



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Criminology and Police Work

1KR110 Kriminologi I, 30 högskolepoäng

Criminology I, 30 credits

Main field of study

Criminology

Subject

Other Subjects within Social Science

Level

First cycle

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2024-11-11.

Revised 2025-03-11. Revision of examination and course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2025.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for university studies and Mathematics 2a alt. Mathematics 2b alt. Mathematics 2c, Social studies 1b alt. Social studies 1a1 + 1a2.

Objectives

Module 1, Introduction to Criminology, 15 credits

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- account for the implications in society in relation to criminological theories,
- place theories of criminology in a historical as well as a social context,
- analyse critically certain specific areas within the field of criminology, such as social class, gender and ethnicity in relation to different phenomena of crime,

- problematise various depictions of crime, such as how crime is depicted in the media and within popular culture,
- account for principles within general jurisprudence and their relevance to research in criminology.

Module 2, Criminal Policy and Crime Prevention in Sweden, 7.5 credits

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- identify and discuss ethical implications of crime prevention measures taken in society,
- challenge various assertions of the effects of crime prevention on the development of crime and society,
- account for and discuss critically the fundamental theories of penalty in relation to issues of criminal law,
- problematise the implications on society of the criminal policy.

Module 3, Introduction to Criminological Method, 7.5 credits

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- reason about advantages and disadvantages of different methods in relation to defined issues within criminology,
- problematise statistically founded statements about crime and the development of crime,
- reason about and problematise how the choice of method is related to the purpose and issues as well as research ethical choices.

Content

The course discusses current and historical issues and research fields in criminology. Module 1 is an introduction to the theory of criminology, societal perspectives on crime, and general jurisprudence. Module 2 discusses perspective of criminal policy in relation to crime prevention, focusing on punishment and an introduction to general jurisprudence and the criminal law. Module 3 is an introduction to methodological approaches in criminological research and knowledge production.

The course contains three modules:

Module 1, Introduction to Criminology, 15 credits

The module is an introduction to the disciplinary and theoretical foundation and development of criminology, and its relation to other scientific disciplines. The relation of criminology to politics and practice are also discussed, as well as knowledge of how we may understand the structure, extent and development of crime and the role of the mass media in terms of how our view on criminality is treated. One of the key themes in the course is criminological theories at the individual, group and societal levels. The course also offers a basic introduction to the general jurisprudence.

Module 2, Criminal Policy and Crime Prevention in Sweden, 7.5 credits

The course covers for instance the roles of criminal policy and the judiciary in relation to how crime is managed. It focuses on how the view on crime prevention is related to for instance the internationalisation of criminal policy and the role of the police in the criminal policy discourse, and whether or not imprisonment and harsher punishment are

considered effective measures in order to reduce crime. The module also includes a basic introduction to Swedish criminal law.

Module 3, Introduction to Criminological Method, 7.5 credits

The course provides an introduction to qualitative as well as quantitative methods. The course is based on data collection methods, i.e. ways of acquiring empirical material, but also ways of sorting and assessing the applicability of empirical material to find answers to criminological issues. The course also provides further knowledge of how we can study and understand the public crime statistics presented in module 1, and what the alternative sources are for these statistics used within criminology. An introduction to issues within the field of the theory of science and the significance to the planning of empirical studies is also included.

Type of Instruction

Instruction consists of lectures and seminars.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Module 1, Introduction to Criminology, 15 credits

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of two written examinations and seminars.

Module 2, Criminal Policy and Crime Prevention in Sweden, 7.5 credits

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of seminars, and through one individual written assignment in the form of a paper.

Module 3, Introduction to Criminological Method, 7.5 credits

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of one written examination, and one group assignment to be presented in writing as well as orally.

In order to receive a grade of Pass in the course, the course objectives must be attained.

For a grade of Pass with Distinction in the entire course, it is required that at least 15 credits are assessed as Pass with Distinction.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University's Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels.

In the event that a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation should be conducted during the course or in connection with its conclusion. The results and analysis of the completed course evaluation should be promptly communicated to students who have completed the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:

1KR100 Criminology I, 30 credits, 1KR105 Introduction to Criminology, 15 credits.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Module 1, Introduction to Criminology, 15 credits

Bäckman, Olof, Estrada, Felipe, Nilsson, Anders & Sivertsson, Fredrik (latest edition). *Den ojämlika brottsligheten: Lagföringsutvecklingen i demografiska och socioekonomiska grupper 1973-2017*. Rapport 2020:1. Stockholm: Kriminologiska institutionen, Stockholms universitet. (150 p.). (Available on the Internet).

von Hofer, Hanns (latest edition). *Brott och straff i Sverige: historisk kriminalstatistik 1750-2010 : diagram, tabeller och kommentarer*. Stockholm: Kriminologiska institutionen, Stockholms universitet. (303 p.). (Available on the Internet).

Lilly, J. Robert, Cullen, Francis T. & Ball, Richard A. (latest edition). *Criminological Theory: context and consequences*. SAGE Publications Inc, Thousand Oaks, California. (592 p.).

Nationella trygghetsundersökningen NTU 2020. Brå rapport 2020: Om utsatthet, otrygghet och förtroende. (2020). Norstedts Juridik AB. ISBN: 9789188599322. (243 p., selected parts ca. 150 p.).

Newburn, Tim (latest edition). *Criminology*. London: Routledge. (1144 p., selected parts ca. 500 p.).

Publications and other texts are also included, comprising a maximum of 200 pages.

Module 2, Criminal Policy and Crime Prevention in Sweden, 7.5 credits

Andersson, Robert & Nilsson, Roddy (latest edition). *Svensk kriminalpolitik*. Stockholm: Liber. (334 p.).

Andersson, Robert, Pedersson, Anders & Wahlgren, Paula (eds.) (latest edition). *Brottsprevention: teori, praktik och historia*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. (408 p.).

Lab, Steven P. (latest edition). *Crime prevention: approaches, practices, and evaluations*. Routledge, London. (456 p., selected parts ca. 100 p.).

Newburn, Tim (latest edition). *Criminology*. London: Routledge. (1144 p., selected parts ca. 300 p.).

Module 3, Introduction to Criminological Method, 7.5 credits

Barmark, Mimmi & Djurfeldt, Göran (latest edition). *Statistisk verktyglåda 0*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. (192 p.).

Bryman, Alan (latest edition). *Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder*. Stockholm: Liber. (877 p.).

Engdahl, Oskar (latest edition). *Brottsligheten kartlagd. Källor, metoder och utvecklingstendenser i det samtida Sverige*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. (288 p.).

Newburn, Tim (latest edition). *Criminology*. London: Routledge. (1144 p., selected parts, ca. 100 p.).

Vetenskapsrådet (latest edition). *God forskningssed*. (ca 125 s). Available on the Internet.

Publications and other texts are also included, comprising a maximum of 200 pages.