

1. OVERVIEW

Subject Area	GENERAL CRIMINAL LAW
Degree	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN LAW
School/Faculty	FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Year	SECOND
ECTS	6 ECTS
Type	COMPULSORY
Language(s)	SPANISH
Delivery Mode	ON CAMPUS
Semester	SECOND

2. INTRODUCTION

This subject area offers students an introduction to theories of crime and punishment.

The general principles of crime and punishment present criminal law as an empirical science and recognise the power of the State to impose penalties where the basic expectations of a harmonious society are violated.

All areas of law involve some kind of protection under criminal law, so future graduates will have to know the minimum requirements of criminal law and the theoretical foundations underpinning them.

At the end of the subject area, students will be prepared to apply this knowledge to the working world.

3. SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Basic skills (CB, by the acronym in Spanish):

- CB1: Students have demonstrated possession and understanding of knowledge in a study area that builds on general secondary education, and is typically at a level that, while supported by advanced textbooks, also includes aspects that involve knowledge from the forefront of their field of study.
- CB2: Students can apply their knowledge to their work professionally and possess the necessary skills, usually demonstrated by forming and defending opinions, as well as resolving problems within their study area.
- CB3: Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant information (usually within their study area) to form opinions which include reflecting on relevant social, scientific or ethical matters.
- CB4: Students can communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- CB5: Students have developed the learning skills necessary to undertake further study in much more independent manner.

Cross-curricular skills (CT, as per the Spanish acronym):

- CT4: Written/spoken communication: Ability to communicate and gather information, ideas, opinions and viewpoints to understand and be able to act, spoken through words or gestures or written through words and/or graphic elements.
- CT05: Interpersonal understanding: Students should be able to actively listen for the purpose of reaching agreements, using an assertive communication style.
- CT6: Adaptability: Be able to accept, consider and integrate different perspectives, adapting your own approach as required by the situation at hand, and to work effectively in ambiguous situations.
- CT07: Teamwork: Students should be able to actively participate in achieving a common objective by listening, respecting and valuing the ideas and proposals of the other members of their team.

Specific skills (CE, as per the Spanish acronym):

- CE01: Know and understand the components, structure, resources, interpretation and application of the legal system, and interpret the sources and fundamental legal concepts of the different legal systems.
- CE04: Interpret legal texts from an interdisciplinary perspective, applying legal principle as well as social, ethical and moral principles and values as tools for analysis.
- CE06: Deliver a convincing legal argument with regard to a theoretical question related to one of the different areas of law.
- CE08: Skilfully and accurately use the legal language and terminology used in different areas of law. Write up legal documents, ensuring they are orderly and understandable. Use written and spoken communication to express ideas, legal arguments and reasoning using the appropriate register for the context in question.
- CE12: Develop critical awareness in the study of the legal system.

Learning outcomes (RA, as per the Spanish acronym):

- RA1: Understanding of abstract situations of criminal law and the ability to explain and discuss them.
- RA2: Participation in debates, demonstrating initiative and skill in the resolution of criminal disputes and the use of legal alternatives.
- RA3: Submission and presentation of research projects and objective written tests that highlight concrete criminal issues and offer solutions based on law.

The following table shows how the skills developed in the course match up with the intended learning outcomes:

Skills	Learning outcomes
CB1, CB4, CT4, CT5, CT7, CE1, CE6, CE12	RA1. Understanding of abstract situations of criminal law and the ability to explain and discuss them.
CB1, CB4, CB5, CT4, CT5, CT7, CE1, CE4, CE12	RA2. Participation in debates, demonstrating initiative and skill in the resolution of criminal disputes and the use of legal alternatives.

CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT7, CE1, CE6, CE12	RA3. Submission and presentation of research projects and objective written tests that highlight concrete criminal issues and offer solutions based on law.

4. CONTENTS

The subject area is divided into six learning units, which are then divided into topics (three or four topics depending on the unit):

Unit 1. The Science of Criminal Law. Purpose and systematics of the disciplines within the study of Criminology.

- 1.1. Objective criminal law
- 1.2. Subjective criminal law
- 1.3. Rules of criminal law
- 1.4. The principle of legality and sources of criminal law

Unit 2. Consequences of the Principle of Criminal Legality

- 2.1. Interpretation of criminal law
- 2.2. Time limitations of criminal law
- 2.3. Space limitations of criminal law
- 2.4. International criminal cooperation

Unit 3. Theory of Crime 1

- 3.1. Action as the primary element of crime
- 3.2. Criminality. Objective elements of crimes of action
- 3.3. Criminality. Objective elements of crimes of omission
- 3.4. Criminality. Subjective elements of crime: intent and recklessness

Unit 4. Theory of Crime 2

- 4.1. Unlawfulness
- 4.2. Responsibility 1
- 4.3. Responsibility 2
- 4.4. Incrimination

Unit 5. Theory of Crime 3

- 5.1. The so-called *iter criminis*
- 5.2. Perpetration and participation
- 5.3. Concurrent offences and concurrent laws
- 5.4. Modifying factors of responsibility

Unit 6. Legal Consequences of Crime

- 6.1. Types of punishment
- 6.2. Determination of punishment and sentencing
- 6.3. Enforcement of custodial sentences and alternative punishments

5. TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS

The types of teaching/learning methods are as follows:

- Lecture.
- Methodology
- Collaborative learning.
- Problem-based learning
- Mock scenarios.

6. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The types of learning activities, plus the amount of time spent on each activity, are as follows:

On-campus:

Learning activity	Number of hours
Lectures	30 h
Solve practical case studies that relate to a certain branch of law (real and fictional).	35 h
Carry out research and systemic analysis of legal institutions.	35 h
Active and informed participation in group activities in the classroom.	17.5 h
Development of legal argumentation technique.	15 h
Knowledge test	5 h
Academic tutorials	12.5 h
TOTAL	150 h

7. ASSESSMENT

The assessment methods, plus their weighting in the final grade for the course, are as follows:

On-campus:

Assessment system	Weighting
Knowledge test	40%
Reports and written work	20%
Practical exercises (learning portfolio)	30%
Spoken presentations	10%

On the Virtual Campus, when you open the subject area, you can see all the details of your assessment activities, including the deadlines and assessment procedures for each activity.

8. PLAGIARISM RULES

In line with the disciplinary rules for students of Universidad Europea:

- Plagiarism of all or part of any kind of intellectual work is considered a serious offence.
- Any student who commits the serious offence of plagiarism or cheating to pass an assessment test shall be disqualified from the corresponding exam(s), with the offence and reason for disqualification appearing on their academic record.