

Subject card

Subject name and code	Death Penalty. History, Philosophy, Criminal Law - lecture, PG_00173818						
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		Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Tomasz Snarski				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20
	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	20		0.0		30.0	50
Subject objectives	Students should be encouraged to absorb and comprehend the theoretical underpinnings and philosophical framework of criminal justice. the capacity to identify and talk about the primary concerns surrounding the idea of criminal punishment and the death penalty. to comprehend and absorb the death penalty conceptual grid, fundamental knowledge about the death penalty's global applicability, and international human rights laws pertaining to the death penalty. to develop one's own position on the death penalty with logical support and to be able to conduct a philosophical and legal discussion on the topic. to increase understanding of fundamental ideas in the philosophy and doctrines of criminology, penology, and criminal law. to equip students with the ability to critically and independently think about the fundamental ideas of criminal law. to enhance pupils' comprehension of the conflict between retentionism and abolitionism.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[KRYML3_K01] Is aware of the level of his knowledge and skills, and understands the need for lifelong learning and the need to expand professional competence and qualifications, as well as to improve skills		
	[KRYML3_U02] Is able to analyse social phenomena, participate in debates, present and critically evaluate different viewpoints, and discuss them using specialised terminology. Is also able to identify and analyse moral and legal dilemmas in professional practice.		
	[KRYML3_W03] Has advanced knowledge and understanding of facts, theories, methods, and complex relationships concerning selected phenomena related to prohibited acts, in particular key social and psychological phenomena relevant to criminology, as well as their social, psychological, and cultural determinants.		
	[KRYML3_W02] Has advanced knowledge of terminology and key concepts in criminology, law, and related disciplines relevant to the field of study.		
Subject contents	1) The concept of criminal punishment 2) The concept of the death penalty 3) The history of the death penalty 4) The validity of the death penalty 5) Abolitionism, retentionism and moderate positions 6) The death penalty and human rights 7) Criminal theories towards the death penalty 8) Concepts of justice and the death penalty 9) The death penalty in Poland 10) Attitudes of selected religions towards the death penalty. Ethical evaluation of the death penalty.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	None		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	esej	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	1. J. Warylewski, Kara. Podstawy historyczne i filozoficzne, Gdańsk 2007 2. J.A. Świdziński, Kara śmierci. W obronie życia ludzkiego, Kraków 2009 3. B. Bartusiak, Kara śmierci w świetle sporu o racjonalizację kary, Warszawa 2011 4. M. H. Kramer, The Ethics of Capital Punishment, Oxford 2011 5. R. J. Sider (red.), The Early Church on Killing, Michigan 2012 6. E. Feser, J. M. Bessete, By Man Shall His Blood Be Shed, San Francisco 2006 7. E. Christian Brugger, Capital Punishment and Roman Catholic Moral Tradition, Notre Dame, Indiana 2014 8. A. Sarat, When The State Kills. Capital Punishment and American Condition, New Jersey 2001 9. M. Cieślak, Problem kary śmierci (artykuł dyskusyjny), "Państwo i Prawo" 1966, z. 12 10. W. Osiatyński, Prawa człowieka i ich granice, Kraków 2011 11. P. Bartula, Kara śmierci. Powracający dylemat, Kraków 2007 12. T. Snarski, Kościół katolicki wobec kary śmierci. Między prawem a filozofią i teologią, Warszawa 2021 13. Universality of Punishment, A. Incampo, W. Żelaniec (red.), Bari 2015. 14. https://www.handsoffcain.info/
	Supplementary literature	---
	eResources addresses	Basic https://www.handsoffcain.info/ - Hands Off Cain is a league of citizens and parliamentarians for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide. It was founded in Brussels in 1993. Hands Off Cain (HOC) is a non-profit organisation, recognised in 2005 by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The question of the death penalty's moral acceptability Human rights protection and the death penalty Concerns about the death penalty from a philosophical and legal standpoint The death penalty's history and execution techniques	
Work placement	Not applicable	