



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

TE KURA MAHINGA TANGATA

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 220

SPECIAL TOPIC: ORGANISED CRIME

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Study period: 6–9 June 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 10–29 June 2016

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 in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesday 09:00 - 09:50 Hugh Mackenzie HMLT002

Thursday 09:00 – 09:50 Hugh Mackenzie HMLT002

Tutorials: Tutorials will begin in week two of the trimester. There will be 9 tutorials for this course. Please sign up for a tutorial using MyAllocator:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables/tutorial-sign-up>

Students are required to attend at least 7 of the 9 tutorials.

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Prof Simon Mackenzie

Level 11, Murphy Building, Room 1118

Tel: (04) 463 9452

Email: simon.mackenzie@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10-11am.

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be communicated in lectures and 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

An introduction to organised crime: historical and contemporary manifestations; theoretical explanations; policing and control policies. Topics include case studies of organised crime groups and networks, and also examinations of the types of activities associated with the notoriously loose concept of organised crime. We will review studies of groups like the mafias, triads and drug cartels. Specific types of crimes covered will be things like illegal gambling, loansharking, extortion/protection rackets, contract killing, professional bank robbery and safe cracking, illegal waste disposal, illegal drug supply, cybercrime, human trafficking, corruption and money laundering.

Course content

| | Week Commencing | Tuesday 09:00 - 09:50 | Thursday 09:00 – 09:50 |
|---|-----------------|--|---|
| 1 | 29 February | What is organised crime? | The conceptual history of organised crime |
| 2 | 7 March | Activities and structures: an overview | Entrepreneurial structures |
| 3 | 14 March | Associational structures | Quasi-governmental structures |

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|----|-----------------------|---|---|
| 4 | 21 March | Italian & Italian-American Mafia | |
| | Easter break | | |
| 4 | 28 March | | Chinese Triads, Japanese Yakuza |
| 5 | 4 April | Drug cartels in Mexico and Colombia | Russian organised crime |
| 6 | 11 April | Theoretical explanations for organised crime (part 1) | Theoretical explanations for organised crime (part 2) |
| 7 | 18 April | Corruption & state-organised crime | In-class test |
| | Mid Term Break | | |
| 8 | 2 May | Policing organised crime: criminal law and criminal justice | Reducing organised crime: beyond criminal justice |
| 9 | 9 May | Cyber-isation of frauds, scams and cons | Money laundering and criminal finance |
| 10 | 16 May | Drug trafficking | Human trafficking |
| 11 | 23 May | Art & antiquities trafficking | Organised crime in New Zealand and Australia |
| 12 | 30 May | Emerging issues in organised crime research | Media and policy representation of organised crime |

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Describe the nature and extent of organised crime in society, historically and currently, identifying the main complexities and ambiguities of the concept of organised crime.
2. Define and apply the components of key theories that help to explain the causes and forms of organised crime.
3. Identify the impacts and implications of organised crime for individuals, society, and criminology.
4. Critique the relative strengths and weaknesses of approaches to preventing, reducing, punishing or controlling organised crime.

Teaching format

The course includes twenty-three 50 minute lectures plus one lecture slot which is used for the in-class test, and nine tutorials. Attendance at tutorials is mandatory. In order to meet the mandatory requirements for this course you must attend at least 7 out of the 9 tutorials. Tutorials will start in the second week of trimester. During the first week, you will be allocated to a tutorial group. Once you have been allocated to one of these groups, you should always attend at that time.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- Make a credible attempt at all pieces of assessment, to illustrate they have achieved all of the CLOs of the course, obtaining at least 35% for any assignment worth more than 10%.
- Attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials.

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

Taking into account class attendance of 3 hours a week (lectures and tutorials), reading, and preparation for assignments, students should spend around 13 hours per week working for CRIM 220 (200 hours over a trimester). You should ensure that you **complete the readings** relating to each topic and you are expected to take an active part in tutorial exercises.

