



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 211

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGICAL THOUGHT

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Study week: 9 – 13 June 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 13 June to 2 July 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: Monday 11:00 - 11:50 am (New Kirk KKLT303)

Wednesday 11:00 - 11:50 am (New Kirk KKLT303)

Tutorials: tba

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Dr Trevor Bradley

Room 1101, Murphy Building

Tel: 04 463 5432

Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz

Contact details for tutors, and their office hours, will be listed on Blackboard.

Communication of additional information

Additional course related information will be posted on the Criminology notice boards (located on level 9 and 11 of the Murphy Building) and 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 set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

The focus of the first half of CRIM 211 is on theoretical explanations for crime and criminality. The second half of the course begins by examining the nature and extent of crime and media representations of crime and criminality before exploring the various social dimensions of crime including ethnicity, class, gender and age. CRIM 211 ends with an examination of contemporary approaches to crime prevention.

Course content

This course is designed to introduce students to the subject of criminology, tracing some of the major themes, concepts and debates that arise within this discipline. The course begins with an overview of crime and the development of criminology before introducing the major schools of thought and theoretical perspectives making up criminology. The course then moves on to consider the two main avenues by which the public obtain information about crime - the media and official statistics. The image of criminals presented in these sources - in particular, the criminal as a young, lower class, ethnic minority male - are then questioned through an examination of the processes that produce societal definitions of crime and the broader social and political context within which crime occurs. The relationship between ethnicity, class, gender and age and crime are critically examined before the course concludes with an overview of crime prevention policy.

Lecture Schedule

Week commencing		Lecture Topic	
1	3 March	Introduction	Defining Crime & Criminology
2	10 March	Deterrence & Rational Choice Theories of Crime	Criminological Positivism I (Individual)
3	17 March	Criminological Positivism II (Sociological)	Radical Criminology
4	24 March	Recent Critical Narratives	Realist Criminology
5	31 March	In-Class Test	Official Crime Statistics I
6	7 April	Official Crime Statistics II	Crime and the Media I
7	14 April	Crime and the Media II	Ethnicity and Crime I
18 April – 4 May Mid-Trimester break			
8	5 May	Ethnicity and Crime II	Class and Crime I
9	12 May	Class and Crime II	Gender and Crime I
10	19 May	Gender and Crime II	Age and Crime I
11	26 May	Age and Crime II	Preventing Crime
12	2 June	University closed	Examination Prep

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Summarise and knowledgeably discuss the key concepts, themes and schools of thought contained within the academic discipline of criminology. (This will be assessed in the in-class test, essay and exam).
2. Critically evaluate and discuss the ideas of key criminological theorists and apply them in a clear well focussed academic argument. (This will be assessed in the essay and the exam).
3. Critically evaluate and discuss the broad social and political environment in which crime occurs, showing an understanding of relationships of power and how these are affected by gender, ethnicity, age and class. (This will be assessed in the essay and in the exam).
4. Critically read and challenge criminological texts (books, journal articles) and think about the relevance of the theoretical approaches covered to contemporary society and the criminal justice system (This will be assessed in the in-class test, essay and in the exam).

Teaching format

The course is taught through a combination of lectures (x 24) and tutorials (x9). Students are expected to attend lectures. Tutorial attendance is mandatory and students must attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials in order to meet mandatory course requirements

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Sit the in-class test
2. Submit the essay
3. Attend at least seven out of nine tutorials
4. Sit the two hour final exam

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 (7–9 hours) students can expect to spend, on average, approximately 45 - 60 hours throughout the course on essential reading, 15 - 30 hours preparing for the in-class test, 40 - 60 hours preparing for the Essay and 40 - 50 hours preparing for the Final Examination.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	In-Class test (20 minutes)	15%	1	4 pm Mon 31 March
2	Essay (2000 words)	35%	1, 2,3 & 4	4 pm Mon 5 May
3	Exam (2 hours)	50%	1, 2, 3 & 4	TBA

Other assessment information:

Marking criteria (essay)

First, your essay must be relevant to and answer the set question.

Second, you should show that you have thought about the topic and reached your own conclusions on it. It is therefore important that the paper presents a logically developed flow of argument which appears to follow an analysis of the topic, and that this argument can be supported by the accurate presentation of supporting evidence.

Third, you should accurately acknowledge the sources used, and should choose representative evidence.

Fourth, it is expected that your essay will:

- ✓ flow coherently;
- ✓ be succinct;
- ✓ be legible and well set out;
- ✓ be of reasonable length (no more than 2000 words); and
- ✓ show a good knowledge of grammar, correct spelling and correct usage of terms.

Please note:

- **Do not** exceed the word limit. 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.
- Students are advised that tutors and other Institute staff members are not allowed to comment or provide feedback on draft assignments. It is possible, however, to discuss assignments in general terms.
- Essays must be submitted on the due date by **4pm**. The assignment should be placed in the assignment box on level 9 of the Murphy building. Students who have received an extension should ensure that the assignment is placed in the assignment box on the extended due date.
- It is important to adhere to basic presentation guidelines in your written work. **Please make sure that you:** include page numbers, 'justify' your paragraphs with reasonable margins of no less than 2cm on both sides and include the question you are answering at the start of your essay.

Submission and return of work

All written work should be placed in the essay box on the 9th floor of the Murphy building **no later than 4pm on Mon 5 May 2014** unless an extension has been granted. Essays will be returned within tutorial times in the week beginning 26 May 2014. 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 head tutor or 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

There are no other arrangements for this course.

Set texts

Essential texts: This course is supported by a core text book ‘An Introduction to Criminological Thought’ (Bradley and Walters, 2011), which is available from VicBooks. Customers can order textbooks online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Essential weekly readings will be taken from the course text with additional supplementary reading material posted on Blackboard for each week. The tutorial programme will list the sources for each weekly discussion. Students can freely access the supplementary reading material via Blackboard (<http://blackboard.scs.vuw.ac.nz>). The supplementary reading material might also prove useful for the essays and for exam preparation. You must try to read and be familiar with the relevant course materials in advance of the lectures and tutorials in which it will be discussed. Unless you are advised otherwise, the topics will be dealt with in the order shown in the Teaching Programme.

Recommended reading

Suggestions for further readings as well as links to relevant internet sites will be posted on Blackboard.

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-enroll/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

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International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023

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Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120

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School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918

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School Administrators: Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921

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