

**NURS6085: Forensic Mental Health**

Online

Trimester 1 - 2024



## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	Traditionally mentally disordered offenders engender high levels of anxiety and therapeutic pessimism amongst mental health professionals. This course provides students the opportunity to develop knowledge and enhance their skills to work effectively with this population. Commencing from a broader perspective of Crime and Health, students will explore the policy and legal context in which their practice with this clientele occurs and examine the systems issues, and clinical and interpersonal issues specific to forensic mental health.
<b>Academic Progress Requirements</b>	Nil
<b>Assumed Knowledge</b>	Foundations of health professional knowledge, legal and ethical issues, fundamentals of research, human bioscience, psychology, sociology related to practice. Principles of investigative approaches in health care, concepts and theories relevant to practice, contemporary health care issues. Academic reading and writing skills, ability to access and evaluate information from a variety of sources, skills in critical analysis, critical judgment, synthesis and evaluation. Ability to conceptualise practice.
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Online</b> <b>Online Activity</b> Online 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1  <b>Self-Directed Learning</b> Self-Directed 8 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1
<b>Unit Weighting</b>	10
<b>Workload</b>	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>	<b>Online</b> <b>Dr Anna Treloar</b> <a href="mailto:Anna.Treloar@newcastle.edu.au">Anna.Treloar@newcastle.edu.au</a> Consultation: Via email or Canvas Calendar
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Nursing and Midwifery</b> Richardson Wing University of Newcastle University Drive Callaghan NSW  <b>Phone</b> (+61) 2 4921 6304 <b>Web</b> <a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/nursing-midwifery">http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/nursing-midwifery</a>
<b>General Enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au">AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au</a> (+61) 2 4921 5000
<b>Program &amp; Enrolment Advice</b>	<a href="mailto:Programadvice@newcastle.edu.au">Programadvice@newcastle.edu.au</a>
<b>Student Support</b>	For academic and personal support services for students, visit <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support</a>

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical perspectives, impact of crime on health and current policy and legal context</li><li>2. Systems issues and ethical issues in forensic mental health</li><li>3. Clinical and interpersonal issues specific to forensic mental health</li><li>4. Evidence based treatment interventions and future directions</li></ol>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<p><b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify the psychosocial determinants of people with complex and difficult behaviour in the psychiatric and criminal justice systems and the impact of crime on health</li><li>2. Demonstrate familiarity with current legislation in regard to forensic patients and mentally disordered offenders under the Mental Health Act and the practical application of this legislation at a systems level</li><li>3. Discuss the process of effective assessment and engagement of mentally disordered offenders in a range of settings including prison, community and forensic hospitals</li><li>4. Appraise current tools and strategies to assess and better manage risk of potential violence of mentally disordered offenders towards others</li><li>5. Reflect on personal values and attitudes arising when working with people whose behaviour and presentation is challenging and confronting and identify and resolve ethical dilemmas specifically arising with mentally disordered offenders</li><li>6. Examine and evaluate issues related to cultural safety and vulnerable populations (such as Indigenous Australians) relevant to the delivery of care in forensic settings</li><li>7. Critically examine current and developing theories (and related research) of personality development, psychopathy, ASPD and BPD and future directions in the provision of forensic mental health services</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	<p><b>Required Text:</b></p> <p>Aiyegbusi, A., &amp; Clarke-Moore, J. (Eds.). (2009). <i>Therapeutic relationships with offenders: An introduction to the psychodynamics of forensic mental health nursing</i>. Jessica Kingsley</p>

Publishers.

**Recommended Text:**

Howard, D., & Westmore, B. (2018). *Crime and mental health law in New South Wales: A practical guide for lawyers and health care professionals*. (23rd ed.). LexisNexis Butterworths.

Best, O., & Fredericks, B. (Eds.). (2021). *Yatdjuligin: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery Care* (3rd ed.). Cambridge University Press.

