

Course title: Multidisciplinary Approach to Crime and Criminal Justice

Course description:

This is an elective course designed to introduce students to multi-disciplinary perspectives and skills relating to crime and criminal justice. It brings together local and international experts in their respective fields to teach the various topics. The course is broadly divided into three segments: (a) Criminal Justice Systems, (b) Criminological Approaches to Crime, and (c) Criminal Justice Policy. The course also introduces skills necessary to understanding and evaluating criminal justice empirical research.

** Students who elect to take this course should generally have completed courses on Singapore criminal law or equivalent. Students who have not may still elect to take this course if they have taken criminal law in other jurisdictions.*

Course Convenor: Deputy Attorney-General Tai Wei Shyong (assisted by Asst/P Benny Tan)

Co-teachers: Experts (local and international) from various fields

Tentative syllabus and lecturer(s):

Seminar	Topic	Lecturer	Date (2026) (3 – 6 pm)
<i>Introduction</i>			
1	Criminal Justice Systems	DAG Tai Wei Shyong (AGC)	11 Aug
<i>Understanding and Evaluating Empirical Research</i>			
2	Understanding and evaluating criminal justice empirical research I	Asst/P Benny Tan (NUS Law)	18 Aug
3	Understanding and evaluating criminal justice empirical research II	Asst/P Benny Tan (NUS Law)	25 Aug
<i>Criminological Approaches to Crime</i>			
4	Aetiology of crime I	Prof Manuel Eisner (Cambridge)	1 Sept
5	Aetiology of crime II	Prof Manuel Eisner (Cambridge)	8 Sept
<i>Responding to crime</i>			
6	Criminal Justice – Policy and Practice I	DAG Tai Wei Shyong (DAG)	15 Sept
7	Criminal Justice – Policy and Practice II	DPPs Agnes Chan and Regina Lim (AGC)	29 Sept
<i>Perspectives</i>			

8	Perspectives from law enforcement /Prisons Service	To be confirmed	6 Oct
9	Perspectives from the Prosecution/Defence	To be confirmed	13 Oct
10	Guest Lecture	Lecture by Mr Choo Han Teck, Distinguished Fellow of NUS Law Faculty	20 Oct
<i>Evaluation</i>			
11	Class Presentations I		27 Oct
12	Class Presentations II		3 Nov
13	In-class test		10 Nov

Format of class: Generally, for each seminar, the lecturer(s) will speak for about 2 hours. This will be followed by a Q&A discussion between the students and the lecturer(s) for 30-45 minutes. There will also be a reading list for each seminar.

Assessment:

Class performance (40%) – Marks will be awarded to students who contribute generally to seminar discussion, as well as for their performance during the assigned class presentation (which will be in one of the three broad areas in the course description).

Methodology critique take-home assignment (30%) – Applying what they have learned in the seminars on understanding and evaluating criminal justice empirical research, students will have to write a 2000-word critique of one to two assigned article(s) on criminological empirical research. The assignment question will be released at the start of the recess week and due two weeks later.

2-hour in-class test in Week 13 (30%) – There will be one question each on each of the broad areas in the course description. Students are to answer one out of the three questions, but they cannot answer the question on the area they have presented on during the class presentation. This will be an open-book exam.