



**School of Social and Cultural Studies**

*Te Kura Mahinga Tangata*

**Institute of Criminology**

# **CRIM 321**

***Criminal Behaviour and Investigation:  
A Psychological Approach***

## **Course Outline**

**CRN 13074: 24 POINTS: TRIM 1, 2009**  
*(2 March – 1 July)*

**COURSE COORDINATOR: DR RUSSIL DURRANT**

*Room 1120, Murphy Building*

*Tel: (04) 463 9980*

*Email: [russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz)*

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**LECTURES: WED 3 - 5PM : MACLAUREN LT102**

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# Institute Of Criminology

## CRIM 321

### **Criminal Behaviour and Investigation: A Psychological Approach**

**Course coordinator:** Dr Russil Durrant  
Murphy Building, MY 1120  
Telephone: (04) 463 9980  
Email: [russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 1.00pm-3.00pm.  
If you are not able to see Russil Durrant during this time please call or email to arrange an alternative time.

**Lectures:** Wednesday 3.10pm – 5.00pm; ML LT001

**Tutorials:** One hour per week (nine tutorials in total), time and location to be arranged

**Noticeboards:** The student notice boards are located on levels 9 and 11 of the Murphy Building.

### **Course Outline**

CRIM 321 is a course designed to introduce students to the contribution that psychological perspectives can make to the study, understanding and investigation of crime and criminal behaviour. Two key themes will be covered in this course. The first is criminal actions, which focuses on the application of psychology to understanding criminal behaviour and addresses methods of altering that behaviour. The second theme is Investigative Processing. This concerns the application of psychology to police investigations, including the collection, examination and utilisation of investigative information and evidence.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of CRIM 321 students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the key psychological approaches to explaining crime and criminal behaviour, and be able to use that knowledge to explain a specific crime (as assessed by Assignment 1, and the end of trimester exam).
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the key issues and approaches to investigating crime, and be able to use that knowledge to investigate a specific crime (as assessed by Assignment 2, and the end of trimester exam).
3. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of psychological perspectives relating to the prevention of crime (as assessed by Assignment 3, and the end of trimester exam).

## Course Delivery

The course includes twelve 2 hour lectures and nine 1 hour tutorials.

Attendance at tutorials is not mandatory. However, these sessions have been designed to provide you with additional material that supplements the lecture content. As a result, there will be an expectation that students will draw on this material in their exam. Tutorials will also be used to assist students to complete their assignments and to prepare for the final exam.

**Tutorials will start in the second week of trimester.**

During the first week, you will be allocated to a tutorial group. Once you have been allocated to one of these groups, you should always attend at that time. If, for any unforeseen reason, you cannot attend your given time one week, then please see the course co-ordinator and arrange to sit in on another tutorial.

## Teaching Programme

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
<b><i>Part One: Explaining Crime</i></b>		
<b>MAR 4</b>	Introduction and Juvenile Delinquency	<b>No Tutorial</b>
<b>MAR 11</b>	Violent Offending	Introduction Psychopathy
<b>MAR 18</b>	Mass Murder, Serial murder, and Collective Violence	Guide to Assignment 1 Essay writing for CRIM 321
<b>MAR 25</b>	Victims of Sexual Offending	<b>No Tutorial</b>
<b><i>Part Two: Investigating Crime</i></b>		
<b>APR 1</b>	Offender Profiling <i>Assignment One Due: Friday April 3</i>	Offender Profiling Guide to Assignment 2
<b>APR 8</b>	Lie Detection and False Confessions	Lie Detection
<b><i>13 -26 April Mid Trimester Break</i></b>		
<b>APR 29</b>	Geographic Profiling <i>Assignment Two Due: Friday May 1</i>	<b>No Tutorial</b>
<b>MAY 6</b>	Eyewitness Testimony and Identification	Eyewitness Testimony
<b>MAY 13</b>	Drugs and Crime	Drugs and Crime
<b><i>Part Three: Preventing Crime</i></b>		
<b>MAY 20</b>	Punishment	Punishment
<b>MAY 27</b>	Risk, Recidivism, and Rehabilitation	Risk Assessment/ Rehabilitation
<b>JUN 3</b>	Social and Situational Crime Prevention/ Exam preparation <i>Assignment Three Due: Friday June 5</i>	<b>No tutorial</b>

# Course Readings

## Essential Material

You are expected to read the material provided in the course readings in advance of the lectures and tutorials in which it will be discussed. A book of readings will be available from Students Notes.

### ***Part One: Explaining Crime***

#### **1. Introduction and Juvenile Delinquency**

Farrington, D. P. (2005). Childhood origins of antisocial behaviour. *Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy*, 12, 177-190.

#### **2. Violent Offending**

Baumeister, R. F., & Campbell, W. K. (1999). The intrinsic appeal of evil: Sadism, sensational thrills, and threatened egoism. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 3, 210-221.

Brookman, F. (2005). *Understanding homicide*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. (Chapter 2: Psychological explanations of homicide, pp. 75-99).

#### **3. Mass murder, serial murder, and collective violence**

Bandura, A. (1999). Moral disengagement in the perpetration of inhumanities. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 3, 193-209.

Hickey, E. W. (2002). *Serial murderers and their victims* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson.

#### **4. Drugs and Crime**

Bean, P. (2004). *Drugs and crime* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Cullompton, Devon: Willan Publishing. (Chapter 2: Drugs and crime: theoretical assumptions, pp. 26-58).

### ***Part Two: Investigating Crime***

#### **5. Offender Profiling**

Bull, R., Cooke, C., Hatcher, R., Woodhams, J., Bilby, C., & Grant, T. (2006). *Criminal psychology: A beginner's guide*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications. (Chapter 2: Offender profiling and linking crimes, pp. 17-35).

Salfati, C. G., & Canter, D. V. (1999). Differentiating stranger murders: Profiling offender characteristics from behavioural styles. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, 17, 391-406.

## **6. Geographic Profiling**

Meaney, R. (2004). Commuters and marauders: An examination of the spatial behaviour of serial criminals. *Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling, 1*, 121-137.

## **7. False Confessions and Lie Detection**

Memon, A., Vrij, A., & Bull, R. (2003). *Psychology and law: Truthfulness, accuracy and credibility* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. (Chapter 4: Interviewing suspects, pp. 57-85).

Memon, A., Vrij, A., & Bull, R. (2003). *Psychology and law: Truthfulness, accuracy and credibility* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. (Chapter 2: Telling and detecting lies, pp. 7-36).

## **8. Eyewitness Testimony**

Wells, G. L., & Loftus, E. F. (2003). Eyewitness memory for people and events. In A. Goldstein (Ed.), *Handbook of psychology*, (volume 11, forensic psychology) (pp. 149-160). New York: John Wiley and Sons.

## ***Part Three: Preventing Crime***

### **9. Punishment and its Alternatives**

McGuire, J. (2004). *Understanding psychology and crime: Perspectives on theory and action*. Maidenhead, Berkshire: Open University Press. (Chapter 7: Crime and punishment: a psychological view, pp. 171-198).

### **10. Risk Assessment, Recidivism and Rehabilitation**

Bull, R., Cooke, C., Hatcher, R., Woodhams, J., Bilby, C., & Grant, T. (2006). *Criminal psychology: A beginner's guide*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications. (Chapter 10: The rehabilitation of offenders: what works?, pp. 150-167).

Ward, T., & Brown, M. (2004). The good lives model and conceptual issues in offender rehabilitation. *Psychology, Crime & Law, 10*, 243-257.

### **11. Social and Situational Crime Prevention**

Welsh, B. C., & Farrington, D. P. (2004). Effective programmes to prevent delinquency. In J. R. Adler (Ed.), *Forensic psychology: Concepts, debates and practice* (pp. 245-265). Cullompton, Devon: Willan Publishing.

## Assessment

There are four pieces of assessment for this course.

	Assessment	% of Final Grade	Word Limit	Due Date
1	Assignment One	17.5%	1500	April 3, 4pm
2	Assignment Two	17.5%	1500	May 1, 4pm
3	Assignment Three	25%	2000	June 5, 4pm
4	Exam	40%	Length: 3 hours	TBA

### *Assignment One*

Assignment 1 will involve applying what you have learnt about psychological explanations of crime to a case study of offending. This piece of assessment will assess learning objective 1. You will be required to select a real life example of a crime and to demonstrate how psychological approaches to explaining crime can be used to, potentially, account for your selected crime. Further details on this assessment, including the marking criteria, will be provided in the first week of the course. Helpful hints about how to approach assignment 1 will also be provided during tutorials.

### *Assignment Two*

Assignment 2 will involve applying what you have learnt about the investigation of crime (specifically, offender profiling and investigative interviewing) to a particular example of offending. This piece of assessment will assess learning objective 2. A detailed case study of offending will be provided and you will be required to draw on what is known about approaches to offender profiling and investigative interviewing to provide an analysis of the crime. Further details on this assessment, including the marking criteria, will be provided during the first week of this course. Helpful hints about how to approach assignment 2 will also be provided during tutorials.

### **Assignment Three**

Assignment 3 will involve writing a 2000 word essay on one of six topics provided. This piece of assessment will assess learning objective 3. Further details on this assessment, including the essay questions and marking criteria, will be provided during the first week of this course.

### *Exam*

A three hour examination will be held during the University's examination period, 8 June – 1 July). This exam will assess your knowledge of the entire course content and



will be comprised of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. This piece of assessment will assess learning objective 3. Further details on the structure of the exam will be provided during the course.

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

In order to receive a pass in this course you are required to obtain 50% or over across all items of assessment combined.

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **Written Assessment**

All written work should be placed in the essay box on level 9 of the Murphy building or sent to the Institute (Institute of Criminology, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington) by courier or registered mail postmarked no later than 4pm on the due date.

