



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

SOMS1501 Inside the Criminal Mind - 2024

Published on the 17 Dec 2023

General Course Information

Course Code : SOMS1501

Year : 2024

Term : Summer

Teaching Period : U1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Medicine and Health

Academic Unit : School of Biomedical Sciences

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Serial killers, psychopaths, violent, and sexual offenders receive significant attention in the media, creating a particular fascination for people. They also consume significant resources in terms of their policing, prosecution, treatment, and punishment.

This course is aimed at those with a general interest in the forensic area who may wish to pursue a professional career or research in this fascinating field. This course complements existing offerings at UNSW, such as undergraduate courses in medicine, psychology, social work, criminology, and law, as well as postgraduate courses in forensic mental health, forensic psychology, criminology, and the law.

This course will be taught in an intensive mode by some of Australia's leading forensic psychiatrists, clinicians, and researchers from the forensic mental health services, police, corrective services, law, and forensic medicine.

This foundation course will provide participants with unique insights into the psychopathology of this high profile offender group. Taking a lifecycle approach, it examines the antecedents of offending, genetic influences, and the detection, prosecution, treatment, and punishment of this group. Real case examples will be used to illustrate offender groups such as, Fred West, Jeffrey Dahmer, Peter Sutcliffe, Ted Bundy, Dr Harold Shipman, Ivan Milat, and Martin Bryant.

Course Aims

1. A broad understanding of issues relating to aspects of serious criminal offending such as the antecedents of crime, patterns of offending and modus operandi, the investigation of serious criminal offending, treatment of serious offenders, and incarceration.
2. The typical life course features of serious offenders from early developmental factors to incarceration.
3. Insights into various professional groups associated with the justice system such as the police, forensic psychiatrists, pathologists, custodial administrators, and criminal lawyers.

Relationship to Other Courses

Assistance with progression checking:

If you are unsure how this course fits within your program, you can seek guidance on optimising your program structure from staff at the [Nucleus Student Hub](#).

- Progression plans for UNSW Medicine and Health programs can be found on the [UNSW Medicine & Health website](#).
- Progression plans for UNSW Science programs can be found on the [UNSW Science website](#).

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Describe the major theories, motivations and causes underlying serious criminal offending.
CLO2 : Identify the major issues involved in the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of serious offenders.
CLO3 : Use critical thinking to distinguish between the common myths versus reality of various high profile offender groups.
CLO4 : Identify key mental health issues prevalent in this group and their impact on offending, culpability and the risk of reoffending.
CLO5 : Identify key issues, professional groups and social structures relating to the treatment, rehabilitation and punishment of serious offenders.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Describe the major theories, motivations and causes underlying serious criminal offending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal• Debate
CLO2 : Identify the major issues involved in the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of serious offenders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal• Debate
CLO3 : Use critical thinking to distinguish between the common myths versus reality of various high profile offender groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Reflection• Proposal• Debate
CLO4 : Identify key mental health issues prevalent in this group and their impact on offending, culpability and the risk of reoffending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal
CLO5 : Identify key issues, professional groups and social structures relating to the treatment, rehabilitation and punishment of serious offenders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debate• Proposal

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams | Zoom

Learning and Teaching in this course

All course materials and course announcements are provided on the course learning management system, Moodle (or Open Access).

By accessing and using the ICT resources provided by UNSW, you are agreeing to abide by the ['Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources'](#) policy particularly on respect for intellectual property

and copyright, legal and ethical use of ICT resources and security and privacy.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Personal Reflection Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Due Date: 23/01/2024 11:59 PM
Proposal Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Due Date: 31/01/2024 11:59 PM
Debate Assessment Format: Group	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 22/01/2024 12:00 AM

Assessment Details

Personal Reflection

Assessment Overview

You will be asked to write a critical reflection on one aspect of the course you found particularly challenging or interesting. This could relate to a particular crime or offender discussed in the course or contrast the portrayal of a crime or offender as reported in the media (e.g. a TV show) with factual information presented by the experts during the course. The critical reflection will be approximately 1000 words in length.

Written feedback will be provided

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Use critical thinking to distinguish between the common myths versus reality of various high profile offender groups.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

1000

Submission notes

A short extension of two days is available for this assessment task.

Assessment information

You may use generative artificial intelligence (AI) for simple editing assistance only.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Proposal

Assessment Overview

At the commencement of the course you will be assigned a role based on the various professionals used to deliver the lectures - lawyer, forensic psychiatrist, police, criminologist, or crime scene investigator. These roles will individually contribute to a proposal involving a real case such as Fred West, Jeffrey Dahmer, Peter Sutcliffe, Ted Bundy, Dr Harold Shipman, Ivan Milat, or Martin Bryant. You will be allocated into a team of professionals tasked with investigating a real life case. You will give your perspective on the case from your allocated professional background.

The assignment will be divided into five individual parts and a summary.

Written feedback will be provided.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the major theories, motivations and causes underlying serious criminal offending.
- CLO2 : Identify the major issues involved in the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of serious offenders.
- CLO3 : Use critical thinking to distinguish between the common myths versus reality of various high profile offender groups.
- CLO4 : Identify key mental health issues prevalent in this group and their impact on offending, culpability and the risk of reoffending.
- CLO5 : Identify key issues, professional groups and social structures relating to the treatment, rehabilitation and punishment of serious offenders.

