

History of Criminological Theories (680) / V. Vlachou

The presentation of the evolution of criminological thought from ancient times until nowadays is the main subject of the course. Specifically some decisive periods of time which are analyzed are the following:

1. The necessity of the historical approach to Criminology.
2. The evolution of criminological theories until 19th century, with references to eighteenth-century writers and their contribution to scientific criminology. Some characteristic examples are Beccaria's theories and recommendations about punishment, Bentham's utilitarian approach and Lavater's focus on physiognomy.
3. The contribution of the founders of the science of Criminology and their contemporaries. In that sense phrenology, moral insanity, evolution, degeneration and heredity, criminal anthropology, sociological and legal approaches of crime and eugenics are some of the most important theories that are presented.
4. The theories of followers that highlight the interdisciplinary character of Criminology.