**Recommended Reading:**

In Canvas Course Readings

## COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

**Course Assessment Requirements:**

- Assessment 1 - Quiz: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 2 - Written Assignment: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 3 - Presentation: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 4 - Quiz: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

## SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Assessment Due
1	29 Jan	<b>Module 1: Setting the boundaries</b> The role of the forensic mental health nurse	
2	5 Feb	Examining the social determinants of health	
3	12 Feb	Psychopathy and the correctional setting	
4	19 Feb	<b>Module 2: Clinical &amp; Interpersonal Issues specific to forensic mental health</b> Criminal and Mental Health Law in NSW	Assessment 1: Quiz Opens 09:00 Friday 16th February and closes 23:00 Thursday 22nd February AEDT
5	26 Feb	ASPD within the custodial setting	
6	4 Mar	BPD within the custodial setting	Assessment 2: Written Assessment Due Thursday 7th March 23:00 AEDT
7	11 Mar	<b>Module 3: Risk Assessment</b> The importance of risk assessments – why do we do them?	
8	18 Mar	Risk Assessment Tools – examining actuarial tools	
9	25 Mar	Managing challenging behaviours within the custodial setting	
10	1 Apr	<b>Module 4: Evidence-based treatment interventions</b> The PCL-R and HCR-20R. Appraising risk assessment tools	Assessment 3: Presentation Due Thursday 4th April 23:00 AEDT
11	8 Apr	The intricacies of forensic report writing	
12	15 Apr	Bringing it all together: A case review – Jeffrey	Assessment 4: Quiz

		Dahmer	Opens 09:00 Friday 12th April and closes 23:00 Thursday 18th April AEST
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## ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Assessment 1 - Quiz*	Closes Thursday 22nd February 2024 by 23:00 hours Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)	Individual	15%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
2	Assessment 2 - Written Assignment*	Thursday 7 March 2024 by 23:00 hours Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)	Individual	30%	1, 3, 5, 6
3	Assessment 3 - Presentation*	Thursday 4 April 2024 at 23:00 hours Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
4	Assessment 4 - Quiz*	Closes 23:00 hours Thursday 18th April Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)	Individual	15%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

\* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

### 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.

## POSTGRADUATE COURSES ASSESSMENT AND REFERENCING ADVICE

### ASSESSMENTS

If you need to apply for an extension for an assessment

You should follow the process described in your Course Outline under the heading "Adverse Circumstances". Please note you will be required to submit documents to support your application.

**Please do not email your tutor or course coordinator to request an extension because they cannot approve applications for extensions unless they have been submitted using the Adverse Circumstances process.**

### Formatting your assessments

General advice - Use standard (default) margins, double line spacing and 12 point font in your assessments.

If you have additional instructions about using headings or an essay format or other formats (such as blogs) - please follow instructions provided for individual assessments.

### Word count

The length of the assessment is an indication of the number of words needed to address the assessment task. This is a guide, however some students have difficulty keeping their writing within the specified word count. If your assessment exceeds the word count by 10%, the assessment will be marked. Tutors/markers may stop marking if your assessment exceeds the word count by more than 10%. Please note the following information from the UON Course Management and Assessment Procedure Manual (Item 250 and 251):

**"Word limits include headings, sub-headings, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does NOT include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The Course Co-ordinator will allow a tolerance of at least 10% of the word limit".** (<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=183>)

### REFERENCING

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Your assessments must be appropriately referenced. Assessments that are not correctly referenced may have lower marks awarded.

Assessments that contain information from other sources that have not been referenced and where it appears that the student is presenting another person's work or ideas as their own, will be referred to the SACO officer. This constitutes a potential breach of the Student Academic Integrity Policy (<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>).

### What should be referenced?

All sources of published information including textbooks, journal articles, course readings, websites, guidelines, policies government documents that have been used to prepare an assessment MUST be included in the assessment as an In-text citation AND on the reference list.

Any documents provided to you to use in the preparation of an assessment must be referenced. Direct quotes MUST be referenced. However, please note direct quotes should be used sparingly and should not normally constitute more than 10% of an assessment.

Information that you have paraphrased in your assessment must also be referenced. Correct citation of sources and referencing is expected in scholarly writing at Master level. Assessments that are not correctly referenced may be penalised (lower marks awarded).

### Correct referencing style

You are required to use APA 7th Referencing Style in all of your assessments (unless otherwise stated). Check this link for details about using APA 7th Style: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/apa-7th>

### Making referencing easier

Referencing your assessments is easier if you use a Reference Management Program such as "Endnote".

There is information in Canvas that will assist you to access and use the Endnote referencing program.

Select: "Library Essentials" at the top right of your screen, then select "Referencing" from the list of options on the left side the screen, and then scroll down to select "Endnote".

