



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 414

ISSUES IN CRIME PREVENTION

30 POINTS

TRIMESTERS 1 & 2, 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 16 October 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Mid-year break: 2–12 July 2015

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 24 August to 6 September 2015

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

Seminars: Friday 2:10-4:00pm KP22/104

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator Dr Trevor Bradley
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Phone: (04) 463 5432

Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-11am

Communication of additional information

Additional information relating to CRIM 414 will be provided in class, on Blackboard, or via email. Readings are made available on Blackboard every Monday ahead of the Friday class. 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 critically examines a range of issues central to the conceptualisation, implementation and evaluation of crime prevention in New Zealand and internationally. It critically analyses the emergence of contemporary crime prevention, its major approaches and techniques and the political and bureaucratic context of their practical application in contemporary societies.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

By the end of CRIM 414, successfully completing students will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of key crime prevention concepts and terms
(assessed in all assignments)
2. demonstrate knowledge of the main approaches to or models of crime prevention
(assessed in all assignments)
3. demonstrate understanding of the theoretical frameworks underpinning the various approaches to crime prevention
(assessed in all assignments)
4. demonstrate an ability to analyse, assess and evaluate crime prevention research, policy and practice
(assessed in assignments 1, 2 & 4)
5. demonstrate an ability to undertake research
(assessed in assignments 2, 3 & 4)
6. demonstrate understanding of the role and impact of political and bureaucratic contexts **(assessed in assignment 4)**
7. demonstrate knowledge of the domestic and international approaches to and experience with crime prevention
(assessed in assignments 2 & 4).

Teaching format

This course combines informal interactive seminars, class discussion and student presentations designed to guide students through the various crime prevention topic areas. The first half of the class will be taken up by the course coordinator to provide a comprehensive overview of the topic of the week, following which a general class discussion takes place. Be prepared to make an active contribution to the seminars and other group discussions. Four main objectives inform the assignments set for this course: that students demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate and assess crime prevention related research and policy and the practical implementation of policy; that students demonstrate an ability to conduct original research (though not necessarily empirical research); and that students display effective communication skills (written & oral). In consultation with the course coordinator students can choose their own areas of research.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. submit a review of a crime prevention policy, research project or evaluation,
2. submit a research proposal,
3. make a presentation to the whole class on your research topic, and
4. submit the final research essay.

Workload

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

The following is an approximate breakdown of the workload. How to best manage the course workload will be the subject of discussion in class.

Attending Seminars	2 hours/week
Reading for Seminars	4 hours/week
Reading for and writing assignments	4 hours/week

Assessment

	Assessment item	% of final grade	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Critical review (2000 words)	20%	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	by 4.00pm, 20 April
2	Essay proposal (1000 words)	10%	2, 3, 4	by 4.00pm, 2 June
3	Oral presentation (20 minutes)	10%	2, 4, 6	14 Sept – 16 Oct
4	Research essay (6000 words)	60%	4, 5, 6, 7	by 4.00pm, 12 Oct

The course is internally assessed through three written assignments & one oral presentation. Students should discuss their assignments with the course coordinator, to begin working on them as early as possible and to make steady and sustained progress throughout the year.

Assignment 1: Critical review of article/research/policy/project

A review of a journal article focused on crime prevention, crime reduction or community safety, a piece of crime prevention research or a crime prevention related policy or project selected by the student and approved by the course coordinator. In making this selection, ensure your choice is approved before commencing. It would be advantageous to choose an article, research or policy/project relevant to your final assignment, the research essay.

Due date: 4pm, Monday 20 April

Maximum word length: 2000 words

Percentage of final grade: 20%

Further guidelines will be provided in class.

Assignment 2: Research essay proposal/outline

This research proposal/outline is the starting point for your final assignment, the research essay. The focus of the research essay must be of your own choosing but related directly to the broad topic areas covered in CRIM 414. You should ensure that your topic is approved in advance by the course coordinator.

Due date: 4pm, Tuesday 2 June

Maximum word length: 1000 words

Percentage of final grade: 10%

Your essay outline should include:

- a title and proposed structure to the essay;
- the main issues and research questions you intend to address;
- a brief synopsis/analysis of relevant research material.

The proposal should be written in essay form and include references. You should use the feedback from your essay proposal/plan to inform your oral presentation.

