

Preliminary – subject to change

Descriptif d'enseignement  
*Course Description*  
1<sup>er</sup> cycle – fall 2024

### *Titre du cours / Course Title*

#### **Crime and security**

Type de cours : CMINT  
Langue du cours : English  
Level: Bachelor, year 3

### *Enseignante(s) / Enseignant(s) responsable(s) du cours / Professor(s)*

François Bonnet  
Contact : [francois.bonnet@umrpacte.fr](mailto:francois.bonnet@umrpacte.fr)

### *Horaire du cours / Course schedule*

Monday, 13h-15h

Zoom link: <https://univ-grenoble-alpes-fr.zoom.us/j/98153930092?pwd=yB1PBFbFtQNOIII1AAKktDdpivdaUb.1>

Secret code: 21750

Meeting ID: 98 153 930 092

October 7 – (1) - What makes a crime?  
October 14 – (2) - How to measure crime?  
October 21 – (3) - Why do we punish crime?  
October 28 – “*interruption pédagogique*” – *no class*  
November 4 – (4) Inside prison  
November 11 – *French holiday* – *no class*  
November 18 – (5) - The institutions of punishment  
November 25 – (6) - The history of punishment  
December 2 – (7) - Does punishment reduce crime?  
December 9 – (8) - Decriminalizing crime  
December 16 – (9) – Contemporary developments in extreme penal situations

## Résumé et objectifs du cours / Course description - Targets

### Aims

- To provide a broad overview of concepts and facts in penal studies.
- Will benefit students interested in social science, urban governance and careers in civil service.

### Description

*Crime and security* is a general course in ‘punishment and society’ studies, which discusses large-scale issues (penal paradigms, historical developments in crime control, explanations for the variation of punishment in time and space), different sorts of crime (from homicides to burglaries and drug trafficking, sex work, domestic violence and employee theft), and crime control policies (policing, prisons).

The course will discuss theories, concepts and controversies with an emphasis on existing policies and empirical data. It will mobilize readings from different disciplines (sociology, economics, history, criminology) and using different methods (ethnography, econometrics, meta-analysis), so as to maximize the intellectual benefit for students who are enthusiastic about learning.

## Modalités d'évaluation / Assessment

- 50% : group exposé (class 8 and 9)
  - o The group exposé deals with one of four topics. It is prepared throughout the semester in coordination with the lecturer. It is presented on class 8 or 9
  - o Consists of a mini-lecture of 30 minutes with a detailed powerpoint presentation, richly illustrated with maps, graphs, tables, figures, data points; all referenced.
- 50% : individual final essay:
  - o due on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 23:59
  - o The essay is about 4 pages long, single spaced; every claim is referenced; the essay is rich in maps, graphs, tables, figures, data points.

## Bibliographie indicative par séance / Bibliography

### 1. What makes a crime?

Crime as an infraction to a social norm vs. crime as an infraction to a law enforced by a political authority; criminalization and decriminalization; types of crimes.

Ben-Yehuda, N. (1980). The European witch craze of the 14th to 17th centuries: A sociologist's perspective. *American Journal of Sociology*, 86(1), 1-31.

## 2. How to measure crime?

Police statistics, victimization studies, self-reporting studies; perspectives on crime (criminal law, constructivism, left realism).

Biderman, A. D., & Reiss Jr, A. J. (1967). On exploring the "dark figure" of crime. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 374(1), 1-15.

## 3. Why do we punish crime?

The consequences of crime; consequentialist and retributivist justifications for punishment; abolitionism; social functions of punishment: neoclassical, Durkheimian, critical theories.

Kevin Murtagh, Punishment, *Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*, <https://iep.utm.edu/punishme/>

## 4. Inside prison – with guest lecturer Solenn Lebre

Didier Fassin, *Prison worlds*, Polity: 2016, selected chapters.

## 5. The institutions of punishment

The state's monopoly on violence and its debates; the centralization of criminal justice; the rise of the police; theorizing the evolution of the actors of law enforcement.

Max Weber, *Politics as a Vocation*, 1919, especially the first pages.

## 6. The history of punishment

Penal paradigms: the age of torture, the age of prison, penal-welfarism; theories of penal evolution; the inverse relation between welfare and punishment.

David Garland, chapter 2: Modern criminal justice and the penal welfare state. In *The culture of control. Crime and social order in contemporary society*, Oxford University Press, 2001.

## 7. Does punishment reduce crime?

The effect of the police; the deterrent effect of penal sanctions; the incapacitation effect of prisons; the ambiguous effect of penal sanctions.

Beccaria, *An Essay on Crimes and Punishments*, 1764, selected chapters

## 8. Decriminalizing crime

*Group exposé*: experiences of decriminalization  
*Group exposé*: the Ferguson effect

## 9. Contemporary developments in extreme penal situations

*Group exposé:* challenges to the state's monopoly on violence in Haïti

*Group exposé:* penal expansion in El Salvador

### **Final essay: drug related topics**

Historical overview of the drug trade

Drug use and crime: the relationship between drug use and criminal activity

Drug markets in urban settings: open-air drug markets and their influence on local communities

International drug policy: comparative approaches to drug control around the world

Drugs and the Dark Web

The economics of the drug trade: how drugs influence local, national, and global economies

Narco-states

The impact of drug-related violence on communities: how drug-related crime affects local economies, safety, families, and social structures

The financial burden of drug-related health care: costs associated with treating addiction, overdoses, and related health issues

The money laundering of drug trafficking revenues

Drug use and homelessness: the relationship between substance abuse and housing insecurity

Cannabis: production, networks, transport, market, effects, issues

Cocaine: production, networks, transport, market, effects, issues

Heroin and opioids: production, networks, transport, market, effects, issues

Synthetic drugs: production, networks, transport, market, effects, issues