

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (BCJ)

These regulations apply to students admitted to the BCJ curriculum in the academic year 2010-2011 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)

Definitions

BCJ 1 In these Regulations, and in the Syllabuses for the degree of Bachelor of Criminal Justice, unless the context otherwise requires -

‘Course’ means a course of study, with a credit value expressed as a number of credit-units as specified in the syllabus.

‘Credits’ means the value assigned to each course to indicate its study load relative to the total study load under a degree curriculum. The study load refers to the hours of student learning activities and experiences, both within and outside the classrooms, and includes contact hours and time spent on assessment tasks and examinations.

‘Prerequisite’ means a course or a group of courses which candidates must have completed successfully or a requirement which candidates must have fulfilled before being permitted to take the course in question.

Admission to the degree

BCJ 2 To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Criminal Justice, candidates shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) have, preferably, working experience in the field of criminal justice or related fields;
- (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required; and
- (d) complete the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow.

BCJ 3 Candidates who do not meet the above requirements may be permitted to register if they demonstrate adequate preparation for studies and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

Qualifying examination

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- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test candidates’ formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Advanced standing

BCJ 5 Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully in an approved institution of higher education elsewhere before admission to the University but advanced credits will not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The amount of credits to be granted for advanced standing shall be up to 60 credits as determined by the Board of the Faculty. Application for advanced standing will normally be considered only in cases where candidates have indicated the request in their application form.

Period of study

BCJ 6 The curriculum shall normally require eight to twelve semesters (including the summer semesters) of part-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years.

Completion of the curriculum

BCJ 7 To complete the curriculum, candidates shall,

- (a) complete not fewer than 180 and not more than 198 credits of courses, unless otherwise required or permitted under the Regulations;
- (b) normally be required to take not more than 51 credits in an academic year, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty;
- (c) follow the required number of compulsory and elective courses as prescribed in the syllabuses, including 54 credits of introductory compulsory courses and not fewer than 102 credits of advanced compulsory and elective courses.

Selection of courses

BCJ 8 Candidates who wish to change their selection of courses at the beginning of each semester may do so up to 2 weeks after the commencement of the semester. Requests for changes beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons accepted by the Faculty Board. Candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.

Assessment

BCJ 9 Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only satisfactorily completed courses will earn credits. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG 8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

BCJ 10 Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner

- i) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
- ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

BCJ 11 Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.

Discontinuation of studies

BCJ 12 Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be required to discontinue their studies if they have:

- i) failed to complete 24 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
- ii) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters; or
- iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in BCJ6.

Absence from examination

BCJ 13 Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at the written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the first semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall normally be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

Award of the degree

BCJ 14 To be eligible for award of the degree BCJ, candidates shall have:

- (a) achieved a cumulative GPA of 1.00 or above;
- (b) satisfactorily completed a minimum of 180 credits; and
- (c) completed the curriculum in accordance with the regulations and syllabuses.

Degree classification

BCJ 15 A list of candidates who have successfully completed all degree requirements shall be published in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty at its full discretion by taking the overall performance of candidates and other relevant factors into consideration.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

GENERAL FEATURES

1. Aims and Objectives of the Curriculum

The bachelor degree is designed for students who wish to obtain a professional qualification in the field of criminal justice. The degree curriculum aims to provide both a practical and academic grounding in the core knowledge and skills required for service in modern criminal justice systems while providing scope for specialisations in criminal justice and related fields. The degree caters for both the experienced criminal justice practitioner and those seeking a career in this or related fields. For practitioners it offers the benefit of tertiary level training and an opportunity to develop a broader knowledge of the core disciplines in criminal justice. It also prepares students for entry-level criminal justice careers or postgraduate work by providing a comprehensive understanding of the social, legal, and scientific aspects of the administration of justice.

The specific objectives of the curriculum are to:

- provide students with a curriculum that is directly relevant to local and regional crime and justice issues and practices;
- enable students to examine critically problems and controversies in the administration of criminal justice; and
- equip students with analytical skills and independent self-learning capability.

2. Credit Exemptions

The number of credits to be exempted shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty on a case-by-case basis.

