

CRIM2020: Criminal Psychology

Online

Semester 1 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Criminal psychology analyses the thoughts and action of criminals, including those engaging in anti-social behaviours. This course will take students through a step-by-step analysis of various crime types, looking at the psychological, biological, and environmental influences that lead to criminal and anti-social behaviour in regional, national, and international contexts.

Topics covered in this course include criminal profiling in violent crimes including homicide, predicting who will be the victim of personal violence, and strategies for threat and violence intervention. The course has been developed to appeal to students interested in social justice, particularly those studying criminology, psychology, law, and social work, as it will augment and build upon content within those discipline areas. The material covered will be trans-disciplinary in nature, and particularly relevant for students wishing to work within, or with an interest in, the criminal justice system.

Key words: Social justice, homicide, criminal profile, victimology

Skills Focus

Written communication skills
Critical thinking
Assess and use sources

Assumed Knowledge

20 units of CRIM or PSYC coded courses at 1000 level

Location

Online

Contact Hours

Self-Directed Learning
Online
10 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1

Unit Weighting

10
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 Associate Professor Xanthe Mallett
Xanthe.Mallett@newcastle.edu.au
(02) 4921 5488
Consultation: please see posted office hours for Semester 1 on Canvas

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

School Office **Newcastle School of Law and Justice**
Law-School@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 4921 5052

SYLLABUS

Course Content

1. Biological, psychological, and environmental factors that lead to criminal and anti-social behaviour
2. Victimology and predicting who will be a victim of personal violence
3. Threat and violence intervention
4. Profiling in violent crimes

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Interpret the psychological, biological, and environmental factors that lead to criminal and anti-social behaviour
2. Compare the key causes of criminal victimisation
3. Explain the fundamental principles involved in understanding threat
4. Understand violence intervention strategies
5. Understand the core criminal psychological elements in a criminal profiling case study

Course Materials Many of the topics covered in this course use the textbook "The Psychology of Criminal and Antisocial Behavior: Victim and Offender Perspectives" by Wayne Petherick and Grant Sinnamon (2017) ISBN: 9780128095775. You will be able to access the Ebook from the University Library.

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	Canvas quizzes x 2	Quizzes will open at 9:00am on Monday morning and close 11:59pm on Sunday, weeks 6 and 12	Individual	25%	1, 2, 3
2	Short answer questions	5pm Friday, week 12	Individual	25%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Time restricted problem questions	5pm Friday, week 13	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3, 5

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.

When working off campus, you may need to download the Lean Library plug-in to access the university's electronic resources. More information can be found here: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/library/search-and-borrow/find-ejournals/lean-library>

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>

Assessment 1 – Canvas Quizzes x 2 (25%)

Assessment Type

Quizzes

This 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 activities.

There will be two (2) quizzes, each comprising 25 questions, and worth 12.5% of the course marks; together the two quizzes equal 25% 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 complete a quiz within the week allowed will result in a zero mark for that quiz.

Weighting

25%

Length

50 questions in total

Due Date

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

Submission Method

Online

Each quiz will comprise of 25 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.

Return Method

Online

Feedback Provided

No feedback

Assessment 2 – Short Answer Questions (25%)

Assessment Type	Written responses to discussion board questions
Description	<p>This assignment aims to allow students to demonstrate how effectively you have engaged with the course material and flow on discussion questions, and if you have advanced your ability to evaluate and engage analytically with criminal psychology.</p> <p>You will be expected to actively contribute to all of the discussion board questions each week for sections 1-3 inclusive (weeks 1-9 of the course). You are required to write a minimum of 100 words per response, totalling approximately 2,000 in total. Each answer marked as complete will contribute to the overall maximum 25% of the course grade for this assignment.</p>
Weighting	25%
Length	2,000 words.
Due Date	5pm Friday, week 12
Submission Method	All discussion questions must be answered in Canvas.
Assessment Criteria	<p>You will be assessed on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How well you integrate the course material and additional sources into your answers.2. Your correct use and application of terms, for example 'psychopathy'.3. Your engagement with the course material.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Minimal feedback online based on the elements reflected in the questions.

Assessment 3 - Time Restricted Problem Questions (50%)

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	<p>Criminal psychology has a direct application to forensic investigations. This assignment aims to allow students to demonstrate how effectively you have engaged with the course material and how well you have developed your critical understanding of criminal psychology.</p>
Description	<p>Time restricted problem questions (50%)</p> <p>The questions and full details on what to include will be made available under the Assignments tab in Canvas at 9.00am on Monday of week 13.</p> <p>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 section 4 (weeks 10-12 of the course). More information will be made available in Canvas under the assignments tab.</p> <p>Please include a coversheet, which should include: Your name; student number; the assignment title; word count (excluding references).</p>
Weighting	50%
Length	1,000 words (+/- 10%)
Due Date	5pm Friday, week 13
Submission Method	<p>Online.</p> <p>The written assignment must be submitted electronically through Turnitin (located in Canvas in the CRIM2020 'Assignments' tab as a .doc or .docx file (NOT pdf.)).</p> <p>Please ensure that you keep a back-up copy of your work. You should always keep at least one electronic copy on a memory stick or a cloud-service (e.g. Dropbox). Ensure that you continuously update your work. The Law School takes no responsibility for lost work, and losing work will not qualify you for an extension.</p>
Assessment Criteria	<p>Each of the questions will be marked on the elements reflected in that question. However, general assessment criteria are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How well you integrate the course material and additional sources into your answer.2. Your correct use and application of terms, such as 'psychopathic' or 'comfort zone'.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 theory5. 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 Minimal feedback online based on the elements reflected in the questions.

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.

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

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s).

Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**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.

© 2023 The University of Newcastle, Australia