REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
(MSocSc)

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Social Sciences in the academic year 2017-18 and thereafter.

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Social Sciences (MSocSc) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: Behavioral Health; Clinical Psychology; Corporate Environmental Governance; Counselling; Criminology; Educational Psychology; Gerontology; Media, Culture and Creative Cities; Mental Health; Nonprofit Management; Psychology; Social Service Management; and Social Work. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

Admission requirements

MSS 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates
(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
(b) shall hold
   (i) a Bachelor’s degree of this University; or
   (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
(c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b);
(d) shall satisfy any other admission requirements which may be specified for individual fields of study in the regulations below; and
(e) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MSS 1.1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the fields of Behavioral Health, Counselling, Gerontology, Mental Health, Social Service Management and Social Work, candidates shall preferably have had a minimum of two years of post-qualification experience in the relevant fields, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.2 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates
(a) shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification; and
(b) shall have had an empirical research dissertation completed in the Bachelor’s degree programme or another equivalent programme in psychology in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.
MSS 1.3 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology, candidates
(a) shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with honours preferably with a major in the social sciences or humanities discipline; or
(b) shall preferably have working experience in the criminal justice system, social welfare agencies, or in other work with offenders,
in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.4 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology, candidates
(a) shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification;
(b) shall be eligible for the Graduate Membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society; and
(c) shall preferably have relevant working experience in educational or related settings,
in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.5 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Media, Culture and Creative Cities, candidates shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with honours, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.6 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Nonprofit Management, candidates shall preferably have three years of relevant working experience, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.7 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Psychology, candidates
(a) shall hold
   (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University (in a discipline other than psychology and without completion of any other programme in psychology which is designed to bring the degree holder up to the standard of a graduate majoring in psychology); or
   (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose (in a discipline other than psychology and without completion of any other programme in psychology which is designed to bring the degree holder up to the standard of a graduate majoring in psychology);
(b) shall preferably have more than one year of work experience; and
(c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and interview if shortlisted,
in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 2. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

MSS 3.
(a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the 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 and may include a project report.
(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.
Award of degree

MSS 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates
(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
and
(b) shall complete the programme as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in
accordance with the regulations set out below.

Period of study

MSS 5. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study; or two
academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of
full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise specified for individual
fields of study in the regulations below.

MSS 5.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two
academic years of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years of
full-time study.

MSS 5.2 In the field of Counselling, the programme shall normally extend over two or three academic
years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years for the
two-year part-time study or four academic years for the three-year part-time study.

MSS 5.3 In the field of Criminology, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of
full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two
academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.4 In the field of Educational Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two
academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of
registration of four academic years for both full-time and part-time study.

MSS5.5 In the fields of Media, Culture and Creative Cities, the programme shall normally extend
over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic
years of part-time study.

MSS5.6 In the field of Nonprofit Management, the programme shall normally extend over one
academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of
full-time study.

MSS 5.7 In the fields of Mental Health, Social Service Management, and Social Work, the
programme shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of
registration of three academic years of part-time study.

MSS 6. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of
registration specified in the above regulations, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of
the Faculty.

Advanced Standing

MSS 7. Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed
successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will
not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been
granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board
of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:
(a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
(b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

Exemption

MSS 8. Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

Progression in curriculum

MSS 9. Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

Completion of curriculum

MSS 10. To complete the curriculum, candidates
(a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
(b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
(c) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
(d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

Dissertation and Capstone project

MSS 11. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MSS 10(c), the title of the dissertation or capstone project shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year in which the teaching programme ends and the dissertation or capstone project shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation or capstone project represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which show their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

Assessment

MSS 12. 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 passed courses will earn credits.
MSS 13.  
(a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework or a dissertation or a capstone project shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses. 
(b) An assessment of the candidates’ coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in field work or laboratory work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates’ result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

MSS 14. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MSS 15. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner: 
(a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course; or 
(b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or 
(c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or 
(d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MSS 16. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSS 10(c), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project within a specified period.

MSS 17. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work/practical work/internship may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in field work/practical work/internship within a specified period.

MSS 18. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall 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 provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MSS 19. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MSS 20. Candidates who 
(a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat the failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation MSS 15; or 
(b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or 
(c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or 
(d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or 
(e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration. 
may be required to discontinue their studies.

MSS 20.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates who have failed two external placements or the second attempt of either the external placement or internal practicum may be required to discontinue their studies.

Grading systems
MSS 21. Individual courses shall be graded according to the one of the following grading systems:

(a) Letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or

(b) ‘Pass’ or ‘Fail’.

Courses graded according to (b) above shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

Classification of awards

MSS 22. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates’ degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CRIMINOLOGY

The Department of Sociology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology.

ASSESSMENT

Candidates are assessed for each compulsory course by way of a 3-hour written examination that accounts for 30-40% of total marks and 60-70% by coursework assignments. However, candidates are assessed for each elective course by 100% coursework and that may include presentations, projects,
essays and written tests.

CURRICULUM

The degree programme extends over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study or not less than two and not more than four academic years of part-time study. All courses are offered on both part-time and full-time basis. Classes are conducted during evenings and occasional weekends.

The compulsory courses provide candidates with a broad, integrated understanding of the social science approach to the study of crime and deviance. The elective courses, building upon that foundation, introduce the candidates to a variety of contemporary developments in criminology and related social policy issues.

To receive the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology, candidates must complete 8 courses (6 credits each) plus a dissertation (12 credits), with a total of 60 credits. As a rule, full-time candidates are expected to do an individual dissertation, while part-time candidates are expected to do a group dissertation. Consideration may be given to part-time candidates to do an individual dissertation but requires approval by the department coordinator. The 8 courses include 4 compulsory courses and 4 courses from the list of elective courses.

The programme structure is summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of Study</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>SOCI7002</td>
<td>SOCI7002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOCI7009</td>
<td>SOCI7009</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Elective courses plus SOCI8021 Individual dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>SOCI7001</td>
<td>SOCI7001</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOCI7004</td>
<td>SOCI7004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Elective courses plus SOCI8021 Individual dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>2 Elective courses plus SOCI8022 Group dissertation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>2 Elective courses plus SOCI8022 Group dissertation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compulsory courses
Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:

- SOCI7001. Criminal justice: process and politics (6 credits)
- SOCI7002. Methods of research for criminology (6 credits)
- SOCI7004. Theoretical criminology (6 credits)
- SOCI7009. Global and comparative criminology (6 credits)

Elective courses
Candidates shall complete 4 courses from the following list:

- SOCI8002. Economic and organized crime (6 credits)
SOCI8003. Law and society (6 credits)
SOCI8004. Punishment and society (6 credits)
SOCI8006. Youth and delinquency (6 credits)
SOCI8008. Special topics in criminology (6 credits)
SOCI8011. Media and crime (6 credits)
SOCI8013. Gender, crime and social control (6 credits)
SOCI8015. Crime and deviance in PR China (6 credits)
SOCI8017. Cultural criminology (6 credits)
SOCI8018. Policing in comparative perspective (6 credits)
SOCI8019. Issues in police reform (6 credits)
SOCI8020. White collar and corporate crime (6 credits)
SOCI8024. New media and digital culture (6 credits)
SOCI8032. Drugs and society (6 credits)

Capstone Experience course (Compulsory)
Full-time candidates shall complete Individual dissertation and part-time candidates shall complete Group dissertation.
SOCI8021. Individual dissertation (12 credits)
SOCI8022. Group dissertation (12 credits)

Candidates should consult the Department of Sociology to find out what courses are being offered in any semester. The elective courses are offered depending on student interest and staff availability.

Candidates may apply to substitute for a listed course or courses in the syllabus of this programme with a course or courses offered by another Department in the University. Candidates may: (a) select courses from a list of pre-approved courses issued by the Department of Sociology; or (b) apply to be granted permission to take other postgraduate courses which are not listed as pre-approved courses. In both cases, the courses will have been approved by the Faculty Curriculum Development Committee as being of equivalent standard to that of those listed for the syllabus of this programme. Candidates shall normally be permitted to take not more than one course from another Department in the University. Permission normally will be granted only to take postgraduate courses, and only for those courses which can be shown to have relevance to the candidates’ overall course of study. Permission shall not be granted to substitute any other course for a required course in the syllabus of this programme.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOCI7001. Criminal justice: process and politics (6 credits)

This course critically reviews the process of law enforcement from initial contact with suspects through to prosecution and sentencing. The focus is on the ways criminal justice policies are developed and the problems and issues arising from the implementation of different approaches to crime control. Topics include: policing models (including private policing and crime prevention strategies); the effectiveness of policing; discretion and bias; due process and legal constraints in law enforcement; adjudication and sentencing; and policies toward victims.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

SOCI7002. Methods of research for criminology (6 credits)

