



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Criminology

CRIM 326

**CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH
METHODS**

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Study week: 20–24 October 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 24 October to 15 November 2014

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class Times and Locations

Lectures: Thursday, 2:10-4:00pm KKL301

Tutorials: Monday, 2:10-3:00pm MY305
Tuesday, 11:00-11:50am MY221
Tuesday, 12:00-12:50pm MY221
Tuesday, 1:10-2:00pm MY221
Wednesday, 11:00-11:50am MY221
Wednesday, 1:10-2:00pm MY221

Please sign up for a tutorial using SCubed.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Russil Durrant
Level 11, Murphy Building, MY1120
Telephone: (04) 463 9980
Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: Thursday, 1:00-2:00pm

Communication of additional information

Any additional course information will be posted on Blackboard. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to forward messages received from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

CRIM 326 will provide an introduction to research methods in criminology. In this course the various different approaches to studying crime will be explored and the important ethical issues in doing criminological research will be presented. Note: this course is strongly recommended for students wishing to progress to Honours level study.

Course content

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
17 July	Introduction; The nature and practice of research in criminology Dr Russil Durrant	No Tutorial
24 July	Criminal justice statistics Dr Russil Durrant	Interpreting criminal justice statistics using Excel 1
31 July	Research Methodologies Dr Russil Durrant	Interpreting criminal justice statistics using Excel 2
7 August	Research ethics Dr Russil Durrant Working with victims and offenders Associate Professor Julian Buchanan	
14 August	Historical and comparative research Professor John Pratt	Research ethics
21 August	Survey research Dr Russil Durrant	Introduction to data analysis with SPSS
11 September	Experimental and longitudinal research designs Dr Russil Durrant	Quantitative data analysis using SPSS 1
18 September	Qualitative research methodologies Associate Professor Julian Buchanan	Quantitative data analysis using SPSS 2
25 September	Qualitative research analysis Associate Professor Jan Jordan	Qualitative analysis 1
2 October	Special topic: Interviewing victims of state crime Associate Professor Elizabeth Stanley	Qualitative analysis 2
9 October	Introduction to Pasifika research methodologies; conducting research with Pasifika participants. Dr Sailau Suaalii-Sauni	Interviewing
16 October	Course summary; exam revision Dr Russil Durrant	No tutorial

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Describe and critically evaluate different methodological approaches used in criminological research,
2. Critically evaluate the nature of criminal justice statistics,
3. Describe the important social and ethical issues relating to research in criminology, and
4. Employ quantitative and qualitative research methods to investigate criminological phenomena.

Teaching format

This course comprises twelve 2 hour lectures and nine 1 hour tutorials.

Attendance as tutorials is mandatory. In order to meet the mandatory requirements for this course you must attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit Assignments 1, 2, & 3,
2. Submit the research proposal,
3. Sit the final exam, and
4. Attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials.

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 20 point course equates to 200 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

In addition to attending the lectures (24 hours for the trimester) and tutorials (9 hours) students can expect to spend, on average, approximately 20 hours throughout the course on essential reading, 40 hours preparing and writing the tutorial reports, 50 hours preparing and writing the Research proposal and 60 hours preparing for the Final Examination.

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Assignment 1: Tutorial report (1,000 words)	10	2,4	Wednesday 6 August
2 Assignment 2: Tutorial report (1,000 words)	10	4	Wednesday 24 September
3 Assignment 3: Tutorial report (1,000 words)	10	4	Wednesday 8 October
4 Research proposal (2,000 words)	30	1,3	17 September; 15 October*
5 Final Examination (3 hours)	40	1,2,3,4	TBA

*Students are only required to submit ONE research proposal for this course, but they may submit up to TWO DIFFERENT research proposals for this course, with the best mark counting towards their final grade. The first intake of research proposals is due by 17 September and the second intake of proposals is due by 15 October.

Further information about each assessment item, including marking criteria, will be provided in the first week of trimester two.

Submission and return of work

Submit a paper copy to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office, Level 9, Murphy Building (to the side of the lifts), by 4pm on the due date. Your essay **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm every day. All work is date-stamped, recorded and then handed to the appropriate markers.

Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm only from Monday to Friday**.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Assignments must be handed in by the due date. You are expected to keep to this deadline, as otherwise it is unfair to other students. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and should be sought from the course co-ordinator **prior** to the deadline. An example of an exceptional circumstance would be illness supported by a letter from a medical practitioner. Please note that lack of organisation, word-processing failures and other work demands are not “good reasons”.

Penalties

Late submission of work without permission will be penalised by the following deductions:

One grade = period up to and including 24 hours past due date.

Two grades = period from 24 hours up to and including 72 hours past due date.

Work that is handed in later than 72 hours without permission will not be accepted.

Students are advised that failure to keep to the word limit can result in examiners refusing to read that part of the assignment in excess of the word limit. You must provide a word total on the cover sheet for the assignment.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

Not applicable to this course.

Set texts

There is no set text for this course.

Recommended reading

Material for each lecture will be posted on Blackboard. This will include a range of lecture notes and suggested reading. In addition, the following sources may be useful to supplement this material.

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2011). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, California : Sage Publications Inc.

Bryman, A. (2012). *Social research methods* (4th ed.). New York, New York: Oxford University Press.

Field, A. (2009). *Discovering statistics using SPSS* (3rd ed.). London: Sage Publications Ltd.

Gadd, D., Karstedt, S., & Messner, S. F. (Eds.). (2012). *The Sage handbook of criminological research methods*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications Inc.

Grbich, C. (2013). *Qualitative data analysis*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

Leary, M. R. (2012). *Behavioral research methods* (6th ed.). New York, New York : Pearson Education Inc.

Denscombe, M. (2012). *Research proposals: A practical guide*. Maidenhead, Berkshire: Open University Press.

Pallant, J. (2013). *SPSS survival manual* (5th edition). Sydney: Allen & Unwin.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013
Phone: 463 5676, Email: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine, MY1023
Phone: 463 6132, Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz

Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101
Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120
Phone: 463 9980, Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz

School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918
Phone: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz

School Administrators: Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921,
Phone: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677
Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

School of Social and Cultural Studies: www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs