

CRIM2010: Media Criminology

Nu Space

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description Media criminology is a developing sub-discipline of criminology, as the public's interest in consuming true crime increases in every format. This subject examines representations of crime in the media, including news, journalism, online discussions, film, TV, and podcasts. Using relevant criminological and sociological theories, it relates media representation to wider understandings of crime and deviance. Key areas covered include representations of class, gender and race in relation to crime, urban, suburban and rural distinctions; institutional relations between advocates, journalists and key figures in the justice system; the role of moral panics; and the connections between youth cultures, labelling and social problems.

Skills Focus Structural and writing skills
Writing to a lay audience
Critical thinking

Assumed Knowledge 40 Units at 1000 Level

Contact Hours **NuSpace**
Lecture
Face to face
1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1

Tutorial
Face-to-face on campus
1 hour(s) per Week for 11 Weeks starting 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

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator

Dr Justin Ellis
Justin.Ellis@newcastle.edu.au
(02) 4921 5682
Consultation: Please email me for an appointment.

Teaching Staff

Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office

Newcastle School of Law and Justice
5th Floor
Nu Space
409 Hunter Street
Newcastle
Law-School@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 4921 8666

SYLLABUS

Course Content

The focus of this course are the many mechanisms by which the media (in all formats) frame crime, criminality, and the notion of victimisation in various contexts. The course will introduce a range of research and theoretical approaches linking representations of crime with social structures, institutions and cultures. The concept of 'moral panic' will be linked to the collection and publication of crime statistics and to discourses and practices of social control and the use of power. The representation of sub-cultures and deviance in the use of public space and the operation of sensationalism and moral entrepreneurship in deviance amplification will be critically analysed. Space will be employed as a key concept in the understanding of deviance, whether physical or virtual, urban or rural. The course will trace changing media perspectives, assessing who has the power to label people as criminals and victims. The impact of the citizen journalist will also be evaluated.

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify different types of media influence, as applied to understanding crime and criminality.
2. Understand the relationship between crime, class, and social disadvantage.
3. Recognise the influence of 'framing' in relation to representations of crime in the media.
4. Analyse deviance and its function in constructing cultures of crime.
5. Critique practices of social control and the use of power through media outlets.

Course Materials

Textbook: *Media and Crime: Content, Context and Consequence*. Clifford and White 2017, Oxford University Press.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Media, Crime and Culture: Introduction Doing Media Criminology	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Introduction. In <i>Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence</i> . Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 1-7. Doing Media Criminology. In <i>Media and Crime</i> : pp. 10-31. Lee, M, Ellis, J, Keel, C, Jackson, J, Wickes, R (2022), <i>When Law-and-Order Politics Fail</i> , <i>British Journal of Criminology</i> , 62(5), 1270–1288.	
2	4 Mar	Crime in the News	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Crime in the News. In <i>Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence</i> . Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 32-56. Ellis J.R. (2021) Chapter 1. <i>The Social Media Test</i> . In: <i>Policing Legitimacy</i> . Springer, Cham.	
3	11 Mar	Police, Courts and Media Tutorial (Effective presentation skills and keyword searches in <i>The Conversation</i>)	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Police, Courts and Media. In <i>Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence</i> . Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 58-79. Ellis J.R. (2021) Chapter 5. <i>Social Media as a Police Accountability Mechanism</i> . In: <i>Policing Legitimacy</i> . Springer, Cham. Ellis, JR (2023), <i>Our hybrid media system has emboldened anti-LGBTQ+ hate – what can we do about it?</i> . <i>The Conversation</i> . https://theconversation.com/our-hybrid-media-system-has-emboldened-anti-lgbtq-hate-what-can-we-do-about-it-205028	
4	18 Mar	Victims and Offenders	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Victims and Offenders. In <i>Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence</i> . Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 80-103.	

