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CRIM1010

Criminology: An Introduction

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: Criminology Introduces the key concepts and current debates in criminology. Covers basic issues such as the definition, measurement and explanations of crime, societal reactions to crime, criminological theories, the role of research and the influence of criminology on public policy.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Outline the scope, aims and practices of Criminology as a discipline;
2. Identify key players, themes and debates about crime
3. Demonstrate an understanding of key criminological theories and concepts through critical engagement with literature, news and other media
4. Describe a variety of ways to define, measure and explain crime
5. Understand and use basic terminology common to the criminological field
6. Think critically about crime and its causes
7. Analyse crime problems using basic criminological perspectives

Teaching Strategies

This course requires no prior knowledge in Criminology. In accordance with UNSW Learning and Teaching Guidelines we expect to engage you in learning through a combination of lectures, tutorials, individual reading and study, guided tuition from guest lecturers and academics who are active researchers in the field, meaningful feedback on written work and tutorial participation, and structured activities that encourage independent thinking and the development of disciplinary knowledge and academic skills.

We see UNSW student learners as active participants in the production of knowledge. This course prioritises learning-by-doing and aims to foster a spirit of critical thought and active enquiry in all student learners. It is essential that you take ownership of your studies and work on developing your skills as an independent learner:

1. In this course it is expected that you will attend at least 80% of the tutorials. You need to participate in both lectures and tutorials. All our lectures and tutorials are interactive. Preparation, listening and critical engagement with course material, learning from your teachers but also your peers are essential ingredients for a successful completion of this course.
2. You need to plan carefully and use your time productively if you wish to achieve good results in this course. All assessment tasks should be researched and drafted well in advance of submission.
3. You are responsible for your own learning; work to develop skills that will enable you to engage critically and analytically with academic literature, news reporting and policy documents. The goal of this course is not to be able to reproduce the content in a descriptive manner; we will assist you to become literate in academic research skills with this course as the first stepping-stone in

that process.

4. Throughout your time at UNSW, you should be seeking to evaluate, synthesise and engage critically with all forms of knowledge including knowledge you have produced. Willingness to research, to question and to communicate effectively encourages the development of transferable skills that will stand you in good stead in the future.

This course uses what is known as a blended learning technique - a mix of face-to-face discussion and activities in groups of different sizes [lectures, tutorials], supported by a range of online resources, activities and assessment practices in order to ensure that every student, irrespective of their own learning style, can access the course material readily and in a productive manner.

We have chosen the content of this course with the intention of providing a brief but thought-provoking introduction to the component parts of key criminological topics (such as measuring crime, offenders and victims). We will present the material in the weekly lectures and tutorials, each addressing a critical aspect of contemporary criminological knowledge.

Assessment

Detailed assessment instructions and marking rubrics will be made available to students at the beginning of semester on Moodle. We will have time in the tutorials to discuss the expectations for each assessment task. In addition, Moodle discussion boards will be set up for each assessment task and students are strongly encouraged to visit these regularly and use the boards to ask questions about the tasks.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Annotated bibliography	40%	18/10/2019 11:59 PM	3,5,6
Briefing paper	60%	22/11/2019 11:59 PM	1,2,3,4,5,7

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Annotated bibliography

Start date:

Length: 1200 words excluding references.

Details: 1200 words Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of submission. The rubric will be available to students so that they can work towards specified standards.

Additional details:

Overview

Your task is to provide a brief comment on key literature around a particular crime type of interest. Your task should involve the following structure:

- Select 5 articles and write an approximately 150 word annotation on each.
- Develop a 450 word summary/conclusion of main themes/ideas/issues of concern in the literature chosen.

Some example topics are listed below:

- Hate crime (sometimes called bias crime, prejudice-related or targeted crime)
- Cruelty to animals
- Environmental harm
- Corporate fraud (banks eg)
- Revenge porn (non consensual sharing of intimate images)
- Organized crime (drugs, trafficking of people)
- Drug possession
- Street art/graffiti
- Child abuse (actual or eg new crimes such as failure to report or protect)
- Domestic & family violence

- Another crimetype of your choosing (that is also agreed to by your tutor)

What is an annotated bibliography?

A reference list or bibliography is an alphabetical list of references (books, journal articles) with the appropriate details. You will find such a list at the end of most books and articles. For a book the details usually include author(s), title, date of publication, publisher, and sometimes place of publication and edition where relevant. For a journal article, the information is slightly different: author(s), title of article, title of journal, volume and number, date, page numbers. In CRIM1010 you should reference in accordance with the School of Social Sciences Referencing Guide, available at: <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>.

An annotated bibliography goes one step further. Below each entry on the list, it adds a paragraph summarising important aspects of the article. Usually, an annotation would identify answers to the following:

- What type of work is it? For example, would you classify it as an empirical study (based on data), a review (summarising the works of others), or a theoretical argument (based on logic more than evidence)?
- What question is being addressed?
- What are the theoretical underpinnings?
- What evidence is used to test or support the argument?
- What method is employed to analyse the evidence?
- What is the central argument?
- What are the limitations of this piece of work? (For example, do the method and evidence fit the question? What assumptions are being made?)

These are the questions we ask ourselves when we read critically. We 'critique' the chapter or article, teasing apart the argument, evidence, method etc. in an attempt to assess how good we think the work is. Is it convincing? If so, why? If not, why? Being able to read critically and evaluate the worth of a study is one of the most important skills you will learn at university.

How do I find my articles?