3. Course Registration

Course registration will take place before the commencement of the first semester. Candidates are advised to consult relevant teachers or Head of Department on the suitable combinations of courses and to adhere closely to the normal study pattern. Less suitable combinations of courses may not be permitted because of timetabling difficulties. Courses listed in the syllabuses may not necessarily be offered every year; and depending on the exigencies of staffing, additional courses may be offered.

Candidates may change their course selection during the two-week add/drop period which is scheduled at the beginning of each semester. Requests for changes beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons acceptable to the Faculty Board. Candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will be given a fail grade. In course registration, candidates should pay special attention to the pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements of courses as specified in the syllabuses. A prerequisite is a course which candidates must complete successfully before being permitted to take a course in question. A co-requisite is a course which candidates must take at the same time as the course in question.

4. Curriculum Requirements

The regulations specify the requirements with which candidates have to comply for completion of the BCJ degree curriculum. Further details of the requirements are given in the syllabuses.

A. *Introductory Courses*

In the first and second year of studies, candidates should complete 54 credits of introductory compulsory courses which include the language and general studies courses. Candidates who are non-Chinese speaking or have no knowledge of the language, may be exempted from attending the Chinese language enhancement course and permitted to substitute a 3-credit or 6-credit introductory general studies course for it. Candidates may enrol in not more than 24 credits of introductory general studies elective courses, and should normally complete at least three introductory criminal justice courses before proceeding to enrol in advanced courses.

Candidates must complete the following introductory courses:

Language Studies courses

CRJU1001. Professional English communication skills for criminal justice (6 credits)

CRJU1002. Chinese language enhancement for criminal justice (3 credits)

General Studies courses

CRJU1010. Social sciences foundation (3 credits)

CRJU1011. Introduction to information technology (3 credits)

CRJU1012. Science, technology and society (3 credits)

CRJU1013. Hong Kong society (6 credits)

Criminal Justice courses

CRJU1003. Crime and criminals (6 credits)

CRJU1004. Introduction to criminal justice (6 credits)

CRJU1005. Law enforcement (6 credits)

CRJU1006. Perspectives on crime (6 credits)

CRJU1007. Research methods in criminal justice (6 credits)

General Studies elective courses (0-24 credits)

B. Advanced Courses

Candidates must complete not less than 102 credits of advanced courses including the following three compulsory courses:

CRJU2004. Corrections (6 credits)

CRJU2005. Courts and the judicial process (6 credits)

CRJU2009. Juvenile justice (6 credits)

5. Coursework and Examination Ratio

Each 3-credit and 6-credit course leads to one written examination paper which will be one or two hours in length respectively. The final grading of each course will be determined by examination performance and coursework assessment in the ratio of 60:40, unless otherwise specified. Results will be determined by the Board of Examiners.

The examination and assessments of courses carrying weightings other than 3 and 6 credits are detailed in the syllabuses.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Introductory Courses

Compulsory Courses

CRJU1001. Professional English communication skills for criminal justice (6 credits)

A course designed to provide an English skills component to help students understand and use spoken and written English. Topics include: how to access, abstract, analyse, organise and summarise information; how to ask questions and negotiate meanings; how to make effective grammatical and lexical choices; how to write reports and assignment essays. Students will be asked to undertake a certain amount of reading and produce some written work on subjects closely related to lecture topics. Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU1002. Chinese language enhancement for criminal justice (3 credits)

A course designed to help students to improve their use of written Chinese in an academic setting. Students will be asked to undertake a certain amount of reading and produce written work on subjects closely related to lecture topics. Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU1003. Crime and criminals (6 credits)

An overview of specific types of crimes and offenders including violent crime, property crime, white collar crime, public order offences, professional crime, political crime, and organised crime. Emphasis is placed on the research findings and the development of typologies of crime and criminals.

CRJU1004. Introduction to criminal justice (6 credits)

An introduction to the administration of criminal justice including the structural components of the criminal justice system and the stages of the justice process from the detection of crime and arrest through prosecution, adjudication, sentencing and correctional outcome. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of practices and procedures within the context of the Hong Kong criminal justice system.

CRJU1005. Law enforcement (6 credits)

This course is designed to introduce the organisation, function and responsibility of different law enforcement agencies. Other public and private agencies which help to enforce laws are also discussed.

CRJU1006. Perspectives on crime (6 credits)

An introduction to major historical and contemporary theories of crime and deviance. This will include consideration of classical and positivist theories of crime, biological and psychological factors, social structural and social process theories, Marxist explanations of criminal behaviour and the emergence of neo-classic theories of crime.

CRJU1007. Research methods in criminal justice (6 credits)

An introduction to research methods in criminal justice and criminology with reference to both pure and applied research. The course is designed to provide the basic conceptual tools for understanding and interpreting criminal justice research, as well as designing, conducting and evaluating research projects.

CRJU1010. Social sciences foundation (3 credits)

A course designed to provide a broad exposure to the various social science disciplines, focusing on the interrelations that exist between the various disciplines and the unique contribution that each makes to our understanding of human behaviour and the larger society.

CRJU1011. Introduction to information technology (3 credits)

This course introduces students to information technology, its uses and applications. Topics include: basic computing concepts, practical experience in using computer applications, and appreciation of how computers can be used to solve problems and facilitate routine tasks.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU1012. Science, technology and society (3 credits)

An interdisciplinary course which examines the interrelationships that exist between modern science, technology, and society. Topics include the relationship between technology and social change, contemporary discoveries, dilemmas and debates with emphasis on controversial scientific issues, media representations of science and technology and the relations of science and technology to structures of power.

CRJU1013. Hong Kong society (6 credits)

The course will deliver a sampler of the best sociological research on the Hong Kong society. Main topics include (1) The colonial legacy, power, and politics in Hong Kong; (2) Chinese business life – between East and West; (3) Social mobility, poverty, and inequality; (4) Family and gender relations; and (5) Culture and identity: from colony to SAR, global influence and local roots.

General Studies Elective Courses**CRJU1014. Gender and equal opportunity (3 credits)**

This course aims to increase students' awareness, knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and debates about gender and equal opportunity. Topics include: gender socialisation, patriarchy, sexual harassment, and equal opportunity.

CRJU1015. Independent study (6 credits)

Students taking this course are required to make learning a process of personal discovery on the solid base of their own everyday experience. It can be a critical evaluation of a crime fiction / film, a field observation on a group of subjects, or a content analysis of a series of media reports on a specific type of crime. Students are expected to initiate a topic of the study and an assigned teacher will supervise the project.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU1016. Discovering society (6 credits)

Sociology is the study of social life and interaction. It aims to go beyond commonsensical beliefs about how human beings as a group live and think. This course is designed to help students to understand the society in which they live, and the extent to which they are influenced by society in a rigorous and systemic way from different sociological perspectives.

CRJU1017. Public administration in Hong Kong (6 credits)

A course designed to introduce the fundamental concepts of political science, focusing on the relationship between public administration and politics and with special reference to Hong Kong.

CRJU1018. Psychology and human behaviour (6 credits)

A course designed to give an introduction to the study of human behaviour in social contexts. Topics include social perception, cognition, motivation and attitudes. Key concepts that are used in the analysis of cultures, social structures, social processes and social change will be introduced.

CRJU1019. Organizational behaviour and human resources management (6 credits)

Introduces the sociological study of formal organizations and surveys basic concepts, emphases, and approaches. Attention shall be given to processes within organizations, as well as to relationships between organizations and their environments. Topics include but not limited to organizational structure, bureaucracy, leadership and power in organizations, interorganizational networks, and staff motivation.

CRJU1020. Critical thinking (3 credits)

A general studies course to help students to develop clear thinking and sound reasoning, which includes a survey of key concepts and techniques in critical thinking like deduction and induction, definition, fallacies, justification of judgments, textual analysis, if-then propositions and training in recognizing and avoiding the most commonly made mistakes in reasoning. The course will examine the logics that give structure to thinking itself. Students will be encouraged to apply critical training techniques and classroom knowledge to social issues and problems.

Advanced Courses***Compulsory Courses*****CRJU2004. Corrections (6 credits)**

History, development and functions of correctional institutions including prisons; the impact of incarceration on inmates; the interactional structure of the prison environment; different modes of correctional intervention; and sentencing policies and their relationship to correctional objectives.

