



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

TE KURA MAHINGA TANGATA

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 421

SPECIAL TOPIC: TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

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: Thursday 2:10-4:00pm Murphy MY404

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Prof Simon Mackenzie
Tel: (04) 463 9452
Level 11, Murphy building, MY 1118
Email: simon.mackenzie@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:00am

Communication of additional information

CRIM 421 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

This course explores issues related to transnational crime with a focus on 'trafficking': that is, international criminal markets for illicit goods and services. Students will learn about trafficking through case study analyses of a number of different cross-border criminal trades. Examples include trafficking in drugs, wildlife, humans, diamonds, and art/antiquities. Published research studies and advanced criminological theory will be used to understand the mechanics of trafficking, to develop causal explanations, and consider regulatory options. The conceptual relationship between transnational, white-collar and organised crime will be explored.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Define the nature and extent of contemporary transnational crime with reference to appropriate examples of trafficking.
2. Explain and apply the principles of a selection of criminological perspectives on transnational crime in order to generate propositions about the causes, forms, and contexts of this type of crime.
3. Use criminological theory and research evidence to critically read and challenge academic literature addressing transnational crime.
4. Critically evaluate policy responses to transnational crime.

Teaching format

The course structure includes lectures, class discussion and student presentations. Each seminar will normally involve a combination of lecturing, class discussion and in-class activities. 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 students come to class with the reading completed and prepared to enter into these discussions.

All students are required to deliver at least one class presentation on a topic of their choice and to lead the discussion during this class. It is expected that this presentation will address the area selected by each student for examination in the research essay.

	Week Commencing	Thursday 2:10 – 4:00pm
1	29 February	The relationship between transnational crime, white-collar crime, and organised crime
2	7 March	Theoretical perspectives on transnational crime
3	14 March	Trafficking drugs
<i>Easter break</i>		
4	28 March	Trafficking diamonds
5	4 April	Trafficking wildlife
6	11 April	Human trafficking
7	18 April	Trafficking organs (Book Review Due 18 April)
<i>Mid Term Break</i>		
8	2 May	Trafficking art and antiquities
9	9 May	Trafficking arms
10	16 May	Counterfeit goods and global intellectual property crime
11	23 May	Cyber scams
12	30 May	Cigarette smuggling (Research Essay Outline Due 30 May)

	Week Commencing	Thursday 2:10 – 4:00pm
13	11 July	Research essay plan feedback session
14	18 July	Student presentations and discussion
15	25 July	Student presentations and discussion
16	1 August	Student presentations and discussion
17	8 August	Student presentations and discussion

18	15 August	Emerging debates in transnational crime
Mid Term Break		
19	5 September	Research essay workshop
20	12 September	In-class research essay preparation
21	19 September	In-class research essay preparation
22	26 September	In-class research essay preparation
23	3 October	In-class research essay preparation
24	10 October	(Research Essay Due 14 October)

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of at least 50%, students must achieve at least 40% for each assessment to illustrate they have achieved all of the CLOs of the course.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet the MCR 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 trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due Date
1	Written book review (2000 words)	20%	3	18 April
2	Research essay outline (1000 words)	10%	1,2,3,4	30 May
3	Presentation (15-20 minutes)	10%	2, 4	TBC
4	Essay (6000 words)	60%	1, 2, 3, 4	14 October

1. Written book review

A review of a book relevant to the course, selected by the student and approved by the course coordinator. In selecting a book, you are advised to avoid edited collections with multiple authors. You should ensure your choice of book is approved by Simon before commencing writing your review. You may wish to choose a book relevant to your research essay.

Due date: 4.00pm, Monday 18 April

Maximum word length: 2000 words, including references
Percentage of final grade: 20%

Further guidelines will be provided in class.

2. Essay outline

This outline is the starting point for your final research essay. The topic of the research essay must be of your own choosing but related directly to the broad themes of CRIM 421. You should ensure that your topic is approved in advance by Simon and that you liaise with him while you are undertaking the research.

Due date: 4.00pm, Monday 30 May
Maximum word length: 1000 words including references
Percentage of final grade: 10%

Your essay outline should include:

- A title and proposed structure to the essay;
- The main issues and research questions you intend to address;
- A brief analysis of relevant research material.

The proposal should be written in essay form and must be clearly referenced. The feedback from your essay plan is intended to inform your oral class presentation.

3. Oral class presentation

An oral presentation of the materials to be covered within the research essay. The topic is to be chosen by the student and approved by Simon as course coordinator.

Due date: Individual scheduling for presentations to be held in July-August 2016.
Presentation length: 15-20 minutes plus question time and class discussion
Percentage of final grade: 10%

Further guidelines will be provided in class.

4. Written research essay

A research essay on the topic chosen by the student.

Due date: 4.00pm, Friday 14 October
Maximum word length: 6000 words, including references
Percentage of final grade: 60%

Further guidelines will be provided in class.

Rationale and explanation for the types of assessment used on this course:

The assessment has been designed to enable students to meet the course objectives by:

- conducting a research project on a relevant topic of their own choosing;
- undertaking a critical book review as a preliminary to this undertaking; and
- engaging their peers in constructive discussion of their research topic by making an oral presentation.

The book review exercise is designed to encourage students to begin identifying suitable research material early in the course, and to foster critical reading practices. The essay outline is designed to ensure students identify an essay topic in Trimester 1 and conduct sufficient preliminary research to establish its viability and parameters. The outline, oral presentation and research essay should demonstrate familiarity with the literature relevant to the topic chosen and an awareness of critical issues in the area. All work should be well structured and clearly argued. It is usually not possible to conduct empirical research at Honours level, given Ethics requirements, and nor is it expected. Criminology Programme staff are not allowed to comment or provide feedback on drafts of the written assignments; however, it is possible to discuss assignments in general terms and feedback will be provided on all work submitted.

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.

Assessment criteria

Please make sure that your written work:

- Addresses the question set. 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.
- Acknowledges accurately the sources used, and that you have chosen representative evidence.
- Flows coherently, is succinct, legible and well set out, is of reasonable length and shows 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 texts and recommended reading

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course. All readings will be placed on Blackboard by the Course Coordinator.

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

CRIM 421: Transnational Crime is a new course in 2016. There is no student feedback available 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

Head of School:	Prof Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, MY1019 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
Māori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Sarah Wright, MY1115 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, Gill Blomgren, MY921, Phone: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677, Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz
School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs