University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Criminology III - Social Theories of crime - lecture, PG_00134365						
Field of study	Criminology and Criminal Justice						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027			
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study			
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery	at the university			
Year of study	2		Language of instruction	English			
Semester of study	3		ECTS credits	5.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	exam			
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Piotr Pawliszak				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		0.0		95.0	125
Subject objectives	The primary objective of this course is to present a broad spectrum of sociological approaches to the problem of crime, drawing on general and specific sociological concepts and theories, as well as other social theories.						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[CCJL3_UK05] Is able to articulate basic statements with the use of specialized terminology characteristic of criminology and related disciplines to a basic extent, present opinions, positions and discuss them in this regard	He/she is able, at a basic level, to formulate statements using specialized sociological terminology specific to criminology and related disciplines, to present opinions and positions on these topics, and to discuss them	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCJL3_WG06] in an advanced degree is aware of the basic principles of criminal responsibility, the principles of punishment, the type of criminal reaction measures used, their basic principles and institutions	He/she has an advanced understanding of the theoretical explanations of the phenomena of crime and social deviance, to which the fundamental principles of criminal liability, the principles of punishment, and the types of criminal sanctions applied—along with their fundamental principles and institutions—apply.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCJL3_KR04] is ready to undertake professional challenges, undertakes effort and is characterized by perseverance in the implementation of individual as well as team activities in the field of criminology and related sciences	The student is ready to take on professional challenges, is willing to work hard, and demonstrates perseverance in carrying out both individual and team-based activities in the fields of criminology and the social sciences	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCJL3_UW04] is able to use theoretical knowledge to solve typical problems related to criminology and the functioning of the national and international justice system, as well as to analyze legal and ethical dilemmas in professional work in this area, and to organize their own research work, plan and conduct simple empirical studies	Students are able to apply theoretical knowledge to solve typical problems related to crime or other types of social deviance, as well as organize their own research, plan, and conduct simple empirical studies	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCJL3_WG01] has an enhanced knowledge of the nature of legal sciences, including, in particular, the branches of law related to the studied major, knows their place in the field of social sciences and understands the relations between them	He/she has a broad understanding of the connections between legal studies and sociology—particularly as they relate to the issue of crime—knows their place within the social sciences, and understands the relationships between them	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

1. Introduction to Social Criminology: Useful General Concepts, Various Typologies of Crime, Victims, and the Victimization Process,
2. Early thinkers (St. Augustine, St. Thomas); classical and neoclassical thinkers (Beccaria, Fielding, Lombroso, Quételet); tensions between positivist and (neo-)classical thinking
3. The positivist and interpretive paradigms: early positivists (Durkheim and the functionalist perspective, Sutherland and the theory of differential association,
4. Merton and the theory of anomie),
5. The Chicago School and the interactionist/interpretive turn, theories concerning youth and deviant subcultures, white-collar crime, labeling theories (Lemert, Becker)
5. Marxism, conflict and neo-Marxist perspectives, non-Marxist critical theories (Simmelian and Weberian), M. Foucault and his *Discipline and Punish*, radical criminology
6. The neoclassical approach and current trends: opportunity theories, drift theory, control theories (neutralization techniques, social control theories, the deterrence doctrine), Wilson, Kelling, Zimbardo, and the “broken windows” theory, Garland and his “Culture of Control”
7. Social learning theories and self-control theories
8. Rational choice theories and economic theories of criminal behavior
9. The feminist perspective in criminology
10. Integration of various theories of crime (principles and selected cases)
11. Mathematical and computer modeling of crime—principles and examples

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Closed-ended (single-answer and multiple-answer) and open-ended questions on the test	50.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

Taylor I., Walton P., Young P. The New Criminology : For a Social Theory of Deviance, current edition.

Barkan S.E. Criminology: A Sociological Understanding, current edition

Supplementary literature	Drzazga E., Grzyba M., Nowe kierunki w kryminologii. Warszawa 2018. The encyclopedia of theoretical criminology, ed. J.M. Miller, vol. 1–2, 2014 G. Sykes, D. Matza, Techniques of Neutralization: A Theory of Delinquency, „American Journal of Sociology” 1957, vol. 22, no. 6, pp. 664–670 R. Agnew, Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency, „Criminology” 1992, vol. 30, pp. 47–88 L. Cohen, M. Felson, Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activities Approach, „American Sociological Review” 1979, vol. 44, pp. 588–608 G. Sykes, D. Matza, Juvenile Delinquency and Subterranean Values, „American Sociological Review” 1961, vol. 26, pp. 712–719 R. Merton, Social Structure and Anomie, „American Sociological Review” 1938, no. 3, pp. 672–682 R. Sampson, W.B. Groves, Community Structure and Crime: Testing Social-Disorganization Theory, „American Journal of Sociology” 1989, vol. 94, pp. 774–802 T. Thornberry, Towards an Interactional Theory of Delinquency, „Criminology” 1987, vol. 25, pp. 863–891 E. Sutherland, White-Collar Criminality, „American Sociological Review” 1940, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 1–12 E. Sutherland, Is „White Collar Crime” Crime?, „American Sociological Review” 1945, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 132–139 D. Garland, Criminological knowledge and its Relation to Power: Foucault’s Genealogy and Criminology Today, „The British Journal of Criminology”, 1992, vol. 32, no. 4, pp. 403–422 D. Garland, The Culture of High Crime Societies: Some Preconditions of Recent „Law and Order” Policies, „The British Journal of Criminology” 2000, vol. 40, no. 3, pp. 347–375 D. Gambetta, Fragments of an economic theory of the mafia, „European Journal of Sociology” 1988, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 127–145 F. Varese, Is Sicily the future of Russia? Private protection and the rise of the Russian Mafia, „European Journal of Sociology”, 2001, vol. 42,

		no. 1, pp. 186–220 E. Lemert, Issues in the Study of Deviance, „The Sociological Quarterly” 1981, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 285–305 C. Wellford, Labelling Theory and Criminology: An Assessment, „Social Problems” 1975, vol. 22, no. 3, pp. 332–345 M. Petrunik, The Rise and Fall of „Labelling Theory”: The Construction and Destruction of a Sociological Strawman, „The Canadian Journal of Sociology” 1980, vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 213–233 H. Corman, N. Mocan, Carrots, Sticks, and Broken Windows, „The Journal of Law & Economics” 2005, vol. 48, no. 1, pp. 235–266 B. Harcourt, J. Ludwig, Broken Windows: New Evidence from New York City and a Five-City Social Experiment, „The University of Chicago Law Review” 2006, vol. 73, no. 1, pp. 271–320
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	What factor accounts for crime rates in the Chicago School’s concentric model? What implications for social policy arise from R. Merton’s concept of deviance?	
Work placement	Not applicable	

Document generated electronically. Does not require a seal or signature.