure and organization of the material understanding of relevant issues; familiarity with the most relevant literature.</p> <p>2 point: clear thesis statement, but little effort is made to structure the paper around an argument; acceptable but uninspired work; no serious faults but will lack style and vigor.</p> <p>1 point: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; no thesis statement is made; weaknesses in critical and analytic skills; major errors are made in discussions of the subject matter; the literature used is limited or irrelevant.</p> <p>0 points No thesis presented.</p>
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Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue No or volume	Publishing house or Internet site
Required reading				
Dobryninas, A.	1996	Democratic Change and Crime Control in Lithuania: Compiling New Criminological Discourses.		http://www.nato.int/acad/fellow/94-96/dobrynin/home.htm
Dobryninas, A., Čėsniėnė, I., Dobrynina, M., Giedraitis, V., Merkevičius, R.	2014	Perception of Criminal Justice in Society		Baltijos kopija
Schutz, A.	1946	The Well-Informed Citizen: An Essay on the Social Distribution of Knowledge. <i>Social Research</i> .	Nr. 13, 4	
Optional reading				
Beirne, P., Messerschmidt, J.	1991	Criminology		HBJ
Cohen, St.	2002	Folk Devil and Moral Panic		Routledge
Dobryninas, A.	2001	Virtuali nusikaltimų tikrovė/Virtual Reality of Crime		Eugrimas
Ferrel, J., Hayward K., Young, J.	2008	Cultural Criminology		SAGE
Foucault, M.	1981	The Order of Discourse		Routledge and Kegan Paul
Henry, S., Milovanovic, D.	1996	Constitutive Criminology: Beyond Postmodernism		SAGE
Loader, I., Sparks, R.	2011	Public Criminology?		Routledge
Radzinowicz, L.	1966	Ideology and Crime		Columbia University Press

