



UNSW Course Outline

CRIM2042 Explaining Crime - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : CRIM2042

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Law, Society and Criminology

Delivery Mode : Multimodal

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

What causes crime? Who is more likely to offend and why? What can we do to prevent crime? How does criminological theory help us understand the current criminal justice system? This course builds upon your understanding of the major theoretical approaches to crime and criminal justice, and seeks to answer the above questions. Criminological theory will be critically

examined for its utility in developing policy responses and understanding the historical and contemporary development of our understandings of crime, criminality and the criminal justice system. Similar to other social sciences, criminology is a reflexive discipline whereby part of the criminological enterprise is to critically examine criminology itself. We will look at theories that help us to understand what generates crime, how to prevent crime and how crime is best dealt with.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Locate current crime policy within the context of criminological theory
CL02 : Identify strengths and weaknesses in contemporary public debates and crime control policies and assess the validity of underlying theoretical assumptions
CL03 : Map the shifts in criminological theory from the late 19th century to current day
CL04 : Identify theoretical approaches adopted in understanding crime, causes of crime, punishment rationale and strategies
CL05 : Demonstrate your understandings of crime theory and policy through scholarly discussion, debate and written analysis of case study material and policies

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Locate current crime policy within the context of criminological theory	• Crime theory task
CL02 : Identify strengths and weaknesses in contemporary public debates and crime control policies and assess the validity of underlying theoretical assumptions	• Creative Stimulus Analysis • Reflective Essay • Crime theory task
CL03 : Map the shifts in criminological theory from the late 19th century to current day	• Reflective Essay
CL04 : Identify theoretical approaches adopted in understanding crime, causes of crime, punishment rationale and strategies	• Creative Stimulus Analysis • Reflective Essay
CL05 : Demonstrate your understandings of crime theory and policy through scholarly discussion, debate and written analysis of case study material and policies	• Creative Stimulus Analysis • Reflective Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Crime theory task Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 03/10/2024 04:00 PM
Creative Stimulus Analysis Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 31/10/2024 04:00 PM
Reflective Essay Assessment Format: Individual	45%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 16/11/2023 04:00 PM

Assessment Details

Crime theory task

Assessment Overview

400 word individual submission. Apply one theory from Week 2-3 to a news article.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Locate current crime policy within the context of criminological theory
- CL02 : Identify strengths and weaknesses in contemporary public debates and crime control policies and assess the validity of underlying theoretical assumptions

Detailed Assessment Description

This task is designed to get you thinking about the power relations that sit behind definitions and explanations of 'crime'. You will look at media reports relating to 'crime' and begin to analyse the way these impact and have real impacts in the social world and for justice.

Assessment Length

400 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties. For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Creative Stimulus Analysis

Assessment Overview

1,500 word individual submission. Choose one of the provided creative stimulus and a.) identify at least one criminological theory that informs it, and b.) draw on another theory to provide a short critique of what it says about a crime or criminal justice issue.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL02 : Identify strengths and weaknesses in contemporary public debates and crime control policies and assess the validity of underlying theoretical assumptions
- CL04 : Identify theoretical approaches adopted in understanding crime, causes of crime, punishment rationale and strategies
- CL05 : Demonstrate your understandings of crime theory and policy through scholarly discussion, debate and written analysis of case study material and policies

Detailed Assessment Description

This task requires you to choose one of the film scenes shown and discussed in the lectures. You will then need to apply at least one theory from Week 2 - Week 5 in your critical analysis.

Assessment Length

1500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

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Reflective Essay

Assessment Overview

2500 word individual submission. Respond to a set essay question which asks students to critically reflect on a major issue in the discipline or in criminal justice practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL02 : Identify strengths and weaknesses in contemporary public debates and crime control policies and assess the validity of underlying theoretical assumptions
- CL03 : Map the shifts in criminological theory from the late 19th century to current day
- CL04 : Identify theoretical approaches adopted in understanding crime, causes of crime, punishment rationale and strategies
- CL05 : Demonstrate your understandings of crime theory and policy through scholarly discussion, debate and written analysis of case study material and policies

Detailed Assessment Description

Respond to a set essay question which asks students to critically reflect on a major issue in the discipline or in criminal justice practice.

Assessment Length

2500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

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Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

General Assessment Information

For further information on generative AI use in the Faculty of Law & Justice, please review the section titled 'Academic Honesty and Plagiarism' under the 'Other Useful Information' tab.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	Welcome and Introduction to Explaining Crime Why does criminological theory matter? Contemporary challenges for criminology
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	Foundational concepts and the criminal justice system
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	Library session: advancing your research skills
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Origins and Influence of Positivist Theory
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	Anomie and Strain Labelling: Constructing Crime and Deviance
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Homework	There are no classes for flexibility week
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	Settler Colonial Law and the Criminal Legal System
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	Race, Whiteness and Criminology
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	Decolonising Criminology Theories
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	Decolonisation as Abolition

Attendance Requirements

Please see information about attendance requirements in **Law & Justice Assessment Procedure and Student Information** located in the Other Useful Information tab in the Academic Information field.

Please be advised there will be no classes on public holidays. If your class falls on a public holiday, alternative arrangements will be made by the course convenor to make up the missed class.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Crime, Deviance and Society: An Introduction to Sociological Criminology by Rodas, Gore, Porter, Poynting, Russell, Simpson, Rawlins

Course Evaluation and Development

We value your feedback at any time. We strongly encourage you to complete the MyExperience survey at the end of Term.

We have recently changed from a two hour lecture/ one hour tutorial to a one hour lecture and two hour tutorial to enable more student centred conversation around the value, relevance and applicability of theory in the criminal justice system and our broader social world.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Maria Gianna copoulos					Yes	Yes
Tutor	Tina McPhee					No	No
	Lukas Carey					No	No
	Adriana Ishac					No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#). This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at [Assessment & Exam Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Generative AI

Using generative AI to conduct research or to organise your argument is not prohibited but is not encouraged. We note that the output from generative AI tools is often incorrect and almost always more superficial than is required to achieve a passing grade. Moreover, any substantive errors in the assessment, such as inappropriate references or incorrect statements, will be regarded negatively by the marker, just as they would if not generated by AI. You should limit your use of AI to simple editorial assistance, such as standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not. If your marker or Turnitin identify the wrongful use of generative AI in the text of your assessment submission, including the use of paraphrasing software, your assessment may be referred to the

Student Integrity team for investigation. Please go to the link for further information about [referencing and acknowledging the use of artificial intelligence tools](#).

Prohibition on use of translation apps

With limited exceptions for language study, the course of study and assessment in Australian universities must be in English (Higher Education Standard Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 1.5 6(c)).

In Law & Justice many classes have assessable class participation. This must be in English. **Use of a translation device to assist with contributions to class discussion is not allowed.** Marks for class participation may be reduced where use of translation devices is detected. Similar prohibitions apply to use of any other generative text app that is not specifically permitted by the class teacher. However, use of translation software to assist a student to understand material outside of class, or to assist with preparation for assessment is generally permitted.

Further considerations apply to LLB and JD students. International lawyers who seek to be admitted in NSW must satisfy an English proficiency test. That test is expressed as equivalent to IELTS scores of 7.0 -8.0 across the tests. It is assumed that UNSW graduates are at or above those levels of English proficiency. Use of translation apps can impede the attainment of that level of proficiency. Students should avoid behaviours that put them at risk of breach of legal requirements which can have significant consequences, including potential consequences for your admission as a lawyer.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior

to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up, then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact [Nucleus Student Hub](#) for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.