



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

## Criminology

# CRIM 216

# Alcohol, Drugs and Crime

**20 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 2 2015

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 13 July to 15 November 2015

**Teaching dates:** 13 July to 16 October 2015

**Mid-trimester break:** 24 August to 6 September 2015

**Study period:** 19–23 October 2015

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

## **Class times and locations**

**Lectures:** 10.00 – 11.50 MCLT101

**Tutorials:** TBA

## **Names and contact details**

### **Course coordinator:**

Assoc. Prof. Julian Buchanan (with Dr Fiona Hutton contributing three lectures)

Tel: (04) 463 9452

Level 11, Murphy Building, MY 1118

Email: [julian.buchanan@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:julian.buchanan@vuw.ac.nz)

## **Communication of additional information**

Additional material, new information and notifications of course changes will be posted on Blackboard. Blackboard is an important virtual learning environment for this course. Students doing CRIM 216 will be expected to engage and participate on Blackboard. 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 will examine the place of drugs, alcohol and crime in contemporary society by critically exploring the socially constructed boundaries between use and misuse, the separation between licit and illicit use, and the links between drugs/alcohol and crime.

## **Course content**

Key themes addressed on this course include: the bifurcation of substance use, the contested relationship between substance use and crime, and the legal and policy framework for policing, treating and managing misuse. Through readings, lectures, tutorials and online sources (videos, podcasts, webpages, PowerPoints & Prezis) students will be equipped to critically understand and assess the nature, extent and control of drug and alcohol related crime.

The use of drugs is a ubiquitous feature across human societies, both cross-culturally and historically, despite this the manufacture, sale, distribution and use of certain drugs have without any clear scientific evidence base, been often subject to punitive, criminal sanctions. Certain drugs have been associated with degeneration, violence, organized crime, theft, and other types of criminal activity. However, the misuse of both licit and illicit drugs is a major social, legal and health issue in modern societies, responsible for significant amounts of harm. This course will explore to what extent criminal behaviour is caused by the drugs, or caused by the socio-legal measures used to manage and control drugs.

The central aim of this course is to equip students with a good understanding of nature and context of legal and illicit drug use and drug misuse in society and to explore the complex and contested relationship between drug use and crime.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Describe and evaluate New Zealand law governing the management and control of drug

- and alcohol use and misuse.
2. Explain the social construction of use and misuse of substances and the bifurcation process between licit and illicit use.
  3. Understand and evaluate the contested and complex relationship between drugs, alcohol and crime.
  4. Critically examine criminal justice strategies used to manage and control drug and alcohol related crime.
  5. Critically analyse political debate concerning drugs, alcohol and crime.

## Teaching format

This course involves face-to-face as well as online learning and combines lectures and seminars in a format designed to facilitate student learning and importantly interaction. Each lecture will normally involve a combination of lecturing, class discussion, in-class activities supplemented by the video, PowerPoint/Prezi presentations, course papers, the online magazine [Drugs, Society and Human Rights](http://www.scoop.it/t/drugs-society) (<http://www.scoop.it/t/drugs-society>) and the Blackboard virtual learning environment (VLE). Blackboard discussion is intended to build on the material presented in the lecture and on the course reading for that week.

***It is imperative that all students*** come to lectures having previously read the required material for that week, and that students are prepared and able to enter into class discussions. Following each lecture additional material will be made available on Blackboard. The VLE will also be used to continue some of the issues and debates that emerge from the lecture discussion

The **tutorials** are a key component of the learning process to consolidate learning by providing opportunity for further discussion within the smaller group. Tutorials are not lectures so student are required to: engage in small group discussions; make presentations; raise questions; and explore issues raised by the previous lecture material or set reading. Successful tutorials occur when the student group are willing to think aloud, explore, engage and contribute.

## Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials. This will ensure students have the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the core criminological themes explored in this course (see course prescription) and to develop oral communication and teamwork skills through participating in the tutorial exercises.
2. Submit all three in-term assignments. In order to demonstrate the achievement of all the Course Learning Objectives you must obtain at least 35% for any assignment worth more than 10%.

