University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Criminology I (Criminal Biology) - lecture, PG_00207201						
Field of study	Criminology						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027			
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study			
Mode of study	part-time studies		Mode of delivery	at the university			
Year of study	1		Language of instruction	Polish			
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits	2.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	exam			
Conducting unit	Laboratory of Neurobiology -> Department of Animal and Human Physiology -> Faculty of Biology -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Wojciech Glac				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	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	15		0.0		35.0	50
Subject objectives	• learning and understanding the neurobiological and social determinants of crime • learning and understanding the brain mechanisms underlying antisocial and criminal behavior • learning and understanding the mechanisms underlying the interactions between social and biological factors in their mutual influence on an individual's antisocial and criminal behavior						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[KRYML3_U01] Is able to apply theoretical knowledge in criminology and related scientific disciplines to analyse, interpret, and solve complex and non-routine problems related to crime and security in changing and not fully predictable conditions. The graduate is able to communicate with the environment, justify their own position, and independently plan and pursue lifelong learning.	Is able to apply knowledge of criminal biology to interpret the causes of criminal behavior and to assess an individual's vulnerability to criminal behavior based on their biological traits and social environment.	[SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[KRYML3_W02] Has advanced knowledge of terminology and key concepts in criminology, law, and related disciplines relevant to the field of study.	Demonstrates advanced knowledge of criminal biology, including the neurobiological basis of antisocial and criminal behavior, as well as the social determinants of criminality.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[KRYML3_K02] Is prepared to responsibly prepare for professional work, appropriately set priorities and plan activities, as well as responsibly perform professional roles, including adherence to the principles of professional ethics and maintaining professional standards. The graduate is able to independently make decisions, critically evaluate their own actions, the actions of teams in which they participate or which they lead, and accept responsibility for the consequences of undertaken actions, while promoting and disseminating proper patterns of conduct both in the workplace and outside it.		

Subject contents

- theories about the causes of crime
- the role of genes and environment in the development of crime
- human behavior and its regulation, emotions, motivation, drive reactions, free will, learning and conditioning
- brain mechanisms influencing susceptibility to antisocial and criminal behavior and their inter-individual variability
- brain mechanisms leading to antisocial and criminal behavior carried out in the so-called with passion and premeditation
- the impact of mental disorders and personality disorders on the tendency to commit criminal behavior
- biological differences between women and men and their impact on the tendency to engage in criminal behavior

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
problem-based task	51.0%	50.0%
discussions	51.0%	10.0%
elaborations	51.0%	20.0%
quizzes	51.0%	20.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	any academic textbook on criminology
Supplementary literature	• Niehoff, 2001. Biologia przemocy. Poznan. • Noir i Jessel, 1998. Zbrodnia rodzi sie w mozgu: Zagadka biologicznych uwarunkowan przestepczosci. Ksiazka i Wiedza. Longstaff, 2002. Neurobiologia, PWN. • Sadowski, 2005. Biologiczne mechanizmy zachowania sie ludzi i zwierzat. PWN.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

- quiz - indicate the theses that correctly describe the theory [name of the theory]
- elaborations - create a mind map illustrating various sociological factors that predispose to crime
- problem-based task (case study) - based on the described story, indicate and justify what biological and social factors predisposed the perpetrator to the crime and indicate what interventions should be taken to prevent the crime
- discussion - topic: whether specific biological predispositions should be treated as factors influencing the sentence

Work placement

Not applicable

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