A robust understanding of the principles and practice of social research methods is central to
postgraduate-level study in criminology. An ability to critically analyse previous academic research, identify gaps in the literature, and design novel and rigorous new studies are vital to a criminologists tool-kit – these skills form a foundation for a deeper knowledge and understanding of the discipline. In this course, students will learn core concepts and skills in research methods, and become equipped with the skills to pursue independent study. Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination

**SOCI7004. Theoretical criminology (6 credits)**

This course comprises an introduction to major historical and contemporary theories of crime and deviance. The course covers: classical and positivist theories of crime; biological and psychological influences; social structural and social process theories of crime; Marxist and neo-Marxist explanations of crime and law; the emergence of neoclassic theories of crime (e.g., rational choice and routine activities); postmodern and restorative approaches to crime control. Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

**SOCI7009. Global and comparative criminology (6 credits)**

In recent years, increasing attention has been paid to the ‘global’ question in criminology. As people, money, culture and technology circulate and cross-cut the globe on a daily basis, so the traditional borders of criminology have become merged and blurred. Just as ‘global’ issues – human trafficking, the international drug trade, corporate harm and cyber-crime – must be understood in an international context, so too must traditionally ‘local’ arenas of criminological interest – youth gangs, policing, sex-work – be located within a comparative perspective, in particular those beyond traditional Anglo-American bases of power. This course discusses the concept of globalisation and its implications for the study of criminology, introducing students to key theoretical and methodological debates in the field of global and comparative criminology through analysis of both global and local case-study examples. Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

**Elective Courses**

**SOCI8002. Economic and organized crime (6 credits)**

The course focuses on a range of criminal activities that occur within an organizational setting or are in accordance with established organizational goals, and which harms individuals or society at large. More specifically, the course will devote attention to such topics as economic and organized crime and discuss the ways in which they are interrelated and frequently overlap with political crime. Special consideration will be given to the ways in which the state may organize crime. Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI8003. 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. Assessment: 100% coursework
SOCI8004. Punishment and society (6 credits)

The course aims to explain punishment and society in a comparative and historical context. Popular conceptions and professional evidence about punishment will be compared. The social institution of punishment is in many ways a mirror of society and its norms. The course will look at the different functions of punishment, like retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation, and restoration. We will trace those functions historically and culturally, mapping vast cultural and social differences in the way in which punishment is practiced in America, Europe, the Islamic world, and in China.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8006. Youth and delinquency (6 credits)

The problem of juvenile delinquency has influenced the formation of law and social policy in many societies. This course will use a wide variety of historical and comparative materials to analyze the response of social service agencies and the criminal justice system to juvenile delinquency. It will also examine various theoretical approaches that have been used in studying juvenile delinquency.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8008. Special topics in criminology (6 credits)

A lecture and seminar programme designed to provide students with a course of study in current or newly emerging topics in criminology and criminal justice. The course enables, for example, new subject or sub-specialist areas to be offered. This may inter alia, include:

cyber crime and e-commerce crime
crime prevention
criminal intelligence analysis
criminal justice system administration and management
computer forensics
security and terrorism studies
criminal profiling
victimology (including trafficking, stalking and “hate” crimes)

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8011. Media and crime (6 credits)

The media plays an extremely influential role in the public’s conceptions of crime and order. This course aims to provide students with a better understanding of theories about the media’s impact on crime, the news making process in relation to crime, and how the media shapes our ideas and responses to crime. The course also focuses on the representation of crime in popular culture, particularly in films and novels.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8013. Gender, crime and social control (6 credits)

This course provides students with a comparative perspective of men and women’s involvement in crime and punishment. The first part of the course focuses on the differential images and realities of men and women in relation to crime. This will lead us to a critical examination of the assumptions, tenets and explanations of traditional theories about men and women in crime. These theoretical
frameworks are then compared with gendered theories about crime. The second half of the course explores the differential treatment of men and women under the law from the point of policing through to imprisonment.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8015. Crime and deviance in PR China (6 credits)

The course offers an overview and introduction to the developments of crime and deviance in China. The emphasis will be historical, comparative and contemporary. We look at Chinese definitions of deviance and crime from the past, the Communist period, and with a particular emphasis on the recent period of rapid modernization. The course will also review issues and problems in the control of crime and public order in the People's Republic of China. The content covers theories and practices of deviance, crime, discipline, policing, and punishment.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8017. Cultural criminology (6 credits)