## **Extensions**

The coursework 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 Russil Durrant **prior to the**

**deadline.** Late submissions of work without permission will be penalised by the following deductions:

One grade (i.e. 5 marks) = period up to 24 hours past due date.

Two grades (i.e. 10 marks) = period more than 24 hours up to 72 hours past due date.

***Work that is handed more than 72 hours late without permission will not be accepted and will therefore receive no marks.***

## **Workload**

Taking into account class attendance, reading for tutorials, preparation for assignments and so on, students should spend around 14 hours per week working for CRIM 321.

## **Communications**

Further information about this course, including lecture outlines, handouts and other material will be provided to students via Blackboard throughout the semester. Students should check Blackboard regularly for updates on course material.

## **General University Policies and Statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

## **Other Contact Information**

Head of School:	Assoc. Professor Jenny Neale, MY1013 Tel: 463 5827 E-m: <a href="mailto:Jenny.Neale@vuw.ac.nz">Jenny.Neale@vuw.ac.nz</a>
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine MY1023 Tel: 463 6132 E-m: <a href="mailto:Hal.Levine@vuw.ac.nz">Hal.Levine@vuw.ac.nz</a>
Maori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Jan- June: Dr David Pearson, MY1020 Tel: 463 6131 E-m: <a href="mailto:Deavid/Pearson@vuw.ac.nz">Deavid/Pearson@vuw.ac.nz</a> Jul-Dec: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Tel: 463 5432 E-m: <a href="mailto:Trevor.Bradley@vuw.ac.nz">Trevor.Bradley@vuw.ac.nz</a>
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120 Tel: 463 9980 E-m: <a href="mailto:Russil.Durrant@vuw.ac.nz">Russil.Durrant@vuw.ac.nz</a>
School Manager:	Carol Hogan, MY918 Tel: 463 6546 E-m: <a href="mailto:Carol.Hogan@vuw.ac.nz">Carol.Hogan@vuw.ac.nz</a>
School Administrators:	Monica Lichti, Alison Melling MY921, Tel: 463 5317, E-m: <a href="mailto:sacs@vuw.ac.nz">sacs@vuw.ac.nz</a>

## Referencing Guidelines

The following format for referencing is from the *Publication Manual* of the American Psychological Association (2001). We encourage you to learn and use the following format for referencing as part of the coursework done for the Institute of Criminology. The following examples are for the more common types of referencing which you will come across. However, if you need further information, please consult the latest edition of the Manual in the library.

### 1. *Periodicals*

#### (a) **One author publication**

In your reference list, cite as follows:

Henderson, L.N. (1985). The wrongs of victim's rights. *Stanford Law Review*, 38, 937- 1021.

- In text, use the following each time the work is cited: (Henderson, 1985); or Henderson (1985) argues that ...

#### (b) **Two author publication**

In your reference list, cite as follows:

Hawkins, J. D., & Weis, J.G. (1985). The social development model: An integrated approach to delinquency prevention. *Journal of Primary Prevention*, 6, 73-97.

- In text, use the following each time the work is cited: (Hawkins & Weis, 1985); or Hawkins and Weis (1985) argue that . . . .

#### (c) **Three or more author publication**

In your reference list, cite as follows:

Lang, A.R., Goeckner, D.J., Adesso, V.J., & Marlatt, G.A. (1975). Effects of alcohol on aggression in male social drinkers. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 84, 508-518.

- In text, use the following the *first* time the work is cited: (Lang, Goeckner, Adesso & Marlatt, 1975), and everytime *after* this first citation as: (Lang et al. 1975).

## 2. *Books*

### (a) **Reference to a one author book**

In your reference list, cite as follows:

Pratt, J. (1992). *Punishment in a perfect society*. Wellington: Victoria University Press.

- In text, use the following each time the work is cited: (Pratt, 1992); or Pratt (1992) asserts that . . .

### (b) **Reference to a two author book, second edition**

In your reference list, cite as follows:

Downes, D. & Rock, P. (1982). *Understanding deviance* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

- In text, use the following each time the work is cited: (Downes & Rock, 1982); or Downes and Rock (1982) suggest that . . .

### (c) **Reference to a chapter in an edited book**

In your reference list, cite as follows:

Ford, D.A. & Regoli, M.J. (1993). The criminal prosecution of wife assaulters: Process, problems, and effects. In N.Z. Hilton (Ed.), *Legal Responses to Wife Assault: Current Trends and Evaluation* (pp. 127-164). California: Sage.

- In text, use the following each time the work is cited: (Ford & Regoli, 1993); or Ford and Regoli (1993) claim that .

*Office use only*

Date Received:

(Date Stamp)

# School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

## Assignment Cover Sheet

*(please write legibly)*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Last name)* *(First name)*

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Course (eg ANTH101): \_\_\_\_\_

Tutorial Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutorial Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

*I certify that this paper submitted for assessment is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_