Or click on this link: <http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/endnote>

### Academic Integrity

All new students must complete the Academic Integrity Module (AIM), which can be accessed via the Dashboard in Canvas.

## Assessment 1 - Quiz

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	To determine each student's understanding of the topics from week 1-3
<b>Description</b>	15 multiple choice questions. Students will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. Open for 7 days from 09:00 hours Friday 16th February and closes 23:00 hours Thursday 22nd February AEDT. You will only be allowed ONE attempt during this timeframe
<b>Weighting</b>	15%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	15 questions, 30 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	Closes Thursday 22nd February 2024 by 23:00 hours Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online. Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	N/A
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

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## Assessment 2 - Written Assignment – Discharge Report

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	Integral to effective learning is the ability to reflect upon your learning and to carefully consider the application of new understandings to clinical practice
<b>Description</b>	This assessment requires the student to answer set questions on a specific case study of a forensic patient who is to be released from the forensic hospital. The activity is designed to facilitate and evaluate your professional writing skills and develop your ability to complete a comprehensive discharge report.

Please read the case study details for Mr X, which are available in Canvas.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Mr X is to be released from the forensic hospital on a stated date after review by the Mental Health Review Tribunal. He is to be released with conditions for the provision of structured mental health care from the local community mental health team.

You, as the mental health nurse, have been asked to prepare the discharge report for Mr X. Using the information provided within the case study, you are required to devise a mental health nurse-led management plan that is appropriate for his cultural, spiritual, mental health, physical, and social needs. This report is to be provided the community mental health nurse allocated to case manage Mr X upon release.

Review the information provided and develop a discharge report that captures the relevant information required to ensure that a positive, person-centred outcome is achieved. Each answer requires supportive contemporary high quality literature.

1. What legal, biological, psychological, environmental, and social-occupational obligations are to be considered for Mr X, and how can these be incorporated into a community managed treatment plan?
2. What are the anticipated problems that may arise within the community that require addressing and how should Mr X be managed?
3. Evaluate the protective factors that Mr X has and what is his risk of offending in a violent manner in the future? How should this risk be assessed?
4. Provide a mental health nurse-led management plan to manage identified risks and his mental health

**References:** using APA 7<sup>th</sup>

<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	1800 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Thursday 7 March 2024 by 23:00 hours Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online. Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	In Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - within 3 weeks from the submission date
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

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## Assessment 3 - Presentation

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Presentation
<b>Purpose</b>	To develop a narrated in-service education presentation for your colleagues that provides a case history for your chosen forensic mental health patient from the list provided.
<b>Description</b>	For this assessment, you are required to develop a narrated in-service education presentation (maximum of 10 slides, excluding the reference list), which addresses the assessment objectives. Narrative to be a maximum of 12-minutes in duration.

The first slide must include: Your name, Target audience, Outline the plan for your presentation, and a brief description on why you have chosen to present this forensic patient and relevance to your target audience

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Select one of the forensic vignettes and prepare a case history using PowerPoint with audio presentation describing your chosen case. You must include the following details in your presentation:

- Demographics
- Social determinants
- Previous mental health history, intervention, and adherence (if any)
- Psychopathology and theoretical perspectives
- Criminogenic behaviours, substance misuse, and risk factors
- DSM-5 mental health diagnosis
- Legal considerations/ Court proceedings and outcomes
- Structured mental health nurse-led treatment plan consistent with diagnosis, cultural considerations, social and emotional wellbeing, and possible legal classification

Your slides must include appropriate academic references using APA 7th style and last slide (reference list)

<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	10 slides, 12 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	Thursday 4 April 2024 at 23:00 hours Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online. Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	In Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - within 3 weeks from submission date
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

## Assessment 4 - Quiz

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	To determine student's understanding of all modules and the course material
<b>Description</b>	30 multiple choice questions. Students will have 1 hour to complete the quiz. Open for 7 days from 09:00 hours Friday 12th April and closes 23:00 hours Thursday 18th April (AEDT) You will only be allowed ONE attempt during this timeframe
<b>Weighting</b>	15%

<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	30 questions, 1 hour
<b>Due Date</b>	Closes 23:00 hours Thursday 18th April Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online. Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	N/A
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

## 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).

### 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 Zoom 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.

### Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be



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conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

**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 button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

*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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