Detailed Assessment Description

Your task is to produce a briefing document about a high-profile offender (listed below) to senior management including the 5 perspectives specified above (reporter, detective, profiler, legal process, and treatment), plus an executive summary providing a succinct overview to the proposal.

1. The reporter	1000 words
2. The detective	1000 words
3. The profiler	1000 words
4. The lawyer.	1000 words
5. The expert witness.	1000 words

500 words - Group executive summary

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

5500 (1000 per student assignment, 500 for the executive summary)

Submission notes

A short extension of two days is available for this assessment task.

Assessment information

You may use generative artificial intelligence (AI) for simple editing assistance only.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Debate

Assessment Overview

You will be required to take part in an online class debate on a topical issue such as the implementation of not guilty by reason of mental illness; compulsory chemical castration of sex offenders; naming of sex offenders to the community; compulsory storage of DNA for crime solving; requiring impulsive violent offenders to take medication.

Teams will be required to nominate two spokespersons who will present arguments for or against the topics outlined above. You will be assessed by a group mark allocated by the moderators of the debates.

Group feedback will be provided.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the major theories, motivations and causes underlying serious criminal offending.
- CLO2 : Identify the major issues involved in the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of serious offenders.
- CLO3 : Use critical thinking to distinguish between the common myths versus reality of various high profile offender groups.
- CLO5 : Identify key issues, professional groups and social structures relating to the treatment, rehabilitation and punishment of serious offenders.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

N/A

Submission notes

A short extension of two days is available for this assessment task. Online Debate - scores will be uploaded to Turnitin by convenors.

Assessment information

You may use generative artificial intelligence (AI) for simple planning assistance only.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

General Assessment Information

Detailed instructions regarding assessments for this course are provided on the course Moodle page (or Open Learning).

For student information on results, grades, and guides to assessment see: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite grade of at least 50 out of 100
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details section and on Moodle.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 3 : 15 January - 21 January	Lecture	The course will run everyday during this week, both in person and streamed live online. Recordings will be made available on Moodle.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

The times and locations of classes can be found on [myUNSW](#) under Class Timetable.

The expected engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term. This includes lectures, tutorials, readings, and completion of assessments and exam preparation (if relevant).

Course Resources

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based, in part, on such feedback.

We use student feedback from myExperience surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We do this by identifying areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments. Please spare a few minutes to complete the myExperience surveys for this course posted at the top of the Moodle page at the end of term.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Lee Knight					No	No
	Tony Butler					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

As a student of UNSW Medicine & Health you are expected to familiarise yourself with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW Student Code and policies and procedures related to your studies.

Student Code of Conduct

Throughout your time studying at UNSW Medicine & Health, you share a responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment. This includes within the courses you undertake during your degree and your interactions with the UNSW community, both on campus and online.

The [UNSW Student Code of Conduct](#) website provides a framework for the standard of conduct expected of UNSW students with respect to both academic integrity and your responsibility as a UNSW citizen.

Where the University believes a student may have breached the code, the University may take disciplinary action in accordance with the [Student Misconduct Procedure](#).

The [Student Conduct and Integrity Office](#) provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student at UNSW.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic integrity

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to the principle of academic integrity, and ethical scholarship of learning is fundamental to your success at UNSW Medicine & Health.

Plagiarism, contract cheating, and inappropriate use of generative AI undermine academic integrity and are not tolerated at UNSW. For more information see the [Academic Integrity and Plagiarism toolkit](#).

In addition to the information you are required to review in your [ELISE training](#), UNSW Medicine &

Health strongly recommends that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task.

Referencing

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. Preferred referencing styles vary among UNSW Medicine & Health disciplines, so check your course Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle or Open Learning) page for information on preferred referencing styles.

For further information on referencing support and styles, see the Current Student [Referencing page](#).

Academic misconduct and plagiarism

At UNSW, academic misconduct is managed in accordance with the [Student Misconduct Procedure](#). Allegations of plagiarism are generally handled according to the [UNSW Plagiarism Management Procedure](#). Plagiarism is defined in the [UNSW Plagiarism Policy](#) and is not tolerated at UNSW.

Use of Generative AI and other tools in your assessment

UNSW has provided guiding statements for the [use of Generative AI in assessments](#). This will differ, depending on the individual assessment task, your course requirements, and the course stage within your program.

Your course convenor will outline if and how you can use Generative AI in each your assessment tasks. Options for the use of generative AI include: (1) no assistance; (2) simple editing assistance; (3) planning assistance; and (4) full assistance with attribution.

You may be required to submit the original generative AI responses, or drafts of your original work. Inappropriate use of generative AI is considered academic misconduct.

See your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page for the full instructions for individual assessment tasks for your course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Short extensions and special consideration

Short extension

Commencing in Term 1, 2024, UNSW has introduced a short extension procedure for submission of assessment tasks. Not all tasks are eligible, and eligible tasks have a predetermined extension length. UNSW Medicine and Health have set School-level extension lengths for eligible assessment tasks. See your course assessment descriptions for more information.

Students must check the availability of a short extension in the individual assessment task information for their courses.

Short extensions do not require supporting documentation. They must be submitted before the assessment task deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Late penalties apply to submission of assessment tasks without approved extension.

Special consideration

In cases where short term events beyond your control affect your performance in a specific assessment task you may formally apply for [Special Consideration](#) through myUNSW.

UNSW has a **Fit to Sit rule**, which means that by sitting an examination on the scheduled date, you are declaring that you are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. Examinations include centrally timetabled examinations and scheduled, timed examinations and tests managed by your School.

Important information relating to Short Extension and Special Consideration is available [here](#), including eligibility for Special Consideration, circumstances where students with Equitable Learning Plans can apply for Short Extensions and Special Consideration, and the appeals process.

Examinations

Information about the conduct of examinations in your course is provided on your course Moodle page.

Timed online assessment tasks

If you experience a technical or connection problem during a timed online assessment, such as a timed quiz, you can apply for Special Consideration. To be eligible to apply you need to contact

the Course Convenor and advise them of the issue immediately. You will need to submit an application for Special Consideration immediately, and upload screenshots, error messages or other evidence of the technical issue as supporting documentation. Additional information can be found on: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Other assessment tasks

Late submission of assessment tasks

UNSW has standard late submission penalties as outlined in the [UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure](#), with no permitted variation. All late assignments (unless extension or exemption previously agreed) will be penalised by 5% of the maximum mark per calendar day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays).

Late submissions penalties are capped at five calendar days (120 hours). This means that a student is not permitted to submit an assessment more than 5 calendar days (120 hours) after the due date for that assessment (unless extension or exemption previously agreed).

Failure to complete an assessment task

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses. In some courses, there will be a minimum pass mark required on a specific assessment task (a “hurdle task”) due to the need to assure clinical competency.

Where a hurdle task is applicable, additional information is provided in the assessment information on your course Moodle page.

Feedback on assessments

Feedback on your performance in assessment tasks will be provided to you in a timely manner. For assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, feedback will be provided within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances.

Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Any variation from the above information that is specific to an assessment task will be clearly indicated in the course and assessment information provided to you on your course Moodle (or

Open Learning) page.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

The university offers a wide range of support services that are available for students. Here are some links for you to explore.

- The Current Students Gateway:<https://student.unsw.edu.au>
- Academic Skills and Support:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student support:<https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>

Mind Smart Guides are a series of mental health self-help resources designed to give you the psychological flexibility, resilience and self-management skills you need to thrive at university and at work.

- Mind Smart Guides: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/mindsmart>
- Equitable Learning Services:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- Guide to studying online: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/online-study>

Most courses in UNSW Medicine & Health use Moodle as your Learning Management System. Guidance for using UNSW Moodle can be found on the Current Student page. Difficulties with Moodle should be logged with the IT Service Centre.

- Moodle Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support>

The IT Service Desk is your central point of contact for assistance and support with remote and on-campus study.

- UNSW IT Service Centre:<https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/services/students>

Course evaluation and development

At UNSW Medicine & Health, students take an active role in designing their courses and their overall student experience. We regularly seek feedback from students, and continuous improvements are made based on your input. Towards the end of the term, you will be asked to participate in the [myExperience survey](#), which serves as a source of evaluative feedback from students. Your input to this quality enhancement process is valuable in helping us meet your learning needs and deliver an effective and enriching learning experience. Student responses are carefully considered, and the action taken to enhance educational quality is documented in the myFeedback Matters section of your Moodle (or Open Learning) course page.

School-specific Information

Laboratory or practical class safety.

For courses where there is a laboratory or practical-based component, students are required to wear the specified personal protective equipment (e.g., laboratory coat, covered shoes, safety glasses) indicated in the associated student risk assessments. The student risk assessments will be provided on the course Moodle page and must be read and acknowledged prior to the class.

Master of Science in Health Data Science courses

Courses in the Master of Science in Health Data Science are hosted through [Open Learning](#). Additional resources are available on the [Health Data Science Student Hub](#).

School Contact Information

School guidelines on contacting staff:

Course questions

All questions related to course content should be posted on Moodle (or Open Learning) or as directed by your Course Convenor.

In cases where email communication with course convenors is necessary, we kindly request the following:

- Use your official email address for any correspondence with teaching staff.

- We expect a high standard of communication. All communication should avoid using short-hand or texting language.
- Include your full name, student ID, and your course code and name in all communication.

Our course convenors are expected to respond to emails during standard working hours of Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Administrative questions

If you have an administrative question about your program of study at the School please submit your enquiry online at [UNSW Ask Us](#).

Complaints and appeals

Student complaints and appeals: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints>

If you have any grievances about your studies, we invite you to address these initially to the Course Convenor. If the response does not meet your expectations, you may then contact:

School Grievance Officer, Prof Nick Di Girolamo (n.digirolamo@unsw.edu.au)

Health Data Science programs: School Grievance Officer, Dr Sanja Lujic (s.lujic@unsw.edu.au)