



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

TE KURA MAHINGA TANGATA

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 420

MANAGING DRUG USE AND MISUSE

30 POINTS

TRIMESTERS 1 & 2, 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 16 October 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Mid-year break: 30 June to 8 July 2016

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Study period: 17–20 October 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 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: Friday 10:00 - 11:50am Von Zedlitz VZ710

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Dr Fiona Hutton

Tel: (04) 463 6749

Level 11, Murphy Building, MY 1103

Email: fiona.hutton@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Drop by without an appointment anytime Tuesday, 2:00pm – 3:00pm MY1103 or email me for an appointment at another day or time.

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

The aim of this course is to advance a critical understanding of the diverse nature of drug use and drug users in society in order to develop effective evidence-based strategies to reduce drug-related harms. Students will explore lessons that can be learned from how other countries tackle drug use and misuse. This course critically analyses: the divide between legal and illegal drugs; the social construction of drug use and misuse; the notion of addiction; the philosophical basis of treatment; and the growing use of coercive strategies to reduce drug-related harm. It critically examines the current laws, policies and practices that govern the management and control of illicit drug use in the 21st century and explores whether they are still fit for purpose. Students will critically explore what lessons can be learned from how other countries manage drug use and misuse, including Portugal, Switzerland and Holland.

Course content

This course aims to advance a critical understanding of the diverse nature of drug use and drug misuse in society, to begin to appreciate the complexities of managing and controlling drug use and drug misuse, to explore effective evidence-based strategies to reduce drug-related harms. CRIM420 studies drug-taking from a multi-disciplinary perspective in that drug misuse will involve an appreciation of the social, psychological, physiological, moral and legal dimensions of the issue. The social construction of addiction and the way in which legal and illegal drug use is perceived and managed are key themes throughout this course.

The use of drugs is a ubiquitous feature of human societies, both cross-culturally and historically. Yet, the manufacture, sale, and use of certain drugs have often been subject to punitive, criminal sanctions, especially over the last one hundred years. The manufacturing, distribution, sale and use of drugs have also been related to violence, organised crime, theft, and other types of criminal activity. Moreover, 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 these harms are inherently caused by the drugs, or caused by the measures used to manage and control drugs.

The central aim of this course is to advance a critical understanding of the nature of drug use and drug misuse in society and to explore the relationship between drugs and crime in order to develop effective strategies for reducing drug-related harm. Key issues include: psychological and sociological explanations for drug use; the bifurcation of substances (promoted legal substances and prohibited illicit substances); living with drugs or eradicating drugs; policing and controlling illicit drug markets; questioning the drugs-crime connection; and approaches to prevention, treatment, and public policy.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

<i>Students completing this course should be able to:</i>	<i>Assessed in assessment:</i>
1. develop a critical understanding of the nature and extent of drug use in society;	A, B & D
2. consider different strategies for reducing drug related harm and assess their relative effectiveness;	B & D
3. critically explore the complex relationship between drug use and crime;	B & D
4. foster and develop oral and written communication skills through class discussion and formal assignments	A, B, C & D

Teaching format

This course combines lectures, seminars and student presentations in a format designed to facilitate student learning and interaction. Each lecture will normally involve a combination of lecturing, class discussion, in-class activities all supplemented by the course papers and the Blackboard virtual learning environment (VLE). The 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 read ALL the required material for that week, and are prepared and able to enter into class discussions. Additional material that will be useful for assignments and further consideration of the course content will be made available on Blackboard.

All students are required to deliver an assessed class presentation on a topic of their choice and the student should manage the subsequent discussion during this class. It is expected that the presentation will address the area selected by the student for examination in the research essay.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- ◆ Submit a credible attempt at
 - The article discussion: designed so that students develop a critical understanding of the nature and extent of drug use in society, and to foster the development of oral and written communication skills

- The research essay proposal: in order to develop a critical understanding of drug use, consider different strategies for reducing drug related harm and to critically explore the complex relationship between drug use and crime. This piece of assessment is also designed to foster and develop student's written communication skills
- The oral presentation & summary hand-out: designed to foster and develop oral and written communication skills
- The research essay: in order to demonstrate they have attained all four of the course learning objectives: develop a critical understanding of the nature and extent of drug use in society; consider different strategies for reducing drug related harm and assess their relative effectiveness; critically explore the complex relationship between drug use and crime; foster and develop written communication skills through formal assignments.

