

Course: Criminological Theory

Code: KA723E

Term: Spring term 2016

Registered students: 28 (course evaluation response 53.57%)

This course consists of lectures, seminars, oral presentations and written assignments where the application of theoretical knowledge to the study of criminology is explored.

Summary

The summary course evaluation shows that the vast majority of the students judged the course to be interesting, challenging and rewarding. The most common critical concern, expressed by three students, pertained to the assignments and expectations of the course: they felt that the readings were too difficult and that they would have liked to have had more time between seminars. Despite the difficulty of the literature, most of the students thought the reading greatly help achieve the goals (4.7 mean).

Other comments concerning the seminars were very positive (learning together as a group through dialog; 3.9 mean), but there was some concern that the group size was too large (14 students), which negatively affected student participation. Seminar assignments where also appreciated (4.9 mean), but some students thought they consumed too much time, with too little feedback. Students also thought that the group assignments (poster presentations) helped to achieve the course goals (4.4).

As regards to the lectures, students found them to be inspiring and the most rewarding component for their learning experiences. One student appreciated the high expectations that I had for the class which were demonstrated during the lectures. All considered the lectures to be a fundamental part of the course. Generally, students considered the course to be demanding and welcomed the expectation that workloads and subject matters were challenging.

Reflections on student comments and future changes

Group size in relation to student participation is also an issue that has been considered and discussed with the program director. Exactly how numbers will be kept down to boost participation is under discussion, but one obvious consideration is by dividing students into subgroups, as well as allocating more responsibility to students to lead discussions will also be considered.