CRJU2005. Courts and the judicial process (6 credits)

A critical investigation of the criminal judicial process from setting bail through sentencing. The course covers such topics as the role of courts, court structure, and procedural law governing judicial processing.

CRJU2009. Juvenile justice (6 credits)

A survey of theoretical approaches to juvenile delinquency; the history, development and functions of the juvenile justice system; the legal rights of accused juveniles; methods and models of rehabilitating juvenile offenders; and the prevention of delinquency.

Disciplinary Elective Courses**CRJU2006. Criminal behaviour (6 credits)**

An examination of the psychology of criminal conduct and the social psychological explanations of individual and group offending.

CRJU2007. Criminal law (6 credits)

A study of the principles, doctrines and rules of criminal law in Hong Kong; the sources of substantive criminal law and historical development of common law principles responsibility; comparisons with alternative legal traditions will be made.

CRJU2016. Comparative police systems (6 credits)

An exploration of different approaches to policing in selected societies includes such topics as the historical development of the police, colonial policing and different perspectives on the problem of crime.

CRJU2017. Computer crime (6 credits)

An overview of current computer crime and legal issues involved. Information system security and audit issues shall be discussed.

CRJU2018. Corruption and its control (6 credits)

An examination of corrupt practices in modern economies with particular reference to Hong Kong and the region. Special attention is given to methods of control and strategies that have been used in Hong Kong and other parts of the world.

CRJU2021. Drugs and crime (6 credits)

A survey of the history, pharmacology, health effects, and crime-related aspects of drug abuse. This includes the effects on criminal behaviour, the legal response to drug abuse, and the treatment and prevention of drug abuse.

CRJU2022. Family violence (6 credits)

Introduction to the study of family violence issues. Includes such topics as typology and history of family abuse, issues in domestic violence, treatment approaches, and public policy issues.

CRJU2024. Organized crime (6 credits)

An overview of the types of individuals and organizations involved in organized crime, the type of activities conducted, historical and political forces which facilitate organized crime, and official responses to this type of crime.

CRJU2028. Victimology (6 credits)

An examination of the role of victims in crime, the treatment of victims in the criminal justice system, the decision to report crime and to prosecute offenders, and victim assistance and compensation.

CRJU2045. Immigration, migration and society (6 credits)

This course will examine the social and ethnic consequences of international migration and transnational migration from a comparative perspective with a focus on Hong Kong SAR and China. After discussing the causes of international migration and the policies governments have adopted to control it, this course will examine immigration and ethnicity in Hong Kong and China and the impact of immigration on ethnic and gender relations and identities. We will also consider immigrant attachments to their homelands, the formation of transnational ethnic communities and diasporas across national borders, majority public and ethnic opinion toward immigrants, living in multi-cultural societies; and the settlement and citizenship status of immigrants.

CRJU2051. Gender and the law (6 credits)

An examination of women in their legal roles as wives, mothers, workers, criminals and victims. Emphasis is placed on the study of female delinquency and crime, and how the criminal justice system responds to female offenders.

CRJU2054. Field studies (6 credits)

Students who take this course will be attached to a criminal justice agency or related organization to conduct field research for 16 hours. During the attachment, students may be required to work as volunteers for the agency at the instructions and under the supervision of the relevant staff from the agency. Students shall apply techniques of field studies to understand social phenomena at selected organizations. A teacher will be assigned to supervise the students on how to conduct a proper research project. Assessment is based on a formal oral presentation and a final project report of 4,000 words. Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU2055. Social problems (6 credits)

Social problems exist almost in all countries - crime, drug-addiction, gambling, evil cult, poverty, unequal distribution of wealth and so on. The course helps students to understand what cause these social problems, how to solve them and help students to look at and think about social problems in different ways and from different sociological perspectives. The course aims to awaken students to the many facets that are involved in the production and solution of social problems.

CRJU2056. Field trip (6 credits)

Students would visit an overseas academic or criminal justice / criminal justice related organization which include but not limited to universities, training institutes for disciplinary forces etc.