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 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.

Assessment

	Assessment	Due Date	% Final Grade	Word Limit
A	Article discussion	Wednesday 23 rd March 4pm (please note assignments <i>must be submitted in hard copy as well as through 'Turnitin' on Blackboard</i>)	10%	1,000
B	Research Essay Proposal	Friday 13 th May 4pm (please note assignments <i>must be submitted in hard copy as well as through 'Turnitin' on Blackboard</i>)	20%	2,000
C	Oral Presentation & Summary Hand-out	Dates TBC (in second half of the course) (please note the summary handout <i>must be submitted in hard copy as well as through 'Turnitin' on Blackboard</i>)	20%	20 mins & one page A4 Hand-out
D	Research Essay	Monday 10 th October 4pm (please note assignments <i>must be submitted in hard copy as well as through 'Turnitin' on Blackboard</i>)	50%	6,000

PLEASE NOTE: 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.

Assessment A:

- Article discussion
- Learning Objectives 1, 3 & 4
- Worth 10% of overall mark
- Word limit 1000
- Due date 23rd March 2016, 4pm

Article Discussion Guidelines (10%)
Browse the library catalogue and select 2 journal articles on a topic related to the course that interests you - Outline and critically discuss the key ideas and debates contained in the articles you have chosen.
Think critically about the arguments the authors present – Do you agree with them? Can they be expanded on, taken further?
Other literature you have read – Are there any other academic sources you have found related to this topic? Do they support or reject the arguments presented in your two chosen articles?

Assessment B

- Research Essay Proposal
- Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4
- Worth 20% of overall mark
- Word limit 2000
- Due date 13th May 2016, 4pm

The purpose of the research essay outline of 2,000 words is to ensure students begin to engage and plan by preparing an outline of their proposed research essay. **The research essay proposal template below must be used to complete the outline.**

Research Essay Proposal Template (20%)
Title – Briefly outline the title of the topic that you are focusing on.
Key Research Questions – Outline <i>at least</i> three key questions or issues that your research essay will examine.

Significance – Outline why and how these questions or issues are important (in the sense of contributing to a key debate or policy issue)
Literature Review – Outline key authors, and summarise why their work is important.
Main Issues / Arguments – Outline the main points, critically discuss the issues and debates the exploration of your topic has raised so far.

The completion of this template will assist you in completing your research essay and will also be useful towards your oral presentation. Don't be concerned, however, if the details of your research change after completing this outline as you should be prepared to develop your ideas as you think more deeply and read more widely on your chose topic. **However, it is important you discuss any significant changes in your research title with the Course Coordinator.**

Assessment C:

- Oral Class Presentation & A4 Summary Handout
- Learning Objectives 3 & 4
- Worth 20% of overall mark
- Dates TBC

This involves a 20-minute oral presentation on the topic to be covered in the research essay followed by 5 minutes managing questions, and will be supplemented by a one page A4 summary. This assessment should show evidence that the student can achieve learning objectives 3 & 4.

The student will be assessed as follows:

Assessment Guidelines for the Oral Class Presentation (20%)	
	Description
Content	<p>Your presentation should be clearly organised and communicate the key issues and questions that you want to address in your research essay. You need to ensure that you clearly describe what your topic is, and what your main objectives and research questions are. You need to demonstrate that you have a good understanding of the topic under consideration and you should provide your current thinking and reading to date on this topic. You should also outline areas that you are still planning to explore in more detail (but haven't yet) or outstanding questions and issues that you will investigate in your final research essay.</p> <p>In summary, a good presentation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly delineate the topic under consideration • Provide a concise summary of the main objectives of the research essay and the key research questions under consideration (and why these are important). • Provide a well organised and clear coverage of work to date on the topic. You will need to demonstrate that you have done a significant amount of reading and thinking on the topic. If you are gathering data for your research essay you will need to focus on your planned methodological approach for addressing your research questions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline areas where further work is planned/needed and how you are going to proceed.
Presentation	<p>A good presentation is one that is clear, well-paced, and makes effective use of audio and visual support material. You will be assessed on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech is clear and well-paced (be careful not to speak too quickly) • Use of audio-visual support material (e.g., PowerPoint) • Quality of supporting handout(s).
Discussion	<p>In this section you will be assessed on how effectively you engage and address questions raised in discussion. You are NOT expected to know everything about your topic, but it will be important that you have a clear idea of what you are doing in your research essay and why.</p>

Assessment D:

- Research Essay
- Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4
- Worth 50% of overall mark
- Word limit 6,000
- Due date 10th October 2016, 4pm

The 6,000 word research essay will assist the student to evidence learning in respect of the six course learning objectives, the title will be chosen by the student in consultation with the course coordinator.

