



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Criminology

CRIM 326

CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS

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

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

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, 14.10-16.00pm HMLT002

Tutorials: TBA

Please sign up for a tutorial using my Allocator

Names and contact details

Dr Russil Durrant
Level 11, Murphy Building, MY1120
Telephone: (04) 463 9980
Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: Monday, 1:00-2:00pm

Communication of additional information

Any additional course information will be posted 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 forward messages received from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

CRIM 326 will provide an introduction to research methods in criminology. In this course the various different approaches to studying crime will be explored and the important ethical issues in doing criminological research will be presented. Note: this course is strongly recommended for students wishing to progress to Honours level study.

Course content

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
13 July	Introduction; The nature and practice of research in criminology Dr Russil Durrant	No Tutorial
20 July	Criminal justice statistics Dr Russil Durrant	Interpreting criminal justice statistics using Excel 1
27 July	Research Methodologies Research Ethics Dr Russil Durrant	Interpreting criminal justice statistics using Excel 2
3 August	Sampling Introduction to quantitative data analysis Dr Russil Durrant	Research ethics
10 August	Historical and comparative research Professor John Pratt	
17 August	Survey research Dr Russil Durrant	Introduction to data analysis with SPSS
7 September	Experimental and longitudinal research designs	Quantitative data analysis using SPSS 1

	Dr Russil Durrant	
14 September	Qualitative research methodologies Associate Professor Julian Buchanan	Quantitative data analysis using SPSS 2
21 September	Qualitative research analysis TBA	Qualitative analysis 1
28 September	Special topic: Interviewing victims of state crime Associate Professor Elizabeth Stanley	Qualitative analysis 2
5 October	Evaluation Research Dr Russil Durrant	Interviewing
12 October	Course summary; exam revision Dr Russil Durrant	No tutorial

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Describe and critically evaluate different methodological approaches used in criminological research.
2. Critically evaluate the nature of criminal justice statistics.
3. Describe the important social and ethical issues relating to research in criminology, and
4. Employ quantitative and qualitative research methods to investigate criminological phenomena.

Teaching format

This course comprises twelve 2 hour lectures and nine 1 hour tutorials.

Attendance as tutorials is mandatory. In order to meet the mandatory requirements for this course you must attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials.

Mandatory course requirements

Students must attend 7 out of 9 tutorials for this course. This is in order for students to successfully complete the three assignments which are completed in tutorials and which will enable students to employ quantitative and qualitative research methods to investigate criminological phenomena (CLO 4).

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 a 20 point course equates to 200 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

In addition to attending the lectures (24 hours for the trimester) and tutorials (9 hours) students can expect to spend, on average, approximately 20 hours throughout the course on essential reading, 40 hours preparing and writing the tutorial reports, 50 hours preparing and writing the Research proposal and 60 hours preparing for the Final Examination.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Assignment 1: Tutorial report (1,000 words)	10	2,4	Friday 7 August
2	Assignment 2: Tutorial report (1,000 words)	10	4	Friday 25 September
3	Assignment 3: Tutorial report (1,000 words)	10	4	Friday 9 October
4	Research proposal (2,000 words)	30	1,3	17 September; 15 October*
5	Final Examination (3 hours)	40	1,2,3,4	TBA

*Students are only required to submit ONE research proposal for this course, but they may submit up to TWO DIFFERENT research proposals for this course, with the best mark counting towards their final grade. The first intake of research proposals is due by 17 September and the second intake of proposals is due by 15 October.

Further information about each assessment item, including marking criteria, will be provided in the first week of trimester two.

Submission and return of work

Submit a paper copy to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office, Level 9, Murphy Building (to the side of the lifts), by 4pm on the due date. Your essay MUST NOT be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm every day. All work is date-stamped, recorded and then handed to the appropriate markers.

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

Extensions

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 the course co-ordinator **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, 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 permission will not be accepted.

Students are advised that failure to keep to the word limit can result in examiners refusing to read that part of the assignment in excess of the word limit. You must provide a word total on the cover sheet for the assignment.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

Not applicable to this course.

Set texts

There is no set text for this course. Readings will be provided to students on Blackboard at the beginning of the course in Trimester 2.

Recommended reading

Material for each lecture will be posted on Blackboard. This will include a range of lecture notes and suggested reading. In addition, the following sources may be useful to supplement this material.

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2011). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, California : Sage Publications Inc.

Bryman, A. (2012). *Social research methods* (4th ed.). New York, New York: Oxford University Press.

Field, A. (2009). *Discovering statistics using SPSS* (3rd ed.). London: Sage Publications Ltd.

Gadd, D., Karstedt, S., & Messner, S. F. (Eds.). (2012). *The Sage handbook of criminological research methods*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications Inc.

Grbich, C. (2013). *Qualitative data analysis*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

Leary, M. R. (2012). *Behavioral research methods* (6th ed.). New York, New York : Pearson Education Inc.

Denscombe, M. (2012). *Research proposals: A practical guide*. Maidenhead, Berkshire: Open University Press.

Pallant, J. (2013). *SPSS survival manual* (5th edition). Sydney: Allen & Unwin.

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

Based on student feedback from last year, a lecture on quantitative research analysis has been included and other lectures have been developed in order to reduce repetition of material across the learning sessions.

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

Head of School:	Prof. Brigitte Bonisch-Brednich Phone: 463 6528, Email: Brigitte.Bonisch-Brednich@vuw.ac.nz
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine, MY1023 Phone: 463 6132, Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz
Maori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Sarah Wright, MY1102 Phone: 463 5874, Email: sarah.wright@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918 Phone: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921, Phone: 463 5317; 463 5677; 463 5258 Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz
School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs