



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 489
RESEARCH PROJECT

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

Last Assessment Item due: 16 October 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

Lectures: Monday 10:00-11:50am KK202

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Russil Durrant
Murphy building, MY 1120
Tel: 463 9980
Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Thursday and Friday, 12:00-1:00pm

Communication of additional information

CRIM 489 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

In this course students will choose and conduct an independent research project and write an extended essay. They will receive individual supervision from a staff member on their research project, while a taught component will familiarise students with the skills necessary to carry out their research project.

Course content

Date	Topic	Lecturer
2 March	Introduction and overview Writing a research proposal	Dr Russil Durrant
9 March	Research ethics and social science – Writing an ethics proposal	Dr Russil Durrant
16 March	Critical issues in quantitative research: Survey design, administration, and analysis	Dr Russil Durrant
23 March	Critical issues in qualitative research	To be arranged
30 March	Student presentations and discussion	Dr Russil Durrant
20 April	Student presentations and discussion	Dr Russil Durrant
4 May	Student presentations and discussion	Dr Russil Durrant

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. develop a research proposal for a specific piece of research in criminology
2. demonstrate an ability to plan and carry out research on a specific topic in criminology (as assessed through the research essay)
3. demonstrate an ability to coherently contextualise and present the results of criminological research in a written format, and in the context of relevant academic literature (as assessed through the research essay).

Teaching format

Students will be required to attend seven two-hour seminars that will provide information about developing a research proposal, research ethics, and critical issues in quantitative and qualitative research. Apart from these seminars students will be expected to work independently on the research essay in consultation with their supervisor.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. attend all seminars,
2. provide a 5-10 minute PowerPoint presentation of your proposed research to the class,
3. submit a 1,500 word research proposal by the due date, and
4. submit the research essay by the due date, subject to provisions for late work.

Workload

University guidelines stipulate that a 30-point course should require 12 hours per week, including class time, of student work. (300 hours across two trimesters).

This includes attending class (one two hour lecture per week), and doing the work to complete your CRIM 489 research essay. Obviously the time you spend on these activities will vary throughout the trimester and according to your individual study habits, and the nature of your research project, but you might find the following useful in deciding how to allocate your time:

Task	Estimated workload*
Lecture attendance	14 hours (2 hours per week for 7 weeks)
Working on CRIM 489 research essay	286 hours

*Based on an overall workload of 300 hours for CRIM 489.

Assessment

The assessment for this course comprises a research essay which is worth 100% of the total marks for the course.

Two copies of this report will be required. The Programme reserves the right to retain one copy.

In addition to the completion of the research essay, students will be required to make a 5-10 minute PowerPoint presentation on their proposed research during weeks 5, 6, or 7 of trimester 1 and complete a 1,500 word research proposal to be submitted to their supervisor by 4 pm 29 April 2015. It also expected that students will submit major portions of their research essay to their supervisor at regular intervals throughout the year.

Item	Status	Length	CLOs	Due date	% of Final Grade
Research essay presentation	Mandatory	5-10 minutes	1, 2	3, 10, or 17 April	0%
Research proposal	Mandatory	1,500 words	1, 2	29 April, 4pm	0%
Literature review	Expected	1,500-2,500 words	3, 4	27 May	0%
Methodology/Methods	Expected	1,500-2,000 words	3, 4	22 July	0%
Findings/Results and discussion	Expected	3,000-4,000 words	3, 4	16 September	0%
Completed research essay	Mandatory	10,000 words	3, 4	16 October, 4pm	100%

Further information regarding the structure of the research essay and details on how it will be assessed 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.

You must submit **two** copies of the research proposal and **two** copies of the completed research essay.

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.

Extensions and penalties

Assignments 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 (course coordinator). 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.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Additional materials, equipment and/or expenses may be involved depending on the nature of the specific research project undertaken by the student. Students should discuss with their CRIM 489 supervisor.

Set texts

There is no set text for this course.

Recommended reading

A list of recommended reading will be provided at the beginning of the course. 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

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-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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Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120 Phone: 463 9980, Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz
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