The aims of the course are to provide an opportunity for students to have first-hand experience with the practice of criminal justice knowledge as they are applied in particular social settings, and to carry out an empirical investigation on aspect(s) of criminal justice issues 'on-site' (e.g. structural, socio-cultural, or functional aspects of a programme/operation or particular type of behaviour). The field trip is a useful way of understanding of crime and society under different societal contexts, and forms a valuable part of their academic training. To satisfy the requirements of the course, students should (1) participate in a field trip outside Hong Kong, led and supervised by members of staff, during their second year of study; (2) carry out an empirical investigation of a criminal justice related topic in consultation with their supervisors; and (3) write up and present a report upon return from the field trip. Assessment is by participation in the field trip and a written report of 3,000 words.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU2057. Principles in forensic science (6 credits)

An introduction to crime scene investigation and such topics as recognition, identification, individualization and evaluation of physical evidence.

CRJU3003. Criminal justice and individual rights (6 credits)

An examination of the full range of rights in criminal justice, not only in terms of broad philosophical and social issues but also in relation to specific instances. These include the rights of the accused, witness, victims, convicts, and the average citizen.

CRJU3005. Criminal justice research seminar (6 credits)

Discussion and evaluation of problems in the contemporary criminal justice system. Emphasis is placed on individual research and presentation of findings.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU3007. Selected issues in criminal justice (6 credits)

A variable content course exploring issues of special concern in criminal justice. The course provides an opportunity to study in depth areas that are of interest to staff and students.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU3009. Seminar in forensic science (6 credits)

An examination and evaluation of current issues in the field of law enforcement science with an aim to improve understanding how various forms of physical evidence can be utilized as an investigation tool. Students are highly recommended to take 'Principles in forensic science' before enrolling on this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU3010. Security management (6 credits)

Current problems, concerns, issues and legislation affecting the private security industry as they relate to and are of interest to students and the instructor.

CRJU3011. Dissertation (12 credits)

Candidates may choose to complete and present a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval in June, proceeding the final year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by a date specified by the academic committee. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The dissertation must provide evidence of original work or a capacity for critical analysis. Candidates are required to submit their dissertation at the end of their last semester of studies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU3016. Research project (6 credits)

This project provides an opportunity for students to study in depth a specific topic of criminology or criminal justice. Students initiate a research topic which is under the supervision of an assigned teacher. The research should be an empirical study aimed to collect primary source of data through survey, interview, field observation, or participant observation. Instructions will be given on research ethics, methodologies and strategies so that students can acquire first hand experience on how to conduct a proper criminological study. Assessment is based on a formal oral presentation and a final project report of 4,000 words.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU3017. Critical issues in prison management (6 credits)

This course provides an opportunity for students to examine problems, concerns and issues for prison management like victims awareness; suicide issues; effective communication; use of force; emergency preparedness; crisis detection and prevention; staff-inmate relations, drug use and prevention, inmate rights and correctional leadership.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU3018. Crisis management (6 credits)

Effective management of conflicts is essential for identification of their root causes in order to prevent them. The course seeks to help students to get acquainted with the causes of crises and to act for their removal through management initiatives and projects.

CRJU3021. Contemporary issues in policing (6 credits)

Current problems, concerns, issues and legislation affecting policing as they relate to and are of interest to students and the instructor.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

CRJU3022. Law and society (6 credits)

This course will examine the relationship between law and society. It looks at the history and development of law in different cultures, examining the form and content of 'law' found in pre-industrial society, capitalist society and socialist society. Particular legal concepts such as the law of contract and the public/private distinction are placed in their socio-historic setting. Specific topics (e.g. law and domestic relations, rape in marriage, child abuse, homosexuality, artificial reproduction, and restrictions on pornography) are examined insofar as they are related to the application of these concepts.

CRJU3023. Sociology and social policy (6 credits)

The course is designed for students who have a strong interest in current debates about contemporary social policy, social issues and social welfare that are related to causes and analysis of crime and deviance. The course provides an introduction to key concepts in understanding various social issues and gives students a wider perspective for the appraisal of local policies and a basis for understanding key issues that affect the formation and effectiveness of social policy.