

Economy for Criminologists (B001823)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0 **Study time 120 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Merlevede, Bruno	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
Defloor, Bart	EB21	co-lecturer
Goeminne, Stijn	EB21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Criminological Sciences	4	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Introduction to economics

Position of the course

This basic course provides insight into the economic way of thinking. The course familiarizes students with a number of central economic concepts, phenomena and mechanisms in order to enable the student to understand and analyze economic reality and current affairs. On the one hand, the course provides a number of traditional economic tools and on the other hand examines recent economic developments. After an introductory welfare analysis, we analyze recent economic developments with attention to economic growth and inequality, the role of market forces versus government, competition, and cyclical policy. In a next phase, a number of economic frameworks that are highly relevant to criminologists are further elaborated.

Contents

- 1 What is economics and how is our economy doing? Economics, sustainability and interdisciplinarity
- 2 The economist's analysis tools: basic concepts, definitions, models
- 3 Markets, equilibrium and the benefits of trade
- 4 GDP, government and microeconomic policy
- 5 The role of the private sector and companies
- 6 Competition and markets
- 7 Long-term growth and inequality
- 8 The role of money
- 9 Business cycles and macroeconomic government policy
- 10 Game Theory
- 11 Rationality and Behavioural Economics
- 12 The rational criminal

Initial competences

No prerequisites, it is an introductory course.

Final competences

- 1 Understand and apply basic concepts and mechanisms in economics
- 2 Understand and analyze current (and historical) economic developments
- 3 Gaining insight into how economic tools are relevant for the criminologist

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture
- No class recordings. Lecture recordings are made available subject to change only for the topics "Game Theory", "Rationality and Behavioral Economics", and "The Rational Criminal" (tools for criminologists). Recordings are only offered if the technical facilities are functioning correctly at the time of the lesson and a suitable room is available.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Oikonomia

Indicative price: € 56

Optional: no

Author : Johan Albrecht en Bruno Merlevede

ISBN : 978-9-46393-642-2

Type: Syllabus

Name: Economic tools for criminologists

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Accompanying text to "Game Theory", "Rationality and Behavioral Economics", and "The Rational Criminal" (PDF document available via Ufora).

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Slides available in powerpoint format, students who wish to print these should take into account a printing cost

References

Any good basic economics textbook

Course content-related study coaching

Students can ask questions to the professors or assistants in class or by email.

At the request of the students, one or two collective question/review sessions can also be provided in which questions submitted by the students are dealt with.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

written exam consisting of multiple choice and open questions

- Topics 1-9 (basic concepts) are evaluated by multiple choice questions, standard

setting for score calculation (75% total score)

- Topics 10-12 (tools for criminologists) are evaluated by written questions (25% total score)

Calculation of the examination mark