5	25 Mar	Prisons and Innovative Justice	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Prisons and Innovative Justice. In Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence. Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 104-126.	Week 5 presentations
6	1 Apr	Youth and Moral Economy	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Youth and the Moral Economy. In Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence. Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 128-152.	Week 6 presentations Quiz 1 (Chap. 1-6) opens 9:00am Monday, closes 11:59pm Sunday
7	8 Apr	Racialised Violence and Hate Crime	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Racialised Violence and Hate Crime. In Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence. Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 153-173. Recommended Ellis, J. R. (2022) 'A fairy tale gone wrong: social media, recursive hate and the politicisation of Drag Queen Storytime', <i>The Journal of Criminal Law</i> , 86(2): 94–108.	Week 7 presentations Essay to be submitted by 11:59pm
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
8	29 Apr	Crimes of the Powerful	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Crimes of the Powerful. In Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence. Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 174-199.	Week 8 presentations
9	6 May	Crime as Entertainment – the CSI Effect	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Crime as Entertainment – the CSI Effect. In Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence. Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 202-222.	Week 9 presentations
10	13 May	Surveillance, Cyberspace and Civil Society	Clifford, K. and White, R. (2017). Surveillance, Cyberspace and Civil Society. In Media and Crime: Content, context and consequence. Melbourne, Oxford University Press; pp. 223-248.	Week 10 presentations
11	20 May	Guest lecture	TBC	Week 11 presentations
12	27 May	Conclusion of course		Week 12 presentations Quiz 2 (Chap. 7-12)

opens 9:00am Monday,
closes 11:59pm Sunday

Examination Period
Examination Period

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	Essay	11:59pm on Friday of Week 7	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	Presentation	Presentation dates and topic allocations in week one	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Quiz x 2	<p>Quiz 1 (Chap. 1-6) opens at 9:00am on Monday morning and closes 11:59pm on Sunday, week 6</p> <p>Quiz 2 (Chap. 7-12) opens at 9:00am on Monday morning and closes 11:59pm on Sunday, week 12</p>	Individual	25%	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 in the online Adverse Circumstances system, along with supporting documentation. No resubmissions are permitted for any assessments.

Important Assessment Information

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU READ THE 'CRIMINOLOGY WRITING GUIDE' IN THE 'MODULE' SECTION OF CANVAS 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. As a guide you are expected to include at minimum TEN (10) references for this assessment, which can include the textbook.

REFERENCING: Harvard referencing (author/date/ and page number/s if direct quoting) is standard for all Criminology assessments. Lecture notes are not to be cited in written assessments. 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. If you are unsure about how to reference or are unfamiliar with the Harvard system, please consult with your tutor. Please take this advice very seriously: it is very likely you will receive a poor mark if these basic requirements are not followed.

General Guides, Pathways and Learning Support, Referencing Guides and Research Support Guides: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/>

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>

Assessment 1 - Essay (40%)

Assessment Type Purpose

Essay

The purpose of this assessment is to demonstrate your effective engagement with the course material, and your ability to explain the crime-media nexus, as illustrated through a specific criminological event or topic.

Description

Essay: Choose ONE (1) essay topic.

Clearly identify the topic question you are addressing:

1. “What is the impact of citizen journalism and/or social media on the crime-media nexus?”
Select ONE event/movement from the list below as the focus of your assignment:

- The #metoo movement
- Black Lives Matter

2. “Outline the rise of cybercrime or online harassment following the proliferation of the Internet.” Select a specific type of cybercrime from the list below to illustrate your answer:

- Child grooming
- Online fraud
- Cyberbullying

3. “Crime news is simply ‘infotainment’. Discuss”.

4. “The media creates moral panics. Discuss, drawing on one Australian example.”

5. “Fair trials are at risk as a result of the rise of social and other media. Discuss.”

Weighting

40%

Length

1000 words (there is a 10% leeway on the wordcount).

Due Date

11:59pm on Friday of Week 7

Submission Method

Online

COVERSHEET: Include a coversheet with your name; student number; the essay question you are addressing; due date (plus details of any formal extension provided; word count (including subheadings and in-text citations and excluding references). The essay must be submitted electronically through Turnitin (located in Canvas in the CRIM2010 ‘Assignments’ section as a .doc or .docx file (NOT pdf. or Pages). Ensure that you have received a submission receipt from Turnitin confirming successful submission.

Please ensure that you keep a back-up copy of your report. You should always keep at least one electronic copy of your work on a memory stick or a cloud-service. Ensure that you continuously update your essay when you work on it. The School of Law and Justice takes no responsibility for lost work.

No resubmissions are permitted.

Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed on:

1. Demonstrated understanding of the impact of media representations on comprehension of crime and deviance (including a central argument)
2. The quality and integration of at minimum Ten (10) references (which can include the textbook), to support your argument
3. Effective structure and organisation of the essay in support of your argument

	4. Clarity of writing, including overall structure and signposting, paragraph and sentence construction, grammar and punctuation, and adherence to the word limit 5. Accuracy of referencing; in text citations and reference list.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Returned Work - 3 working weeks post-submission. Online via TurnItIn.