Cultural criminology comes as a reaction and interpretive alternative to normative analyses of social problems. Rather than ask questions about root causes of crime, cultural criminologists seek to explore the processes through which ascriptions of crime and criminality, and reactions to these ascriptions are promulgated within particular social and cultural contexts. The course will offer a comparative perspective contrasting North American ‘cultures of control’, with other ‘welfare’ and ‘disciplinary welfare’ contexts, including Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8018. Policing in comparative perspective (6 credits)

This course examines policing in a broad social and cultural perspective. Our focus is the concept of the “police function”: under what sorts of historical and socio-cultural conditions does the idea of the police function make sense? With this question as our guide, we will examine the maintenance of order in stateless societies, look at various historical moments in the emergence of police as an element of modern government, and finally take a survey of the novel policing formations emerging from the processes of decolonization, globalization and neo-liberalism.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8019. Issues in police reform (6 credits)

When, why and how do police forces change? This course takes up these questions through case studies of exemplary events of police reform, such as: Robert Peel’s formation of the London Metropolitan Police in 1829; William Parker’s reform of the Los Angeles Police Department in the 1950s; William Bratton’s reform of the New York Police Department in the 1990s; post-apartheid policing in South Africa; and post-Maoist policing in the People’s Republic of China. Through comparative study and in-depth analysis, students will draw lessons about the general dynamics underlying police reform.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8020. White collar and corporate crime (6 credits)

This course examines the topic of white-collar and corporate crime. Classic theoretical works will be considered as well as more contemporary writings. To illustrate these points we will explore important international case studies that shed light on how and why these offenses occur. We will begin with a
general introduction to the field, including definitions, conceptual, and theoretical issues from the social sciences, law, and criminology regarding what has become known as white-collar, occupational, organizational, and corporate crime. Following this, we will discuss various forms of white-collar crime including: consumer crime, environmental crime, governmental crime, official corruption, computer crime, health care fraud, and financial fraud. The course will guide students in studying important questions, to critically think about issues, to research the topics discussed, and to become familiar with the literature on white-collar and corporate crime, through assigned readings, presentations, class discussion, a writing assignment and an in-class exam.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI8024. New media and digital culture (6 credits)**

This course explores the nature and impact of new media in the era of digital culture. Special attention is paid to the interactivity of media, particularly in regard to how the internet and mobile technology has changed the visions and practices of commerce, entertainment, work, social interactions, news-making, artistic creation and distribution, group formation, the spread of knowledge, identity building, political participation, legal regulation, and global social movements. We shall examine questions such as: How do new media facilitate new creative ventures and cultural expressions? How do social media interact with political power? In what ways are activities on the Internet – social networking, bookmarking, crowdsourcing, (micro)blogging, media sharing, online journalism, and open source movements – building a new form of “social self” and “public sphere”? In what ways does “cyberspace” function as a source of knowledge and wisdom, a network of connectivity and community, a new civil society, and a form of “trans-local” “globalization from below”? And what are the implications of this new digital world in terms of individualized entertainment, segregated communication, and current and potential power centers such as the state and multi-media corporations? The related conceptual debates will be assessed with reference to empirical findings from a burgeoning body of evidence-based studies in this field. Experiences from different global cities will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI8032. Drugs and society (6 credits)**

Drug use is a significant feature of contemporary society and is a cause of concern in view of its impact on individuals and society, and its connectedness with crime. The overall objective of this course is to provide students with a better understanding of the ways in which drugs and society are interconnected. The aim of the course is to provide students with an integrative arena for the social understanding of drug use, why people use drugs, and the key epistemological (criminological, sociological and psychological) debates relating to the subject. It also focuses on the social, political and health factors that shape the control and treatment of drugs.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**Capstone Experience course**

**SOCI8021. Individual dissertation (12 credits)**

The individual dissertation is a component of the curriculum designed to foster independent research for full-time students. Consequently, in addition to successfully completing eight taught courses, candidates must write a dissertation not exceeding 20,000 words on an approved topic. A dissertation topic is selected by the end of the first semester in the current academic year. The dissertation is prepared under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Department. The final title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the same academic year and dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the same academic year.
Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCl8022. Group dissertation (12 credits)**

The group dissertation is a component of the curriculum designed to foster small group research for part-time students. Consequently, in addition to successfully completing eight taught courses, candidates must write a dissertation of a reasonable length (pending on actual group size) on an approved topic. A dissertation topic is selected by the end of the second semester in the first year. The group dissertation is prepared under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Department. The final title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the second academic year of study and dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the same year. Assessment: 100% coursework