

## CRIM1010: Introduction to Criminology

NuSpace

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

**Course Description** This course introduces students to the study of crime and deviance through an exploration of criminological theories, both historically and from contemporary perspectives. Topics may include: strain theory, labelling theory, biological theories, feminist theories, left realism, new right theory, and critical criminology. Key criminological concepts will be used to examine and understand relationships between the social construction of crime, transgression, and deviance.

**Skills Focus** Written communication skills  
Seek and implement feedback  
Referencing

**Contact Hours** **NuSpace**  
**Lecture**  
Online: each week a selection of videos introducing and discussing key theories will be provided.

**Tutorial**  
Face-to-face on campus  
1 hour(s) per week for 11 Weeks, starting in week 2

**Unit Weighting** 10  
**Workload** Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	Dr. Ray Nickson <a href="mailto:Ray.nickson@newcastle.edu.au">Ray.nickson@newcastle.edu.au</a> (02) 4913 8509 Consultation: please see posted office hours for Semester 1 on Canvas
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>Newcastle School of Law and Justice</b> <a href="mailto:Law-School@newcastle.edu.au">Law-School@newcastle.edu.au</a> +61 2 4921 5052

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	The course will examine the way in which crime has been understood historically and in contemporary approaches in academia, policy, and practice. The course provides a survey of classical theories of crime, including biological and psychological positivism, strain, and labelling theory. Critical responses to these classical ideas, including Marxist and feminist theories, will be examined. Broad understandings of crime and crime-related social policy, such as new right criminology, left realism, and restorative justice will be compared and critically analysed, and applied to contemporary cases to improve the students' contextual understanding.
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Outline key criminological theories.</li><li>2. Demonstrate an understanding of a range of criminological perspectives, concepts, and research approaches.</li><li>3. Analyse public representations of crime.</li><li>4. Apply criminological theories to real-world case scenarios.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	Required text: White, R., Haines, F. & Asquith, N. 2023. <i>Crime &amp; Criminology</i> , 7 ed. Australia: Oxford University Press Paperback: <a href="https://www.oup.com.au/books/higher-education/social-sciences-and-humanities/9780190338688-crime-and-criminology">https://www.oup.com.au/books/higher-education/social-sciences-and-humanities/9780190338688-crime-and-criminology</a> E-book: <a href="https://www.oup.com.au/books/higher-education/social-sciences-and-humanities/9780190338695-crime-and-criminology-ebook">https://www.oup.com.au/books/higher-education/social-sciences-and-humanities/9780190338695-crime-and-criminology-ebook</a> E-book rental: <a href="https://www.oup.com.au/books/higher-education/social-sciences-and-humanities/9780190341930-crime-and-criminology-ebook">https://www.oup.com.au/books/higher-education/social-sciences-and-humanities/9780190341930-crime-and-criminology-ebook</a>

# SCHEDULE

Please refer to the schedule available in Canvas.

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Time restricted problem questions (mid-term)	11:59PM, Sunday Week 7	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Time restricted problem questions (final)	11:59PM, Sunday Week 13	Individual	40%	1, 2, 4
3	Canvas quiz x 2	Quizzes open at 9:00am on Monday morning and close 11:59pm on Sunday, weeks 6 and 12	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3

## Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

You are entitled to apply for special consideration if adverse circumstances have had an impact on your performance in a major assessment item (30% or more of the final grade). This includes applying for an extension of time to complete an assessment item. Prior to applying, you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Policy, available at <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=235>. If you require an extension, please lodge an application for adverse circumstances the online Adverse Circumstances system, along with supporting documentation. No resubmissions are permitted for any assessments.

## Important Assessment Information

Ensure that you have read the guides for the assessments in Canvas (in the Course Materials Section) and follow the advice closely.

**REFERENCES:** To ensure that you are developing your research skills within Criminology, you will need to draw on academic sources in addition to the textbook for this assessment. You are expected to include at minimum FIVE (5) references for assessments 1 and 2, which can include the textbook. Lecture notes are not to be cited in written assessments.

**REFERENCING:** Harvard referencing (author/date/page number if direct quoting) is standard for all Criminology assessments. Written assignments need to be referenced in Harvard.

The majority of your references must be peer-reviewed academic sources; that is, books and peer reviewed journal articles. This means 99% of web material is unacceptable, however reports from reliable sources (such as the Australian Government and Australian Institute of Criminology) are acceptable. If you are unsure if a source is suitable for inclusion, contact your course co-ordinator.

Do NOT cite Wikipedia as a source under any circumstances. It may be a useful starting point in some instances, but you need to draw on academic and other sources to credibly substantiate your argument.