Assignment 3: Oral presentation

This is a presentation of your main research essay topic. It should include a broad overview of topic area and the main issues to be covered by the research essay and any initial findings/discoveries. The topic is to be chosen by the student and approved by the course coordinator.

Due date: Presentations will be held between 14 Sept & 16 Oct

Presentation length: 20 minutes plus additional question time

Percentage of final grade: 10%

Further guidelines will be provided in class.

Assignment 4: Main research essay

This is a research essay on the topic chosen by the student and introduced/proposed in the second assignment.

Due date: 4pm, Monday 12 October

Maximum word length: 6000 words.

Percentage of final grade: 60%

Further guidelines and details on all assignments will be provided in class.

Marking Criteria

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

1. the content of the paper
2. structure, approach and argument
3. the way in which source material has been used
4. style and presentation.

First, your assignments must address and be relevant to the question or task set. Secondly, you should show that you have thought about the topic and reached your own conclusions on it. It is therefore important that your assignments present a logically developed flow of argument which follows an analysis of the topic, and that this argument can be supported by the accurate presentation of supporting evidence. Thirdly, you should acknowledge accurately the sources used, and should choose representative evidence. Fourthly, it is expected that your assignments will:

- flow coherently
- be succinct
- be legible and well set out
- be of reasonable length
- show a good knowledge of grammar, correct spelling and correct usage of terms.

Notes:

- It is most important that you **do not** exceed the word limit. Students are advised that examiners may refuse to mark that part of the assignment that is in excess of the word limit.
- Students are advised that Criminology 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.
- The deadline for delivery of essays on the due date is 4.00pm. (The Criminology Programme operates from 9am-4pm Monday to Friday only). The assignment should be placed in the essay box on Level 9, Murphy Building.
- Please note that that students are expected to adhere to University guidelines regarding the avoidance of plagiarism.

Please see Blackboard for a more detailed breakdown of what is expected at each grade.

Assignments – General issues

Given ethics requirements and time constraints it is usually not possible or practical to conduct original empirical research at Honours level and for these reasons it is not expected. Institute staff are not allowed to comment or provide feedback on drafts of the written assignments; however, it is possible to discuss assignments in general terms and feedback will be provided on all work submitted.

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted as a paper copy submitted to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office (Level 9, Murphy Building). Work must be submitted by 4pm on the due date. Submission instructions will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

All final research essays may be sent to an external examiner for moderation. Further information about this examination process will be provided in class.

All assignments will be marked by the course coordinator. Work will be returned in class. Final grades are determined at the examiners' meeting in November.

Written assignments should be on A4 paper (on one side only) and should be typed. The Criminology Programme insists on a high standard of written work from Honours students. You should therefore ensure that your work is free of spelling and grammatical errors, and that your work is carefully and comprehensively referenced. Careful proof-reading of assignments is therefore essential. Failure to meet these standards will result in the deduction of marks.

You are advised to always keep a copy of any work you submit for assessment.

Referencing Style

The expected format for referencing draws on the 6th Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2009). We encourage you to learn and use the format for referencing as part of the coursework done for the Criminology Programme. If you need further information, please consult the latest edition of the Manual in the library and see the referencing guidelines posted on Blackboard.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions are possible if you are having **serious difficulties** that are having a detrimental effect on your work and ability to submit on time. You must talk to the course coordinator **before the due date** if you think you will need an extension. Please note that extensions are typically granted in exceptional circumstances such as illness or death in the family and that in such a situation you may be asked for written verification e.g., a medical certificate, death notice, or letter from a counsellor. Please note that lack of organisation, word-processing failures and other work demands are not grounds or good reasons for an extension.

Penalties

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. Please Note that work that is handed in later than 72 hours without prior permission will not be accepted.

To meet mandatory course requirements work must still be submitted.

Careful proof-reading of assignments is essential. Failure to meet these standards will result in the deduction of marks.

It is most important that you do not exceed the word limit. Students are advised that examiners may refuse to mark that part of the assignment that is in excess of the word limit.

Set texts

There is no set text for this course.

Recommended reading

A list of all recommended and supplementary reading is available on Blackboard. Students will be advised of further recommended reading during the course, dependent on their research topic.

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

You will have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of this course. Student feedback on University courses can 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-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

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