There are many ways that you can compile a bibliography of relevant works. You can look through the references in a textbook or another article. You can also use database searches. UNSW Library offers a number of search techniques, key examples of which are listed below:

1. Databases: the UNSW library has many electronic databases and e-journals. There are also some tips on developing a search 'strategy'. From the library homepage go to Student Services, then Information Resources. Once you know what you're doing you can just log stragith onto 'myunsw' where you might have saved particular databases of interest. From here you can search a number of databases, picking an appropriate area. Think through where you are likely to find relevant material. For example, criminology references may be catalogued Law, Psychology, Sociology, Social Sciences, perhaps even philosophy, history or economics. There are some great examples of global databases like "Web of Science" that check for articles across disciplines.
2. Journal/Serial Search: this is one of the most accessible ways of constructing a bibliography. Here I have used the word 'criminology' as a subject keyword. This generates a list of relevant holdings in the UNSW library system. The first page is shown below. Clicking on a link gives you

further information. For example, I clicked on a link for the e-journal Criminology (an American journal) and it gave me the option of electronic access to the journal. When I clicked on the Proquest link, it took me to the Criminology listing in Proquest. I chose to 'Search within publication' (ie in this journal) for 'fraud'. I could look at everything listed, or I could choose an appropriate category. As I wanted articles that had been through a rigorous academic refereeing process, I chose to only examine those listed under 'Scholarly Journals'. This is just one of many techniques for identifying the literature.

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

Assessment 2: Briefing paper

Start date:

Length: 2000 words excluding references.

Details: 2000 words. Formative feedback will be provided during term to develop the components of the briefing paper. Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of submission. The rubric will be available to students so that they can work towards specified standards. This is the final assessment for the course.

Additional details:

Overview

Imagine that the NSW Premier has just telephoned; the state election is coming up and she is developing her platform on crime. She asks you (as a working criminologist) to attend a meeting in Macquarie St where you will speak to a written research brief on a crime topic that deserves attention. Her instructions are as follows:

1. Define the crime clearly (use the legal definition or a different approach where needed, e.g. a human rights approach);
2. Do not bring a non-issue, there must be evidence of a problem and the problem must be worthy of attention - there is some discretion here so justify your focus;
3. Use the best evidence available - do not over-state or understate the scope of this issue;
4. Write efficiently (2000 words max) - describe where you need to describe, appraise critically where different perspectives exist, and reference the sources of your evidence appropriately;
5. You may structure the Briefing in sections with headings;
6. You can (but do not have) to include a very brief Appendix with, for example, a graph of relevant data (such as a crime plotted over time) - such documents would be outside of the word count;
7. Conclude with a clear summary, some thoughtful reflections and options for the way forward.

For Noting

There is a lot of up to date and publicly available information on crime in Australia (for example using Crime Statistics Australia data) or NSW (for example using the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research online crime tools).

Tip

This Assessment explicitly tests for an understanding of material and approaches covered in lectures & tutorials so engaging in these activities is considered integral to assessment success. Similarly, while not compulsory, the Self Directed Learning Tasks (completed online) can be worked-through over the course of the Term, and have been specifically designed to help develop the skills necessary for the Research Briefing.

Marking Criteria

There are five components of the Briefing and each attracts marks (see below):

1. *Definition and justification of the issue*: This is sometimes termed 'problematism' in the humanities & social sciences (see here for an excellent and brief discussion by Prof. Pat Thomson* on what problematisation actually means). (10 marks)
2. *The parameters*: Put the crime in context by accurately scoping the issue including incidence, prevalence, patterns across time and impact. Comment here on the veracity of these parameters (how confident you are in the accuracy of this information? Consider common issues with crime statistics as covered in Week 2 of lectures; Are most incidents reported and recorded? If not, why not? Is it difficult to access information on the issue? If so what makes it hard? What other forms of data did you draw on to understand the topic? (30 marks)
3. *What is currently known about this topic?*: How do criminologists make sense of the issue? Complete a search of the literature. Use the 5 articles identified for the first assignment as a starting point if you are going on to use the same topic. (40 marks)
4. *Conclusion*: Summarise existing evidence (this would be descriptive writing) and provide some thoughtful conclusions about the way forward (this would be analytic writing). (10 marks)
5. *References*: In text-Harvard style, Reference list in alphabetical order. (10 marks)

*Thomson, P. (28.01.13), 'Problem, Problematism – What's the Difference?' Patter Blog, Accessed online, <https://patthomson.net/2013/01/28/problem-problematism-whats-the-difference/>

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

Attendance Requirements

There is an 80% attendance requirement for the lectures and tutorials for this course.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 16 September - 20 September	Topic	What is crime?
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Topic	Crime & the media
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Topic	Measuring crime
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Topic	Violent crime
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Topic	Young people & crime
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Topic	Indigenous people & crime
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Topic	Drugs & crime
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Topic	Victims of crime
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Topic	Crime & technology
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Topic	Revision & pivot to 'justice'

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Recommended Resources

Prescribed and Recommended Readings and Resources additional to the textbook will be available on the Moodle site, with resources available through Leganto and the UNSW library.

Course Evaluation and Development

Both formal and informal feedback on this course is welcome from students throughout the semester. Student feedback on the course content, assessments and format plays an important role in the development and evolution of our courses, to ensure that we make the necessary adaptations to the course for the future. This semester we will be seeking feedback from you at various points in the course, and are interested in understanding if and how course activities assist in your development as an independent learner. We will also be using the University's myExperience system to evaluate the course, but you are welcome to communicate any other feedback to your lecturers or tutor at any time. Recent feedback received on this course has resulted in improvements to course content, delivery and assessment tasks for students.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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