The Criminal Justice System (21083)

Degree course: Criminology and Public Prevention Policies
Academic year: third
Term: first
Number of ECTS credits: 5
Student hours: 125

Syllabus

The State does not only react to criminal acts with sentences, but this is preceded by the reaction of the criminal justice system: criminal proceedings. This, however, is not simply an instrument by which punishment may be effectively imposed and fulfil its functions; via the criminal proceedings the criminal justice system anticipates and complements the functions of the penalty. However, the proceedings' activities give rise to serious interference from the authorities in the rights of the individual, who is still innocent, and anticipates some of the negative effects of the sentence: from the stigmatizing of the criminal subject to the manifestation of merely symbolic effects aimed at the community.

Knowledge of the working of the criminal justice system is a basic requirement in criminology training. However, this cannot be limited to merely describing the institutions which make it up and the legislation which regulates it; it is essential to incorporate an empirical perspective which enables students to become aware of how criminal proceedings really work and the effects they have on the social system as a whole and on the alleged offender.

Topic 1. Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Topic 2. Organisation of the Criminal Justice System: Legal and Sociological Perspectives

Topic 3. The Criminal Justice System and its functions in the Criminal System

Topic 4. The Guiding Principles of the Criminal Justice System and their Protection

Topic 5. The Enlightenment Function of the Criminal Justice System

Topic 6. The Preventive Function of the Criminal Justice System

Topic 7. The Limiting of Fundamental Rights in the acts of the Criminal Justice System

Topic 8. Victims and the Criminal Justice System

Topic 9. Current trends in the Criminal Justice System

Topic 10. The consequences of criminal law