I strongly recommend you use a referencing management system, such as EndNote.

If you are unsure about how to reference or are familiar with the Harvard system, please consult the referencing guides below.

Please take this advice very seriously: it is very likely you will receive a very poor mark if these basic requirements are not followed.

Useful library sources on referencing:

Referencing: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/library/learn/referencing>

Style Manuals & Guides – Harvard: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/referencing/harvard>

Reference management systems – EndNote: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/endnote>

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**Word Limits** Students are permitted 10% allowance beyond the word limit. Word limits include headings, sub-headings, in-text citations, quotes and referencing, but do not include the list of references, appendices, and footnotes (although we do not encourage the use of either appendices or footnotes). Those parts of submissions beyond the maximum word limit may not be marked.

## Assessment 1 – Time Restricted Problem Questions Mid-term (40%)

**Assessment Type** Written Assignment

**Purpose** Understanding and being able to explain, interpret, and compare criminological theories is the underpinning of any degree in criminology. The purpose of this assignment is to provide you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of the theories learnt in weeks 1-6 of the semester.

**Description** Time restricted problem questions (40%)  
Full details on what to include in the time restricted problem questions will be made available under the Assignments tab in Canvas at 9.00am on Monday of week 7.  
You will be asked to respond to TWO (2) questions of 500 words each, selected from a bank of questions. The questions will reflect the content of weeks 1-6 inclusive.  
More information will be made available in Canvas under the assignments tab.

**Weighting** 40%

**Length** 1,000 words

**Submission Method** Online.  
The written assignment must be submitted electronically through Turnitin (located in Canvas in the CRIM1010 'Assignments' tab as a .doc or .docx file (NOT pdf.)).  
Please ensure that you keep a back-up copy of your work. You should always keep at least one electronic copy of your work on a memory stick or a cloud-service (e.g. Dropbox).  
Ensure that you continuously update your work when you work on it. The Law School takes no responsibility for lost work, and losing work will not qualify you for an extension.

**Assessment Criteria** Each of the two questions will be marked on the elements reflected in that question. However, general assessment criteria are:

1. How well you integrate the course material and additional sources into your answer.
2. Your understanding of theory, and correct use and application of terms, such as 'genetic predisposition' or 'dark figure of crime'.
3. Clarity of writing, including overall structure, paragraph, and sentence construction, grammar and punctuation, and adherence to the word count.
4. The quality and integration of evidence or evidence-based theory
5. The quality, accuracy, and integration of at least FIVE (5) references to support arguments (which can include the textbook), in both the PowerPoint presentation and the synopsis. References must be provided in Harvard style.

**Return Method** Online

**Feedback Provided** Individual and general feedback online based on the elements reflected in the questions.

## Assessment 2 – Time Restricted Problem Questions Final (40%)

**Assessment Type** Written Assignment

**Purpose** Understanding and being able to explain, interpret, and compare criminological theories is the underpinning of any degree in criminology. The purpose of this assignment is to provide you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of the theories learnt across the semester.

**Description** Time restricted problem questions (40%)  
Full details on what to include in the time restricted problem questions will be made available under the Assignments tab in Canvas at 9.00am on Monday of week 13.  
You will be asked to respond to TWO (2) questions of 500 words each, from a bank of questions. The questions will reflect the content of weeks 7-12 inclusive.  
More information will be made available in Canvas under the assignments tab.

**Weighting** 40%

**Length** 1,000 words

**Due Date** 11:59pm Sunday, Week 13

<b>Submission Method</b>	Online. The written assignment must be submitted electronically through Turnitin (located in Canvas in the CRIM1010 'Assignments' tab as a .doc or .docx file (NOT pdf.)). Please ensure that you keep a back-up copy of your essay. You should always keep at least one electronic copy of your work on a memory stick or a cloud-service (e.g. Dropbox). Ensure that you continuously update your essay when you work on it. The Law School takes no responsibility for lost work, and losing work will not qualify you for an extension.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Each of the two questions will be marked on the elements reflected in that question. However, general assessment criteria are: 1. How well you integrate the course material and additional sources into your answer. 2. Your understanding of theory, and correct use and application of terms, such as 'genetic predisposition' or 'dark figure of crime'. 3. Clarity of writing, including overall structure, paragraph, and sentence construction, grammar and punctuation, and adherence to the word count. 4. The quality and integration of evidence or evidence-based theory 5. The quality, accuracy, and integration of at least FIVE (5) references to support arguments (which can include the textbook), in both the PowerPoint presentation and the synopsis. References must be provided in Harvard style.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Minimal feedback online based on the elements reflected in the questions.

### Assessment 3 - Canvas quiz x 2 (20%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	These online quizzes require you to reflect on the materials provided throughout the course, and will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of key concepts explored in the set readings and lectures.
<b>Description</b>	There will be two (2) quizzes, each comprising 20 questions, and worth 10% of the course marks; together the two quizzes equal 20% of the course. The quizzes will open at 9am on the Monday morning and close 11:59pm on the Sunday. You have all week to log on and then one hour once logged on to complete them. You can attempt each quiz a maximum of two (2) times, and the highest score across your attempts will be recorded. No extensions will be given for quizzes, and failure to compete a quiz within the week allowed will result in a zero mark for that quiz.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	20 questions per quiz
<b>Due Date</b>	Quizzes open at 9:00am on Monday morning and close 11:59pm on Sunday, weeks 6 and 12
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online The quizzes must be completed online in Canvas.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Each quiz will comprise of 20 multiple-choice questions drawn from a question bank, which will either be marked correct or incorrect. Each correct answer will be worth 0.5%. There will be no negative marking.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	No Feedback

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Grading Scheme** This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a

		high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

**Assessment Moderation**

To ensure that grades are fair both within and between courses and cohorts, Newcastle Law School has a rigorous policy of moderating and reviewing assessment. The School Assessment Board (SAB) reviews all final grades before they are released to students, and the SAB process may result in the overall marks of a class being moved up or down by a specific amount, thus impacting individual marks. This is consistent with grading practices in other Law Schools across the country and important to ensure the integrity of assessment. This means that the final grade you are awarded may not be the sum of marks you have received in all assessments.

**Communication Methods**

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas course site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face-to-face meetings or supervision.

**Communication with the Course Coordinator**

Course Coordinators offer office hours each week, in a mix of both in-person and virtual meetings throughout the semester. Students should use these office hours to ask questions about course content and assessment. Questions about content and assessment should not be emailed to the Course Coordinator. Email is reserved for time sensitive communications, which does not include questions about course content.

Please also read your course outline and course announcements before contacting your Course Coordinator, as if the information is already available to you, you will be redirected back to the source

**Compulsory Attendance**

There is a compulsory attendance requirement in this course. Attendance at all classes (seminars and workshops) will be monitored and records maintained by the Course Coordinator. In order to satisfy the "Attendance" requirement, students must be present at a minimum of 70% of scheduled classes as spelled out in the course outline, unless they are able to demonstrate that their absence falls within the Adverse Circumstances policy. Unless this requirement is met, despite marks awarded in other assessment items, the student will receive a zero mark and an CF grade for the course.

**Please note** that if you miss more than 2 classes for reasons that fall within the University's adverse circumstances policy you may be required to complete additional assessment items to ensure that you have completed the required volume of learning for this course.

**Course Evaluation**

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

**Academic Misconduct**

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

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**Adverse  
Circumstances**

As per the University of Newcastle's 'Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure', adverse circumstances do not apply to any assessment item worth less than 30%. Please do not apply for AC for assignments worth less than 30% of the course grade, as your request will be rejected.

You are entitled to apply for special consideration because adverse circumstances have had an impact on your performance in a major assessment item (worth 30% or more of the final grade). This includes applying for an extension of time to complete an assessment item. Prior to applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure, available at <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>. All applications for Adverse Circumstances must be lodged via the online Adverse Circumstances system, along with supporting documentation.

**Reasonable  
Adjustment Plans**

Accommodations in Reasonable Adjustment Plans are not automatically applied to assessment items. Students should contact the Course Coordinator during posted in-person or virtual office hours, or via email, to request implementation of a specific accommodation(s) in a Reasonable Adjustment Plan. This is to ensure that instructors can collaborate with students to meet their learning needs and so that the most appropriate adjustments are applied. Please do not send your RAPs at the beginning of semesters, only forward them to Course Coordinators for the purpose of specific requests for one assignment. RAPs will not be applied across all assessments for any course; each request will be assessed on a merit basis, and having a RAP does not guarantee an accommodation will be granted.

**Please note**, extensions for quizzes will not be granted – the quizzes should take around 25-30 minutes to complete. You have been given 60 minutes, therefore the requirement for additional time has already been built into the assessment design.

**Important Policy  
Information**

The 'HELP for Students' tab in UoNline contains important information that all students should be familiar with, including various systems, policies and procedures.

*This course outline was approved by the Dean of the Law School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without the Dean's approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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