Assessment 2 – Presentation on representations of crime in the media (35%)

Assessment Type	Presentation
Purpose	The purpose of this assessment is to present on a <i>media-related</i> criminal justice topic for a broad lay audience, which requires use of plain English to effectively explain a media-related crime phenomenon and the implications that arise from it.
Description	<p>Media Presentation: In week one, you will be allocated a week to present and a topic to present on. You will be marked individually, but the assessment will still require co-ordination between presenters to ensure that there is minimal overlap between presenters on the material covered. You will need to research your topic to identify the issues, and any possible solution/s. <i>The Conversation</i> (theconversation.com) is a good place to conduct early research, and we will spend some time in the early tutorials identifying keywords and conducting keyword searches on your topic in <i>The Conversation</i> portal. Use the following as a guide on how to structure your information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hook – a current case or data that illustrate the problem2. Why do we care? – who/what does it impact and implications3. What do we know? – evidence4. What should we know? What’s missing from the way the problem is being approached5. What's the solution?

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. (NOTE: The Daily Mail is a highly unreliable and disreputable source and should not be used as a source unless it is being referenced for plagiarism, misinformation, and so on). As a guide you are expected to include at minimum eight (8) references for this assessment, which can include the textbook. REFERENCING: Harvard referencing (author/date/page number if direct quoting) is standard for all Criminology assessments. Lecture notes are not to be cited in written assessments. 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/s. Please include a reference list at the end of your presentation slides, and include citations in the presentation slides to support your claims.

General Guides, Pathways and Learning Support, Referencing Guides and Research Support Guides: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/>

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>

Weighting	35%
Length	5-minute presentation per student, in class, and which will require group co-ordination
Due Date	Presentations will commence in Week 5 tutorials. You will be RANDOMLY placed into groups in week one, and in these groups, you will need to present on your allocated topic (topics will be uploaded to the Media Criminology Canvas page in week one). If you would like to develop your own topic, or the other presenters in your slot would like to develop a topic, please get in touch with the course co-ordinator.
Submission Method	In person presentation using presentation slides, uploading of slides to TurnItIn (by Friday of the week of your presentation). COVERSLIDE: Include a cover slide with the names; student numbers; and the topic you are addressing, in addition to a title for your presentation; due date (plus details of any formal extension provided; word count. The presentation must be submitted electronically through Turnitin (located in Canvas in the CRIM2010 'Assignments' section as a .doc or .docx file (NOT pdf. or Pages). Ensure that you have received a submission receipt from TurnItIn

confirming successful submission.

Please ensure that you keep a back-up copy of your presentation. You should always keep at least one electronic copy of your work on a memory stick or a cloud-service. Ensure that you continuously update your essay when you work on it. The School of Law and Justice takes no responsibility for lost work.

No resubmissions are permitted.

You will be assessed on:

1. How well you have researched the issue and expressed it for the target audience
2. The level of original thought and critical reflection
3. The quality and integration of at least EIGHT (8) references (including the textbook if you are citing it) to support arguments
4. Clarity of presentation, including overall structure, signposting, and adherence to the time limit
5. Audience engagement

Return Method

Online

Feedback Provided

Individual feedback - 3 working weeks post-submission. Online via TurnItIn.

Assessment 3 - Quiz x 2 (25%)

Assessment Type

In Term Test

Purpose

The 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.

Description

There will be two (2) quizzes, each comprising 25 questions and worth 25% of the course marks in total.

The quizzes will open at 9am on the Monday morning of the week 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 three (3) times, and the highest score across your attempts will be recorded.

Weighting

25%

Length

50 questions in total

Due Date

Quizzes open at 9:00am on Monday morning and close 11:59pm on Sunday, weeks 6 and 12

Submission Method

Online

The quizzes must be completed online in Canvas.

Assessment Criteria

Return Method

Online

Feedback Provided

Online

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 School of Law and Justice 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.

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>.

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 UoN Online contains important information that all students should be familiar with, including various systems, policies and procedures.

Wellness Contacts

There are a variety of pressures on law students, and being able to perform well academically under pressure, without excessive stress will contribute to enhanced outcomes in wellbeing and academic results. Reach out to support services and learn ways to maintain your mental health, deal with stress and common issues like perfectionism, procrastination and anxiety.

To access UON support:

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support/personal>

Ph: 4921 6622 or email: counselling@newcastle.edu.au

For support outside of office hours call the University Crisis Support Line on 1300 653 007 or for chat sms 0488 884 165.

For immediate support contact Lifeline 24/7 on 13 14 11 or <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School 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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