



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Institute of Criminology

CRIM 211

*Introduction to
Criminological Thought*

Course Outline

CRN 8841: 20 POINTS: TRIMESTER 3, 2010

Teaching dates: 15 Nov 2010 - 11 Feb 2011

Mid-trimester/Christmas break: 20 Dec 2010 - 5 Jan 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 14 - 19 Feb 2011

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR TREVOR BRADLEY

Room 1101, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 5432

Email: Trevor.Bradley@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: WEDNESDAY 10 AM - 12 NOON: CO LT 122

Institute of Criminology

CRIM 211 – Trimester 3, 2010

Introduction to Criminological Thought

COURSE COORDINATOR: Dr Trevor Bradley
Level 11, Murphy Building, MY1101
Tel: 463-5432
Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday, 9 – 10am

If you are unable to come at the above time, please phone to arrange an alternative. **Please do not turn up unannounced**, as it cannot be guaranteed that the coordinator will be present to deal with inquiries.

Administration is on level 9, Murphy Building, MY921 and is open from 9.00am to 4.00pm.

LECTURES: Wednesday 10am – 12 noon, CO LT 122
commencing Wednesday 17 November

TUTORIALS: There will be six tutorials, three from 12noon -1pm and three from 1 – 2pm. To sign up please use S-Cubed (see BB for link); tutorials start on Wednesday, 24 November. For more info see page 23.

Please note: tutorial attendance is NOT mandatory

The Tutorial questions, page 15, are used in conjunction with the text book, and are designed as a general guide and aid to discussion. There is no expectation that each and every tutorial question will be addressed during the tutorials but students are advised that familiarity with these questions will assist preparation for tutorial discussions AND both the in-class test and exam. Please bring these questions to each tutorial (see back of course outline). It is important to keep up with the reading material on a **weekly** basis as the course text and the tutorial questions are often used as the basis for **examination questions!**

COURSE CONTENT

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, before exploring the various social dimensions of crime including ethnicity, class, and gender. CRIM 211 ends with an examination of contemporary approaches to crime prevention.

The course is designed to introduce students to the subject of criminology, tracing some of the major themes 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 that inform and make 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 class and ethnic bias and discrimination in the criminal justice system. This examination extends to the processes that produce our definitions of crime and the broader social and political context within which crime occurs. The relationship between gender and crime is critically examined before the course concludes with an assessment of what we think we know about crime and the implications of this knowledge for the development of social and crime prevention policy.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of CRIM 211 students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the key criminological schools of thought, theoretical perspectives and concepts.
- Demonstrate a familiarity with and an understanding of the key 'social dimensions' of crime (gender, class, ethnicity & age), official and unofficial representations of crime and key features of contemporary approaches to crime prevention.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to BlackBoard which contains useful course information including: lecture outlines/overviews, 'skeletal' lecture notes, and other material used during lectures, it also contains the essay topics and course announcements, there are notice boards on level 9 and 11 of Murphy building that have information that could be of interest to you.

If you have technical problems with BlackBoard please contact the ITS service desk, ITS-ServiceDesk@vuw.ac.nz.

TEACHING PROGRAMME

	Week Commencing	Wednesday 10 am – 11.50am
1	15 November	Introduction: Defining Crime & Criminology
2	22 November	Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories of Criminal Behaviour
3	29 November	Individual Positivist Theories of Criminal Behaviour <i>AND</i> Sociological Positivist Theories of Criminal Behaviour
4	6 December	Radical Theories of Criminal Behaviour <i>AND</i> Realist Theories of Criminal Behaviour
5	13 December	IN-CLASS TEST
<i>20 Dec 2010 – 5 Jan 2011 - Mid-Trimester/Christmas break</i>		
6	10 January	Measuring Crime: Official and Unofficial Statistics on Crime
7	17 January	The Representation of Crime in the Media
8	24 January	The Criminal Justice System (CJS) and its Biases: Ethnicity and Class
9	31 January	Gender and Crime
10	7 February	Crime Prevention and Exam Preparation

COURSE MATERIALS

The essential readings for this course are contained in the textbook '*An Introduction to Criminological Thought*' (Walters and Bradley 2005), which is available from Vicbooks on the top floor of the Student Union building for approx. \$64.

Essential weekly readings from the course text, along with any supplementary reading materials, are listed alongside the corresponding tutorial questions, located at the back of this outline. Students can freely access the supplementary reading material via Blackboard (see above for URL etc). The supplementary reading material might also prove useful for the essays. You **must** try to read and be familiar with the relevant course materials/text 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. In general, tutorials will cover the content of the previous week's lectures and discuss material contained in the course text.

Students are able to order textbooks and student notes online: www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus after being contacted regarding availability.

Opening hours are 8am – 6pm Monday through Friday during trimester time and 8am -5pm during trimester breaks, ph: 463 5515.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This course will be assessed by a combination of the average mark from the In Class Test (worth 20% of your final grade), the essay (worth 40% of your final grade), and a two-hour examination (worth 40% of your final grade).

In-Class Test

Due: Wednesday, 15 Dec 2010 during lecture time

Weighting: 20%

The in-class test will be *20 minutes in length*. This test is designed so that students can demonstrate their understanding of the criminological theories and concepts introduced during the first three weeks of the course. **Remember to be punctual.**

Please note: *This test is a mandatory part of the course assessment and unless it is completed students will not be able to pass this course.*

A useful tip for the In Class Test: Don't waste time – if you can't answer a question move onto the next and return to any unanswered questions at the end, if you have time.

The Essay

Due: Monday, 10 Jan 2011

Weighting: 40%

You will be required to write one essay during the course, of *not more than 2000 words in length*. Material in excess of this limit will simply not be marked. Please ensure that in addition to completing **all** details on the assignment cover sheet **you must provide a word total** for the essay assignment. Essay topics are included in this outline, see page 10. .

When written work is marked, four major areas will be considered:

- ◇ the content of the paper;
- ◇ its structure, approach and argument;
- ◇ the way in which source material has been used, and
- ◇ style and presentation.

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

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:

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

Please note:

- It is most important that you **do not** exceed the word limit. Students are advised that failure to keep to the word limit set for the assignment can result in examiners refusing to read that part of the assignment in excess of the word limit.
- Students are advised that tutors and other Programme staff members are not allowed to comment or provide feedback on **draft** assignments. It is possible, however, for students to discuss assignments in general terms.
- All assignments should follow Institute guidelines for referencing (see referencing guide on page 12). You should also ensure that you check thoroughly for spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. **Careful proof reading is essential.**

- Essays must be submitted on the due date no later than 4pm. Place the assignment in the essay box on level 9 of the Murphy building **with a completed assignment cover page attached**. Students who have received an extension should ensure that the assignment is placed in the essay box on the extended due date. Essays will be marked and returned no more than 3 weeks from the due date.

The Examination

Due during examination period 14 - 19 Feb 2011

Weighting: 40%

The examination for CRIM 211 will be two hours long and will be scheduled during the examination period, 14–19 February 2011.

In completing the examination students are expected to demonstrate a sound understanding of the various conceptualisations of crime; the major criminological theories, perspectives and concepts and their social and political context; the principal ‘social dimensions’ of crime (gender, class & ethnicity) and the range of issues associated with each; and a familiarity with both official and unofficial ‘representations’ of crime and related issues introduced during the duration of this course.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To meet mandatory course requirements for CRIM 211 students must:

- sit the in-class test on Wednesday 15 December
- submit your essay no later than 4pm, Monday 10 January 2011
- sit the examination.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

Taking into account class attendance, reading for tutorials, preparation for assignments and so on, students should spend around 13 hours per week working for CRIM 211.

EXTENSIONS

The assignment 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 coordinator 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, other work demands and word-processing failures are **not** “acceptable reasons”. Late submission of work without an extension 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 48 hours past due date.
- **Three grades** = period from 48 hours up to 72 hours past due date.

Work that is handed in more than 72 hours late without permission WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

E-MAIL POLICY

Due to the large volume of e-mail communication received by course coordinators we ask CRIM 211 students to confine such communications with staff to matters that cannot be resolved in lectures, tutorials or office hours, or for matters that may not be appropriately raised and dealt with in lectures or tutorials. E-mail communications are acceptable in emergency or other exceptional circumstances. Essays **cannot** be submitted as e-mail text or attachment.

SUBMITTING WORK THAT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR ANOTHER COURSE

It is not acceptable for students to re-submit, in part or in whole, work that they have submitted for another course. If a student submits an essay which is textually the same, or partly the same, as that submitted for another course, then the Institute reserves the right to not accept the essay in question.

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>

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be recruited in consultation with the class at the beginning of the course. The class representative's name and contact details will be available to the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA), the course coordinator and the class (on BlackBoard). The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

If you decide for ANY reason at ANY stage to withdraw from CRIM 211 (or any other course) please see the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences office on level 4, Murphy Building for an Add/Drop Course form. Failure to do so may have consequences for enrolment, student grants, allowances, loans, etc., i.e. you will get credited with a fail, not a withdrawal on your record if you do not act promptly. Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

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>

The AVC (Academic) 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. This website can be accessed at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Head of School: Dr. Allison Kirkman, MY1013
Tel: 463 5827 E-m: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz

Liaison person for Māori and Pacific students: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101, Tel: 463 5432
E-m: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz

Liaison person for international students: Dr Hal Levine, MY1023, Tel: 463 6132
E-m: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz

School Manager: Carol Hogan MY918 Tel: 463 6546
E-m: carol.hogan@vuw.ac.nz

School Administrators: Monica Lichti, Heather Day and Alison Melling,
MY921, Tel: 463 5317, 463 5258, 463 5677
E-m: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

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: _____