Assessment Guidelines for the Research Essay (50%)	
	Requirements
Scope and Content	<p>Your research essay should demonstrate that you have read widely and thought carefully about the topic under consideration. Your research questions should be clearly outlined and clearly linked to existing literature in the area (that is, you need to explain why you are asking these questions and how they relate to what is already known in the area). You are expected to have a good understanding of the key concepts, arguments and debates in the area and to have read most of the relevant empirical and theoretical literature that is available (although this depends somewhat on the topic).</p> <p>You will do well in this section if you can show a clear command of the key literature and demonstrate how your research questions (and your exploration of them) contribute to the existing literature.</p>
Strength of argument	<p>You should show that you have thought about the topic and reached your own conclusions and developed a critical analysis. It is therefore important that the research essay presents a logically developed flow of argument which appears to follow an analysis of the topic, and that this argument can be supported by the accurate presentation of supporting evidence.</p> <p>You will do well in this section if you are able to construct a clear, logical, and evidence based conclusion or conclusions based on your analysis of the topic and</p>

	the questions that you pose. That doesn't mean that you have to have "all the answers", but acknowledge the limitation of your analysis and the directions for further research where appropriate.
Structure	Your research essay should flow coherently ensuring each paragraph builds and contributes to the overall argument. Your essay should not read as a series of unrelated discussions or sections. The essay should start with an introduction that clearly sets out the approach the writer is going to take to the question which outlines what will be covered in the main body of the essay. The essay should close with a conclusion that highlights the major points and critical issues that emerge from the main body of the essay.
Style and presentation	The essay should be written in a clear, concise fashion. Errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar should be kept to an absolute minimum.
Use of source information and referencing	You are expected to have read widely for your research essay and your use of references should reflect this fact. Give references for all your sources. References should be correctly cited in the text of the essay and in a reference list at the end of the essay. Use APA referencing format throughout.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until the completion of honours moderation. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made at the Honours moderation meeting.

Submission and return of work

Students are expected, in their written and oral work, to make a contribution to knowledge. Criminology staff are not allowed to comment or provide feedback on draft submissions of the written assignments, but will provide constructive feedback on a research outline. It is also possible to discuss assignments in general terms and to receive constructive feedback on the oral presentation.

Written assignments should be on A4 paper (on one side only) and must be typed. 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.

Student work provided for assessment in CRIM 420 may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. 'Turnitin' is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. 'Turnitin' is used to assist academic staff in detecting mis-referencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by 'Turnitin'. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. 'Turnitin' will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Students in CRIM 420 should submit a paper copy of their assignments 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.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS FOR CRIM 420 MUST also be submitted electronically through 'Turnitin' (via the 'Blackboard' system) **(apart from the presentation, but including the summary handout)**. Students must print out and attach their 'Turnitin' receipt to all their assignments. **Assignments will not be considered as submitted unless ALL 3 steps are completed.**

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**.

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 should be sought from Fiona Hutton **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 word-processing failures are not valid reasons for an extension.

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.

All material submitted that exceeds the word limit beyond 10% will not be read, nor will it be assessed. For example if a student submits 1735 words for a 1000 word essay only the first 1100 words will be assessed, the remaining 635 will be discarded

Set texts

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course. The readings for CRIM420 will be made available on Blackboard by the Course Coordinator.

Recommended reading

The reading material has been listed under each topic week by week. This material is contained online, which you are strongly advised to read in advance of the lecture.

Further readings and extra resources will also be provided throughout the course via Blackboard. You are strongly recommended to engage with this additional material. At this level you are expected to read widely and use 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 skills in this regard.

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

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. [This course has been well received by students in the past.](#)

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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

Head of School:	Prof Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, MY1019 Phone: 463 6528, Email: brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz
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