



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **RÄSN10, Critical Perspectives on Criminal Justice and Social Control, 7.5 credits**

*Kritiska perspektiv på brott, straff och social kontroll, 7,5  
högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Division of Sociology of Law on 2019-11-20 and was last revised on 2019-11-20. The revised syllabus applies from 2019-11-20, autumn semester 2020.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as elective course of semester 3 of the Master of Science programme in Sociology of Law, 120 credits. The course can also be taken as an optional course.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Sociology of Law

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

To pass this course, the student should:

- demonstrate specialised knowledge of critical approaches to crime, criminal justice and social control
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of current trends in criminal justice and criminal policy
- demonstrate understanding of alternative criminal policy and justice

## Competence and skills

To pass this course, the students should show competence and skills to:

- demonstrate the ability to independently analyse the construction of crime, criminal justice and social control in contemporary society
- demonstrate the ability to independently analyze the consequences of current criminal justice trends
- demonstrate an ability to independently analyse alternative criminal policy and justice

## Judgement and approach

To pass this course, the students should:

- demonstrate that they have gained insight into how crime, criminal justice and social control in contemporary society can be understood from a social constructivist approach
- demonstrate the ability to reflect on the consequences of current criminal justice systems and relate this to sociology of law Theory
- demonstrate the ability to reflect on alternative criminal policy and justice in the light of sociology of law empiricism and theory

## Course content

The aim of the course is to offer in-depth knowledge on crime, criminal law, criminal policy and social control, from socio-legal and criminological perspectives. Presentations and the discussions are based on a constructivist view of crime, where the starting point is that what counts as deviant behavior and as crime is not given by nature.

During the course, the student will write an essay relevant for the course content. The student chooses an essay topic independently. The teaching consists of lectures, exercises and workshops where students present and comment on one another's ongoing works.

The course consists of one module, with three core topics.

**Theme 1:** The social construction of crime and control

The first topic aims to provide the student with knowledge about the social constructivist approach to crime, deviance and social control.

**Theme 2:** Criminal justice and policy in the 21st century

The second theme aims to go deeper into current trends in criminal justice and criminal policy,

**Theme 3:** Alternative criminal policy and justice

The third topic of this course aims to go beyond the standard approaches to criminal justice, policy and social control in the global North, to widen the gaze and look at some alternatives used and offered when it comes to ways of understanding and reacting on the unwanted.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the seminars. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or retake compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

## Assessment

Course examination consists of three components:

1. the writing an individual essay
2. an oral presentation of the chosen topic and
3. a peer-assessment of a fellow student's presentation

To pass the course the student must have received at least the grade E of all 3 components. To receive higher grades, it is required that component 1 (essay) has been assessed with this.

The student independently choose a topic related to the course content

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course at least two further re-examination are offered at the same course content. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The time for supervision is limited to the semester the student first were registered on the course. Exceptions can be made if special reasons exist.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The grade for a non-passing result is U. The student's result is assessed based on the learning outcomes. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade Fail have the student shown an insufficient result.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have at least Bachelor's degree including: 90 credits in the sociology of law or other relevant disciplines such as sociology, criminology, law, political science, social work, or the equivalent.

Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines. International students are excepted from the general entry requirements on to master Swedish.

## Subcourses in RÄSN10, Critical Perspectives on Criminal Justice and Social Control

Applies from H20

2001 Critical Perspectives on Criminal Justice and Social Control, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A