UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
CRIMINAL PREVENTION AND URBAN VIOLENCE

Academic Year 2026/2027

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

SECURITY AND JUSTICE

3. Cycle

4. Course Unit

CRIMINAL PREVENTION AND URBAN VIOLENCE (X4007)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	15,00
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

7,50

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor SÉRGIO RICARDO COSTA CHAGAS FELGUEIRAS

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

To provide an in-depth understanding of criminal prevention models and the dynamics of domestic violence, integrating situational, social learning and critical theoretical perspectives with intervention practices, public policies and victim protection.

15. Specific Objectives

Identify and compare criminological theories with preventive implications; analyse cognitive scripts, neutralisation techniques and social learning of criminal behaviour; understand situational and community prevention models; master the domestic violence legal framework; and apply risk assessment instruments.

16. Skills to be acquired

Critical and non-discriminatory analysis of security policies; application of situational and social criminal diagnostic methodologies; development of prevention plans; evidence-based domestic violence intervention; interinstitutional coordination; and technical communication in multidisciplinary justice and security settings.

17. Teaching Methodology

Theoretical-practical teaching using lectures, real case analysis, critical literature review, comparative case studies, seminars with practitioners and group work. Active learning through diagnostic exercises, intervention simulations and critical analysis of national and European policies.

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18. Course Unit Program

PART I CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORIES AND PREVENTION

1. Concept and evolution of criminal prevention; primary, secondary and tertiary models
2. Routine Activity Theory; Rational Choice Theory and bounded rationality (Simon; Cornish & Clarke)
3. Offender cognitive scripts and the tipping-point model (Nee; Yerkes-Dodson)
4. Techniques of neutralisation (Sykes & Matza): how offenders justify criminal behaviour
5. Differential association and social learning: transmission of criminal behaviour through peer networks (Sutherland & Cressey; Akers)
6. Social Disorganisation Theory (Shaw & McKay) and collective efficacy (Sampson)
7. Anomie and structural strain theory (Merton; Barlow & Kauzlarich)
8. Critical criminology: class, gender, race and the limits of situational prevention (DeKeseredy)

PART II ? SITUATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREVENTION

9. Situational prevention: CPTED, hot spots and crime opportunity reduction techniques

10. Urban design and planning for crime prevention (Schneider & Kitchen)

11. Lighting as a preventive tool: reactive vs. proactive ambient illumination

12. Crime Pattern Theory: nodes, paths and buffer zones (Brantingham)

13. Repeat and near-repeat victimisation: temporal windows of heightened risk

14. Neighbourhood Watch: evidence of effectiveness, limits and profiling risks

PART III ? PUBLIC SECURITY POLICIES

15. Institutional security architecture in Portugal: actors and coordination

16. Local Security Contracts and proximity policing

17. National and European strategies; evaluation of preventive programmes

PART IV ? DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: FRAMEWORK AND DYNAMICS

18. Concept, typologies and scale of the phenomenon in Portugal and Europe

19. Explanatory theories: feminist, systemic and ecological perspectives

20. Cycle of violence; risk and protective factors; impact on children exposed

PART V ? LEGAL-INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND INTERVENTION

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21. Law No. 112/2009 and complementary legislation; victim status; RNAVVD

22. Risk assessment instruments: RVD-1L and RVD-2L

23. Crisis intervention; perpetrator programmes; recidivism prevention

24. Domestic violence, gender and intersectionality

25. International trends: Istanbul Convention and European directives

19. Assessment Methods

Group work with oral presentation on a prevention or domestic violence intervention programme (20%); individual written assignment critically analysing a public policy, theoretical framework or case study (30%). Test (50%).

20. Didactic Resources

Textbooks and scientific articles; national and European legislation; APAV, CIG, RASI, WHO, Council of Europe and UNODC reports; white papers from community safety organisations (e.g. EUNWA); documentary videos; RVD instruments; institutional e-learning platform.

21. Sustainability Objectives

Contributes to SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), promoting analysis of the structural causes of violence, non-discriminatory prevention practices and evidence-based inclusive justice systems.

22. Keywords

Criminal Prevention

Domestic Violence

Cognitive Scripts

Social Learning

Situational Prev

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Felgueiras, S.; Machado, P.
Title: Modelo de diagnóstico de ordem pública: Uma abordagem metropolitana sincrónica
Edition: Year: 2020
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: MUP Museu da Polícia
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Maguire, M.; Morgan, R.; & Reiner, R.
Title: The Oxford handbook of criminology
Edition: 5.ª Year: 2012
Local: Oxford
Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Schneider, S.
Title: Crime prevention: Theory and practice
Edition: 2.ª Year: 2015
Local: Boca Ratón
Publisher: CRC Press
ISBN Code:

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Teasdale, B.; & Bradley, M.
Title: Prevention crime and violence
Edition: Year: 2017
Local: Cham
Publisher: Springer
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Felgueiras, S.
Title: A geração à rasca
Edition: Year: 2017
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Chiado

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