



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 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

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 – 11:50 Cotton COLT122

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: Dr Liam Martin
Tel: (04) 463 6862
Level 11, Murphy Building, Room 1114
Email: liam.martin@vuw.ac.nz

If you wish to see Liam, please contact him directly to make an appointment.

Course tutor: TBA

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. The course will present different approaches to studying crime and explore the important ethical issues in doing criminological research. Note: this course is strongly recommended for students wishing to progress to Honours level study.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Evaluate the appropriateness of different methods to particular research questions in criminology,
2. Develop data collection instruments to investigate criminological phenomena,
3. Analyse original data to investigate criminological phenomena, and
4. Draw on original data to develop skills in the analysis of interview and survey data exploring criminological phenomena.

Teaching format

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

As much as possible, the class is organised as a practical introduction to research methods in criminology. That is, you will be asked to do some first-hand research (i.e. create a survey, conduct an interview) and write about the results. In this context, attendance at lectures and tutorials is especially important: it will not be possible to use the methods required to complete assignments if you have not done the preparation work.

Class tutorials will be organised largely as workshops that create the space to practice or reflect on different methods used in the course.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Make a credible attempt at all pieces of assessment to illustrate the achievement of course CLO's.
3. Attend at least seven of nine tutorials. This will ensure students have the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the core concepts and themes explored in the course and develop oral communication and teamwork skills through participating in tutorial exercises. Conduct a 30 minute interview in preparation for the final assignment.
4. Transcribe your interview in preparation for the final assignment.

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.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Survey Script (1000 words + questionnaire)	15	1,2	August 8 th
2 Discourse Analysis (2000 words)	20	1,3,4	September 5 th
3 Interview Guide (1000 words + guide)	15	1,2	September 23 rd
4 Final Research Report (3000 words)	50	4	October 25 th

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.

The exception to this rule is the Interview Guide due on September 23rd. A paper copy of the script should be submitted in-class at the lecture: at 10am in COLT122.

Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between 11:00 and 3:00 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.

Set texts

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course. Essential and recommended 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

Based on student feedback from last year, 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
- 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
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Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Sarah Wright, MY1115 Phone: 463 5874, Email: sarah.wright@vuw.ac.nz
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School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs