



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS8076 Current Issues in Criminal Justice - 2024

Published on the 02 Sep 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8076

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 : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course examines shifting notions of crime and responsibility for crime within criminal justice. It considers multiple meanings of criminal justice, such as in governing law and order, as dispute resolution, and in managing risk. It encourages a critical appreciation of criminal justice

system responses to crime and engages with the need for criminal justice policy to respond to economic, social, political and cultural issues. The course will examine selected recent developments and ongoing debates in criminal justice.

Main Topics

- Bail and other pre-trial developments
- Compulsory treatment
- Specialised courts
- Restorative justice and other forms of alternative justice
- Private and hybrid forms of security
- The move towards 'pre-crime'

Course Aims

The aims of the course are to ensure that students become familiar with recent developments and ongoing debates in criminal justice, and specifically for students to: examine shifting notions of responsibility for crime and crime control; apply theoretical insights to the analysis of criminal justice; examine new developments and contemporary debates in criminal justice; critically examine criminal justice policy; and analyse influences on the creation of the current crime control agenda.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Demonstrate high level skills of and collaboration and oral communication by discussing and debating course concepts in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner (PLOs 3a & 3b)
CLO2 : Demonstrate advanced oral communication skills by discussing and debating theoretical propositions, methodologies and legal problems (PLOs 2a, 3a & 3b)
CLO3 : Demonstrate effective oral communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts and criminal justice policy issues clearly, persuasively and appropriately by way of a seminar presentation (PLOs 3a & 3b)
CLO4 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of key themes, emerging trends and practical problems in criminal justice by successful completion of an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a & 4)
CLO5 : Demonstrate an ability to utilise research principles and methods in the context of criminal justice by successful completion of an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b & 4)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Demonstrate high level skills of and collaboration and oral communication by discussing and debating course concepts in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner (PLOs 3a & 3b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Participation
CLO2 : Demonstrate advanced oral communication skills by discussing and debating theoretical propositions, methodologies and legal problems (PLOs 2a, 3a & 3b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Participation
CLO3 : Demonstrate effective oral communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts and criminal justice policy issues clearly, persuasively and appropriately by way of a seminar presentation (PLOs 3a & 3b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Presentation and Paper (1000 words)
CLO4 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of key themes, emerging trends and practical problems in criminal justice by successful completion of an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Essay (4500 words)
CLO5 : Demonstrate an ability to utilise research principles and methods in the context of criminal justice by successful completion of an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Essay Plan (1500 words)• Research Essay (4500 words)

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Additional Course Information

This is a critical criminology course, where we critique conventional approaches to crime policy and engage with anti-colonial analysis of criminalisation processes and institutions.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Class Presentation and Paper (1000 words)	30%	
Research Essay Plan (1500 words)	10%	
Research Essay (4500 words)	50%	
Class Participation	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable

Assessment Details

Class Presentation and Paper (1000 words)

Assessment Overview

Class Presentation and Paper (1000 words) - 30%

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Demonstrate effective oral communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts and criminal justice policy issues clearly, persuasively and appropriately by way of a seminar presentation (PLOs 3a & 3b)

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see instructions posted to the Assessment Hub on Moodle.

Assessment Length

NA

Submission notes

Presentation papers can be UP TO 1000 words.

Assessment information

Please see template for your presentation summary posted to the Assessment Hub on Moodle.
Summaries can be as brief as 100 words and UP TO 1,000 words.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

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

This task is assessed on class presentations. The written summary is not the focus of the rubric for this task. There is no need for digital editing assistance.

Research Essay Plan (1500 words)

Assessment Overview

Research Essay Plan (1500 words) - 10%

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO5 : Demonstrate an ability to utilise research principles and methods in the context of criminal justice by successful completion of an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b & 4)

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see instructions including essay questions posted to the Assessments Hub on Moodle.

Assessment Length

UP TO 1500 words.

Submission notes

late submissions will be returned by 4 November 09:00am.

Assessment information

Please see instructions and essay questions posted to the Assessment Hub on Moodle.

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](#).

Please see course AI guideline posted to the Assessments Hub on Moodle.

Research Essay (4500 words)

Assessment Overview

Research Essay (4500 words) - 50%

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO4 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of key themes, emerging trends and practical problems in criminal justice by successful completion of an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a & 4)
- CLO5 : Demonstrate an ability to utilise research principles and methods in the context of criminal justice by successful completion of an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b & 4)

Detailed Assessment Description

See Assessment hub on Moodle

Assessment Length

4,000 words excluding footnotes and bibliography

Submission notes

submit through Turnitin link on Moodle

Assessment information

Marks are posted when course results are released.

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.

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

Please see AI guideline posted to the Assessment Hub on Moodle.

Class Participation

Assessment Overview

Class Participation - 10%

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate high level skills of collaboration and oral communication by discussing and debating course concepts in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner (PLOs 3a & 3b)
- CLO2 : Demonstrate advanced oral communication skills by discussing and debating theoretical propositions, methodologies and legal problems (PLOs 2a, 3a & 3b)

Detailed Assessment Description

There is a new rubric for this assessment task. Please see copy posted to the Assessment Hub on Moodle.

Submission notes

Participation marks are released with course results.

Assessment information

See note re new rubric for Class Participation.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

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

There is no written component to Class Partiicpation and no need for editing or other digital tools in this context.

General Assessment Information

Discussion and skills for each assessment are presented in the seminar preceding the due date.

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

Requirements to pass course

Each assessment task must be attempted.

Course Schedule

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

Course Evaluation and Development

All rubrics for this course have been reviewed in consultation with the Law and Justice EDQ team.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Ingrid Matthews		Room 320 Law Building		office hours by appointment	Yes	Yes

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.