

6TH FLOOR, KRAMER LAW FACULTY
MIDDLE CAMPUS, UCT

B Soc Sci Honours IN Criminal Justice



Centre of **Criminology**

Africa focused. Globally engaged.

COURSE INFORMATION

The B.Soc.Sc (Honours) in Criminal Justice [PBL02] is offered by the Centre of Criminology in the Faculty of Law. The Centre of Criminology is a research unit linked to the Department of Public Law. The Department of Public Law offers degrees in both the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Humanities. The Centre of Criminology is a research unit linked to the Department of Public Law.

The course load is 120 HEQF credits.

Admission requirements:

- (a) Faculty requirements are set out under Rules FH3:
- (b) Specialisation requirements: A sound Bachelor's degree in the Humanities.

Programme Convenors:

Dr Lufuno Sadiki (lufuno.sadiki@uct.ac.za)

Dr Reema Nunlall-Hiralal (reema.nunlall@uct.ac.za)

Prescribed Curriculum:

The prescribed curriculum is as follows:

		HEQF credits	HEQF level
PBL4804F	Crime and Criminology	24	8
PBL4810F	Research Methods in Criminology & Criminal Justice	24	8
PBL4807S	The Criminal Justice Ecosystem	24	8
PBL4809S	Crime and Social Control in Africa	24	8
PBL4806H	Honours Research Paper	24	8

Weighting of components:

The five components of the specialisation are of equal value. To be awarded the degree not less than 50% must be obtained for each component of the degree.



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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

1

PBL4804F CRIME AND CRIMINOLOGY

Course convener: Dr Lufuno Sadiki

Entrance requirements: Acceptance for Honours programme

This course enables students to understand the multifaceted nature of crime, justice and policy in South Africa through a criminological lens. The course's central goal is to examine societal factors linked to criminal activity, encouraging a thorough critique of the criminal justice system, the processes by which criminal behaviour is defined and the societal reactions to crime and deviance. Firstly, the course engages with key criminological debates addressing the question of what constitutes crime -- challenging taken-for-granted perceptions of crime and considering criminological arguments relating to the social construction of crime and deviance. Second, the course delves into what we know about crime, including the different sources of crime data, definitions and measurement ranging from official crime statistics to alternative methods of gathering this information. Last, the course examines the form and content of crime policy with particular emphasis on the impact of global perspectives on policy-making and examining decolonial approaches to shaping crime policy. Through innovative learning methods the course therefore encourages students to engage with real-world criminological challenges and enables them to critically evaluate the discourse on crime and justice in South Africa.

2

PBL4810F RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Course convener: A/Prof Kelley Moulton & Dr Sisanda Mguzulwa

Entrance requirements: Acceptance for Honours programme

This course will provide an overview of the research enterprise in criminology and criminal justice; differentiate between types of research designs; consider a range of data collection techniques and develop critical skills for evaluating research. The course focuses on issues relevant to the practice of criminological research with the view to building research literacy and instilling a robust grasp of the principles and goals of social research. Through practical engagement with the logistics, politics and ethics of various research techniques the course is designed to develop students' skills as critical consumers of research and enhance their ability to identify practical and methodological challenges and employ strategies to address these.

3

PBL4807S THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ECOSYSTEM

Course convener: A/Prof Irvin Kinnes

Entrance requirements: Acceptance for Honours programme

The aim of this course is to offer students a basic understanding of the criminal justice ecosystem, covering key aspects such as policing, the court system and corrections. In theme and perspective, it provides an analysis of the various actors involved in the administration of justice in South Africa, extending beyond the state system to understand the role of actors like civil society, the private sector and other actors' significant influence on the justice system landscape. During the course students will also be introduced to traditional African systems of conflict resolution as historically rooted alternative justice mechanisms. The course aims to discuss access to justice and security in the broader context of development, offering a holistic view of the wider criminal justice ecosystem and the actors who take part in the criminal justice process.

4

PBL4807S CRIME AND SOCIAL CONTROL IN AFRICA

Course convener: Dr Lufuno Sadiki

Entrance requirements: Acceptance for Honours programme

This course will provide an in-depth examination of contemporary crime issues and their control in Africa, emphasising the linkages between crime, social control, policy and development from different perspectives. The course will examine the implications for regulating social order in developing contexts and will equip students with a thorough understanding of contemporary crime at regional, national, and local levels within Africa, incorporating an analysis of significant crime debates and traditional and modern African systems of conflict resolution and justice. The course seeks to familiarise students with key concepts and theoretical perspectives relevant to the field and to examine the contribution of criminology in studying crime control in Africa. The course will examine crime trends prevalent on the continent, and engage with state failure and the challenges it poses to crime control and social regulation. In doing so the course examines the security-development nexus and its implications for crime control and policy development in Africa.

5

PBL4806H RESEARCH PAPER

Course Convenors: Dr Lufuno Sadiki & Dr Reema Nunlall-Hiralal

Entrance requirements: Acceptance for Honours programme

Using an inquiry-driven methodology, this course emphasises critical thinking and the practical application of research skills, preparing students for future endeavours and postgraduate research in criminology and associated fields. Candidates are expected to demonstrate the ability to produce a well-researched, rigorous and thought-provoking piece of work addressing a prescribed problem in the field of criminology. The course supports students through project design, data collection and analysis and presentation of research findings, and encourages to engage with potential impacts for policy and practice.