Assessment

| Assessment items and workload per item | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|-----|------------|---------------|
| 1 Briefing paper (1500 words) | 30% | 1, 3 | 4pm, 22 March |
| 2 In-class test (40 minutes) | 20% | 2 | 21 April |
| 3 Essay (2,500 words) | 50% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 4pm, 2 June |

Briefing Paper (1500 words)

Due: 4:00pm, 22 March

(Weighting 30%)

Consider this scenario. You work in research and policy evaluation at the Ministry of Justice. The Prime Minister was in a meeting yesterday with a number of other politicians and senior police officers, talking about the threat of organised crime in New Zealand. At the meeting it quickly became clear that many of the attendees had quite different ideas about what might constitute organised crime. The PM adjourned the meeting to a later date and meantime has asked the Ministry of Justice to write him a briefing paper on the question 'what is organised crime?' Specifically, within that overall question, he wants to know what kinds of crime, and what kinds of relationships between criminals, are covered by the term 'organised crime'.

In-class test (40 minutes)

9am, 21 April

(Weighting 20%)

This test is designed to give you the opportunity to display your knowledge about *criminological theoretical perspectives* that can help us understand organised crime. You will be given a choice of five questions and asked to select two questions to answer. You should therefore try to devote approximately 20 minutes to each of your answers.

Essay (2,500 words)

Due: 4pm, 2 June

(Weighting 50%)

This essay allows you to critically evaluate key ideas and concepts related to organised crime. You must pick **one** of the following questions. In respect of several of the questions, it may be possible to draw on or develop case study examples of particular organised criminal groups or activities. You are encouraged to do this where relevant, and you may choose what you consider to be the appropriate balance between specific, general or comparative examples. Please also remember that although the in-class test will have previously allowed you to address criminological theories that help explain the causes and contexts of organised crime, you are encouraged to incorporate and work with relevant theory in this essay too.

1. Find a recent report on organised crime and determine with what meaning(s) and how consistently the term organised crime is used in it. Critically discuss, with reference to the implications for law enforcement, crime prevention, and/or other issues of concern to criminologists.
2. Do the activities of continuing criminal enterprises pose more of a social threat than the activities of other types of criminal offender?
3. How important is the threat and/or use of violence to organised crime?
4. Which organised criminal structure is the most harmful: entrepreneurial, associational, or quasi-governmental?
5. Is the provision of illegal goods and services by organised criminals a 'victimless crime'?
6. Why is money laundering important to organised crime? How can we control it?
7. What is the relationship between organised crime and corruption?
8. When organised crime happens in 'cyberspace', is this just a new technological way of accomplishing traditional forms of crime, or has the internet facilitated the development of genuinely new types of organised crime?
9. What is the best way to control organised crime?
10. What is the nature of organised crime in New Zealand currently, and how does it compare to other countries?

Assessment 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 and show a good knowledge of grammar, correct spelling and correct usage of terms.

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

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 **11.00am and 3.00pm only from Monday to Friday**.

Students can expect their marked work to be available within approximately 3 weeks of their submission date.

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.

It is also most important that you do not exceed the word limit.

Please see the Marking Guidelines for information on exceeding the word limit.

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

Set text

Klaus Von Lampe, 2015. *Organized Crime: Analyzing illegal activities, criminal structures, and extra-legal governance*. Sage Publications, ISBN-13: 9781452203508. Available from [vicbooks](#), ground floor Easterfield building, Kelburn campus.

Recommended reading

Letizia Paoli (ed.), 2014. *The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime (Oxford Handbooks)*. Oxford University Press, ISBN-13 978-0199730445. This book is available both as a physical copy and an ebook via [Te Waharoa](#) in the Victoria library.

Suggestions for further readings as well as links to relevant internet sites will be posted on Blackboard.

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.

Student feedback

CRIM220 is a new course in 2016. No student feedback has been recorded yet.

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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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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