Students are strongly advised to attend every lecture.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

## Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore this 20-point course equates to 200 hours study over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

In addition to attending lectures (24 hours for the trimester) and tutorials (7-9 hours) students can be expect to spend approximately 50 hours throughout the course on essential reading, 30 hours preparing for case study assessment, 40 hours preparing for the assignment and 50 hours preparing for the tests.

## Assessment

All three assessments will be available on Blackboard by the end of week two.

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Submission Deadline
<b>1</b> <u>Assessment 1</u> Case studies: Exploring the MDA 1975. 1,500 words	20%	1	Mon 10th Aug (wk.5) 11.30pm via Blackboard
<b>2</b> <u>Assessment 2</u> 2,000 word assignment	30%	2	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept (wk. 8) 11.30pm via Blackboard
<b>3</b> <u>Assessment 3</u> 20 questions test but divided into two halves: Part one handed in online in week 10; Part two sat in class in week 12	50% (2 x 25%)	3,4,5	Part 1 Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept (wk.10) 11.30pm via Blackboard  Part 2. Tues. 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct (wk.12) 10am in class test

### Four key areas are considered when marking your assignments:

1. The content of your work is relevant to and answers the set question.
2. The structure, coherence and approach are academic.
3. The quality of source material used and evidence base of your arguments are reliable, carefully considered and evidence based.
4. The style, presentation and referencing reflects university requirements.

## Submission and return of work

All assignments should be typed and electronically submitted. The Institute insists on a high standard of written work from students. You should therefore ensure that there are no spelling or grammatical errors in your assignments, that work is appropriately attributed to authors, and that references are accurately cited. **Careful proof-reading of assignments is essential.** Failure to meet these standards will result in the deduction of marks.

Assessment one and two will be submitted electronically via Blackboard **and returned via your Blackboard email address.** The results of assessment three (the class test) will be returned via your Blackboard email address. However, your overall grade for CRIM 216 will be available electronically via 'My Victoria'.

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## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

All assessed work must be submitted by the specified date. You are expected to keep to these deadlines otherwise it is unfair to other students. Extensions will only be granted in **unforeseen exceptional** circumstances, and must be sought from Julian Buchanan [Julian.buchanan@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Julian.buchanan@vuw.ac.nz) **prior** to the deadline. An example of an unforeseen exceptional circumstance would be illness confirmed by a letter from a medical practitioner. Please note that **a lack of prior organisation, other commitments and/or computer failures are not valid reasons for an extension.**

### Penalties

The word limit for each assessment can only be exceeded by a maximum of up to 10%. Any words submitted beyond the 10% limit will not be assessed.

Late submission of work **without an authorised 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 72 hours past due date.

FAIL = All work handed in more than 72 hours late.

## Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course.

### Set texts

The prescribed text for CRIM 216 is a prepared book of student notes to be bought from Vic Books. Every student should purchase the book of readings and should have read the required reading before each lecture. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz).

## Recommended reading

**Coomber R., McElrath K., Measham, F. & Moore K (2013) Key Concepts in Drugs And Society, Sage, London**

Further readings will also be provided during the course via Blackboard and via the Course Leaders Online Magazine: 'Drugs, Society, Human Rights and Justice' <http://www.scoop.it/t/drugs-society> Please note that you are expected to read widely but carefully, using your research skills to identify and access additional materials relevant to specific topics. Students are encouraged to attend the University Library's workshops and contact the dedicated Criminology librarian to develop important study skills.

## Class representative

The class representative(s) provide 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

This course is highly valued by students. Following student feedback changes to the assessment methods have provided a stronger connection between the lecture content and course assessments. Students now rate the assessment methods as particularly helpful to learning. The highly relevant and topical content was much appreciated and enabled students to think critically and want to learn more about the relationship between alcohol, drugs and the criminal justice system. Students particularly value the use of videos, tutorials and the accessible teaching style. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php). You will have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of this course.

