



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

*SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES*  
*TE KURA MAHINGA TANGATA*

## Criminology

# CRIM 217

## Criminal Psychology

**20 POINTS**  
**TRIMESTER 2 2016**

### Key dates

**Trimester dates:** 11 July to 13 November 2016

**Teaching dates:** 11 July to 16 October 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

## Class times and locations

Lectures: Thursday 13:10-15:00 Maclaurin MCL101

Tutorials: Please sign up using myAllocator

## Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Dr Russil Durrant  
Level 11, Murphy Building, MY 1120  
Tel: (04) 463 9980  
Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz

Office hour: Thursday 12.00-1.00 pm.

## Communication of additional information

The Criminology noticeboards are located on level 9 and 11 of the Murphy Building. Information will be posted there 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

CRIM 217 provides an introduction to psychological approaches to understanding and preventing criminal behaviour. Topics covered include violent offending sexual offending, collective violence, drug use, crime prevention, and rehabilitation.

## Course content

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
14 July	Introduction and understanding criminal behaviour Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 1	<b>No Tutorials</b>
21 July	Juvenile delinquency and developmental theories of crime Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 2	Introduction; The causes of crime
28 July	Mental disorder and crime Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 3	<b>No Tutorials</b>
4 August	Aggression and violence Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 4	Psychopathy
11 August	Violent offending Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 5 (pp. 136-162)	Aggression and Violence

18 August	Multiple homicide : Durrant (2013), Chapter 5 (pp. 164-167)	Violent offending
8 September	Sexual offending Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 7	Offender profiling
15 September	Collective violence Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 6	Sexual offending
22 September	Drugs and crime Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 8	<b>No Tutorials</b>
29 September	The psychology of punishment and sentencing Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 9	Drugs and crime
6 October	Offender rehabilitation Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 10 (pp. 303-321)	Punishment
13 October	Social and situational crime prevention Exam preparation Reading: Durrant (2013), Chapter 10 (pp. 294-304)	Offender rehabilitation; exam preparation

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

By the end of CRIM 217 students who pass this course should be able to:

1. describe a number of different theoretical approaches to understanding crime and explain how they are related to one another (as assessed in assignment 1 and the exam)
2. describe a number of different theories of offending and explain how they contribute to our understanding of criminal behaviour (as assessed in assignment 1 and the exam)
3. apply their knowledge of psychological approaches to understanding crime to a specific case study of offending (as assessed in assignment 2)
4. describe and critically evaluate a number of different psychological approaches to reducing crime (as assessed in the exam).

## Teaching format

The course includes twelve 2-hour lectures and nine 1-hour tutorials.

Attendance at tutorials is mandatory. In order to meet the mandatory requirements for this course you must attend at least 7 out of 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. If, for any unforeseen reason, you cannot attend your given time one week, then please see the course coordinator and you may be able to sit in on another tutorial.

## Mandatory course requirements

1. attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials

This is in order for students to fully engage with the material covered in lectures and to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfil the course learning objectives.

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

You should spend a minimum of 13 hours per week working on CRIM 217. This includes attending class (one two hour lecture per week and one tutorial per week), reading and taking notes, working on assignments, and preparing for final examination. Obviously the time you spend on these activities will vary throughout the trimester and according to your individual study habits, but you might find the following useful in deciding how to allocate your time:

Task	Estimated workload*
Lecture attendance	22 hours (2 hours per week for 11 weeks)
Tutorial attendance	9 hours (1 hour per week for 9 weeks)
Assigned reading and note taking	40 hours
Assignment 1	46 hours
Assignment 2	36 hours
Final exam preparation	47 hours

\*Based on an overall workload of 200 hours for CRIM 217.

## Assessment

	Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Assignment 1 – 3,000 word essay	30%	1, 2	Friday 19 August, 4pm
2	Assignment 2 – 2,000 word essay	20%	3	Friday 7 October, 4pm
3	Three-hour exam	50%	1, 2, 4	TBA, during the University examination period (21 October – 12 November 2016)

All pieces of assessment are due at 4pm on the due date unless prior arrangements have been made with the course convener.

**Further details concerning these assessment items, including information about the assessment criteria for each item will be provided to students in the first week of trimester 1**

### Submission and return of work

All written work should be placed in the essay box on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Murphy building or sent to the course coordinator, Criminology Programme, Victoria University of Wellington, and PO Box 600, Wellington 6140 by courier or registered mail postmarked **no later than 4pm on the due date**. Essays will be returned within tutorial times. Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9<sup>th</sup> floor reception desk, between **11:00am and 3:00pm only** from Monday to Friday.

### Extensions and penalties

#### Extensions

Assignments must be handed in by the due date. You are expected to make every effort to keep to this deadline.

An automatic extension of two days will be given to all students who request it from the course coordinator, without the need to provide a reason or supporting evidence. The request must be made via email and before the due date of the piece of assessment.

Extensions longer than two days will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and should be sought from the course coordinator. 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.**

## Set texts

Durrant, R. (2013). *An Introduction to Criminal Psychology*, London: Routledge. Available from vicbooks, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. Customers can order textbooks 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

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

Students in 2014 (the last time the course was evaluated) strongly agreed that the way this course was organised, and preparing for the assessments, helped them to learn. The amount of work was perceived as about right, and important course information was communicated clearly. They highly valued what they learnt, and overall rated the course as excellent. The only two questions that were rated lower than the FHSS mean concerned how the course encouraged creativity and developed communication skills. The course will therefore be offered in a similar way for 2016, although tutorials have undergone some revision in order to encourage, specifically, confidence in communicating ideas in front of the class.

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).

## 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)
- 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)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://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](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)
- 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- 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

Head of School:	Prof Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, MY1019 Phone: 463 6528, Email: <a href="mailto:brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz">brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz</a>
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine, MY1023 Phone: 463 6132, Email: <a href="mailto:hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz">hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz</a>
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