



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 421

**Special Topic: Criminal and
Investigative Psychology**

30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 + 2, 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

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

Mid-year break: 3–13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 2014

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: Friday 13:10 - 15:00 New Kirk KK107

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Russil Durrant

Murphy building, MY 1120

Tel: 463 9980

E-mail: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Friday 12.00-13.00

Communication of additional information

CRIM 421 has information on Blackboard at: www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz. There is a student noticeboard outside the lifts on level 11 of Murphy building where general information, which may be of interest to you, is displayed. There is also a School student noticeboard on level 9 of the Murphy building. 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

This course provides an in-depth analysis of several important topics in criminal and investigative psychology. Three main areas will be considered: homicide, offender profiling, and the psychology of punishment. On completion of this course, students will have advanced their understanding of criminal and investigative psychology in several key areas and will be able to apply this knowledge to real world examples.

Course content

Date	Topic
7 March	Introduction and overview; Investigative psychology
14 March	Profiling 1
21 March	Profiling 2
28 March	Lie detection
4 April	Investigative interviewing
11 April	For and against 1: Of what practical use is investigative psychology?
18 April	Public holiday; no class
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK	
9 May	An introduction to evolutionary criminology
16 May	Explaining gender differences in homicide
23 May	Age and crime in evolutionary perspective
30 May	Socioeconomic status and crime: A life history approach
6 June	For and against 2: What can evolutionary theory contribute to our understanding of crime?
MID-YEAR BREAK	
18 July	Serial Murder
25 July	Mass Murder
1 August	Collective Violence 1
8 August	Collective Violence 2
15 August	For and against 3: Do all humans have the capacity for 'evil'?
22 August	Moral psychology
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK	
12 September	The psychology of punishment
19 September	The psychology of sentencing
26 September	Prospects for offender rehabilitation
3 September	For and against 4: How important is it to invest in the rehabilitation of offenders?
10 October	Course summary
17 October	No class

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Have developed an understanding of certain key areas – evolutionary criminology, mass murder, criminal investigation, offender rehabilitation, and the psychology of punishment – and issues in criminal and investigative psychology (all assessment)
2. Be able to apply relevant theories and research to address specific questions in criminal psychology (as assessed through Assignment 1 and 2)
3. Have developed critical thinking skills and advanced their ability to analyse and present research in this area (as assessed through the article review and presentation and the for and against presentation and written submission)
4. Have developed oral presentation skills (as assessed through the article presentation and for and against presentation)
5. Have developed advanced writing skills and an in-depth understanding of their chosen research topic (as through assignment 1 and 2).

Teaching format

The course structure includes lectures, class discussion and student presentations. Each seminar will normally involve a combination of lecturing, class discussion and in-class activities. The discussion is intended to build on the material presented in the lecture and on the course reading for that week. It is imperative that students come to class with the reading completed and prepared to enter into these discussions. Set readings have been kept to a minimum for this reason.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Give a 10 minute presentation involving a review of an article.
2. Submit essay 1 (4000 words) by the due date.
3. Submit essay 2 (4000 words) by the due date.
4. Give 10 minute presentation and 1000 word written submission.

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 30 point course equates to 300 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

Obviously the time you spend on these activities will vary throughout the trimester and according to your individual study habits, but you might find the following useful in deciding how to allocate your time:

Task	Estimated workload*
Lecture attendance	44 hours (2 hours per week for 22 weeks)
Assigned reading and note taking	70 hours
Research essay 1	70 hours
Research essay 2	70 hours
Article review	10 hours
For and against presentation and written submission	36 hours

*Based on an overall workload of 300 hours for CRIM 421.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLOs	Due Date
1	10 minute presentation involving a review of an article	5%	1, 3, 4	During Trimester 1/2
2	4,000 word research essay (1)	40%	1, 2, 5	By 4.00 pm either April 30 or 18 June
3	4,000 word research essay (2)	40%	1, 2, 5	By 4.00 pm either 3 September or 29 October
4	For and against presentation and written submission 10 minute presentation and 1,000 word written submission	15%	1, 3, 4	During Trimester 1/2

All pieces of assessment are due at 4pm on the due date unless prior arrangements have been made with the course convener.

Further details concerning these assessment items, including information about the assessment criteria for each item will be provided to students in the first week of trimester 1.

Submission and return of work

Work should be submitted to the Essay Box, School Administration Office which is on the 9th Floor of the Murphy Building. Please include the School's Assignment Cover Sheet (a sample is attached at the back of this Outline) when submitting your assignments. This ensures that you have provided essential information. You may wish to have a front page of your own on your assignment, but the top sheet must be the School's Assignment Cover Sheet. Further copies can be found at the School's Administration office and also on the School's Essay Box table, on level 9 of Murphy building. 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.

All pieces of assessment will be marked and returned to students in class within two weeks of the due date.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Assignments must be handed in by the due date. You are expected to make every effort to keep to this deadline.

An automatic extension of two days will be given to all students who request it from the course coordinator, without the need to provide a reason or supporting evidence. The request must be made via email and before the due date of the piece of assessment.

Extensions longer than two days will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and should be sought from the course co-ordinator. 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 prior permission will not be accepted.

Set texts

There is no set text or student notes for this course. Readings will be made available to students on Blackboard by the course coordinator during the course.

Recommended reading

Recommended reading for each class will be provided to students on Blackboard by the course coordinator during the course.

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/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

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013

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International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023

Tel: 463 6132 E-m: Hal.Levine@vuw.ac.nz

Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101

Tel: 463 5432 E-m: Trevor.Bradley@vuw.ac.nz

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120

Tel: 463 9980 E-m: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz

School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918

Tel: 463 6546 E-m: La'Chelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz

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

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