## 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## School Contact Information

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Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Sarah Wright, MY1102  
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School of Social and Cultural Studies: [www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs)

<b>Week 1:</b>	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Drugs, Effects &amp; Risks</b>
1.	What is a drug?	Gossop, M. (2013). <i>7e Living with Drugs</i> . Ashgate Publishing, Ltd. Chapter 2 'The Effects of Drugs' pp.23-42
2.	What are the effects?	
3.	What risks do they pose?	
<b>Week 2:</b>	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Drug Prevalence and Motivations</b>
1.	Who takes drugs?	Blackman, S (2007) 'See Emily Play, Youth Culture, Recreational Drug Use and Normalisation' pp.39-59 in Mark Simpson, Tracy Shildrick, and Robert MacDonald <i>Drugs in Britain: Supply, Consumption and Control</i> . First Edition. Palgrave Macmillan.
2.	Why do people take drugs?	
3.	Has drug use become normalised?	
<b>Week 3:</b>	<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Drugs and the Law</b>
1.	What is the international and national legal framework that control drugs?	Bancroft, Angus. 2009. <i>Drugs, Intoxication and Society</i> . 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. Polity. Chapter 5 'Governing drugs and Their users' pp.112-145
2.	What are the drug classifications and penalties?	
<b>Week 4:</b>	<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Bifurcation of Drugs: Promoted vs Prohibited</b>
1.	Is the legal - illegal divide between drugs rational?	Buchanan, J. (2008) Understanding and engaging with problematic substance use, pp.246-264, in <i>Addressing Offending Behaviour – Context, Practice, Values</i> , edited by Simon Green, Elizabeth Lancaster and Simon Feasey, Willan Publishing.
2.	What difference does it make?	
3.	Should alcohol have a privileged position?	
<b>Week 5:</b>	<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Use, Misuse and Addiction</b>
1.	How has drug misuse been constructed?	Coomber R., McElrath K., Measham, F. & Moore K (2013) <i>Key Concepts in Drugs And Society</i> , Sage, London ch.4 Addiction pp.18-23 & ch.8 Typologies of Drug Use, pp41-47
2.	What is use and when does it become misuse?	
3.	How do we understand addiction?	
<b>Week 6:</b>	<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Drugs and Crime: Criminalisation</b>
Examining the drug-crime connections 1/2: Prohibition and the War on Drugs: 'A Drug Free World – We can do it!'		Benavie, Arthur. 2008. <i>Drugs: America's Holy War</i> . Routledge. Chapter 1 'Overview' p. 8-20
<b>Week 7:</b>	<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Drugs and Crime: Drug related crime</b>
Examining the drug-crime connections 2/2: Drug induced & drug related crime		Bean, P. (2014) <i>Drugs and Crime</i> . 3rd ed. Willan. Chapter Three, 'Drugs & Crime Theoretical Assumptions' pp.35-64
<b>Week 8:</b>	<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Harm Reduction, Abstinence &amp; Coersion</b>
Voluntary or coercive drug treatment?		Buchanan, J (2015) 'Ending Prohibition With a Hangover' <i>British Journal of Community Justice</i> , Vol. 13, No.1 pp.55-74



<b>Week 9:</b>	<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>Drug Testing &amp; Drug Courts</b>
Monitoring, testing and demanding abstinence?		Tiger, Rebecca. 2012. <i>Judging Addicts: Drug Courts and Coercion in the Justice System</i> . NYU Press. 'Introduction' pp. 1-14
<b>Week 10:</b>	<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Lessons from other Countries</b>
Alternative Approaches: Lessons from Australia, Switzerland and Portugal		Hughes, Caitlin Elizabeth, and Alex Stevens. 2010. "What Can We Learn From The Portuguese Decriminalization of Illicit Drugs?" <i>British Journal of Criminology</i> 50(6): 999-1022.
<b>Week 11:</b>	<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>The Way Forward for Aotearoa New Zealand</b>
The way forward in Aotearoa NZ		Controlling and Regulating Drugs, A Review of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975, Law Commission Te Aka Matua O Te Ture <a href="http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/2011/05/part_1_report_-_controlling_and_regulating_drugs.pdf">http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/2011/05/part_1_report_-_controlling_and_regulating_drugs.pdf</a>
<b>Week 12:</b>	<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>CLASS TEST – 10 Questions</b>
Part Two of the 20 question take home test The test must be completed in class on Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October so put this date in your diary.		