CRIM2034

Crime, Politics and the Media

Term Two // 2019
Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alyce McGovern</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.mcgovern@unsw.edu.au">a.mcgovern@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
<td>By appointment</td>
<td>Room 148 Morven Brown Building</td>
<td>9385 8472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

e-mail: soss@unsw.edu.au

phone: 02 9385 1807
Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: Criminology

Crime and justice issues dominate politics, the media and popular culture. This course looks critically at the development and nature of 'law and order politics' and the media's fascination with crime, both of which govern popular understandings of crime risks and threats, and appropriate policy responses to them. We consider how and why crime and justice have become such a source of fascination and a policy area on which elections can be won, with reference to numerous examples from contemporary politics, news media and popular culture.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe and interpret theoretical understandings of media and crime
2. Critically evaluate the relationships between law and order politics, crime and the media
3. Analyse the relationship(s) between the media and criminal justice institutions
4. Analyse the construction and portrayal of crime in news and entertainment media

Teaching Strategies

This course promotes a philosophy of student-centred, student-led learning and lecture and tutorial activities throughout are designed to encourage the development of a strong and positive learning community in which all students can maximise their own potential. Overall, the course uses what are known as ‘blended learning’ techniques (a mix of face-to-face discussion and activities in groups of different sizes supported by a range of online resources and activities) and a range of assessment practices in order to ensure that every student, irrespective of their own learning style, can access the course material readily and in a productive manner.
Assessment

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment task</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay Plan</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>26/08/2019 11:59 PM</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime and Media Wiki Task</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>06/09/2019 11:59 PM</td>
<td>2,3,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>13/09/2019 11:59 PM</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
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Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay Plan

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 750 words

Details: 750 word essay plan You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission. The feedback sheet/markign rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so you can work towards specified standards.

Additional details:

This first assessment will require you to develop an essay plan for Assessment 3: Research Essay (see below for details and question options). Please make sure in your essay plan to clearly identify which of the research essay questions you have chosen to focus on.

Your essay plan should consist of the following information*:

Thesis statement

Your plan should indicate how you plan to address your chosen research essay question. To do this you need to present a clear and well-written thesis statement, which will help you to determine the direction and structure of your argument. This can be a provisional statement, which you can refine for the essay itself and following feedback.

The thesis statement should include:

- A clear and direct answer/approach to the research essay question.
- A claim or claims that can be discussed and expanded further in the body of the essay
- One or two complete sentences
- Part of the introduction for the research essay

Main points and essay structure

Your plan should indicate the potential structure of the essay and the possible arguments that will be developed upon in the research essay itself. Your plan should follow the structure of an essay, with an introduction, body, and conclusion.
Your main points should indicate the ‘reasons why’ for your arguments/analysis, outlining the possible main points the research essay will cover. You should aim for five to six main points for an essay of this length. Each point should be developed in a short paragraph. Try to express the main idea of each point clearly. Arrange your main points in a logical order, considering the following:

- Is there a point that would seem to go first or one that would seem to go last?
- Are there any two points that are closely linked?
- How are the ideas connected to each other?
- Do the main points, when considered as a whole, present a unified discussion?

Research sources

Your plan should include some indication of the sources you might use to research and analyse your question. The aim is to demonstrate your preliminary investigation into the question, and how particular sources may help you develop the main points above. Consider the evidence you might draw on and which texts/literature you might refer to in your research essay. Please ensure you include the details of these potential sources in your plan; you should consider sources beyond your required readings.

Marking Criteria

- Ability to articulate a clear thesis statement based on your chosen research essay question;
- Evidence of the development of a well-structured argument;
- Clarity of main points and their contribution to argument;
- Demonstration of information literacy skills and sound selection of sources (i.e. your ability to appropriately locate, evaluate and use relevant academic research and literature);
- Demonstration of academic writing skills and clarity of written expression, including overall presentation (grammar, spelling, written expression, etc.);
- Appropriate and consistent referencing.

A more detailed marking rubric will be made available via the course Moodle site.

*Adapted from https://student.unsw.edu.au/construct-essay-plan

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Crime and Media Wiki Task

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 3000 words

Details: You will work in groups of 4-6 students to develop and curate a wiki related to course themes. Word length = 3000 words. You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission. The feedback sheet/marking rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so you can work towards specified standards.

Additional details:

This assessment item will require you to work in groups to monitor crime in the media and reflect on its construction and portrayal of crime in news and entertainment. As a group, you will be required to
monitor crime in the media and reflect on what you encounter in relation to the readings and materials covered in the course through the development of a Crime and Media Wiki. The aim of this task is for the group to demonstrate integration between the media item/article and the academic literature. The purpose of the Wiki is to encourage you and your group to reflect upon yourselves and your relationship to your studies, tracking your progression through the subject and the content you engage with. It is an exercise in applied critical thought, and is intended to provide sustained practice at approaching material critically. During face-to-face seminars time will be dedicated to group work on this task.

Working in groups
Groups will be allocated in face-to-face seminars, with no more than 6 students per group. Each group will need to develop and sign a Group Work Contract, a template for which will be made available on Moodle.

Wiki entries
During the course you are expected to monitor the media (print, television, digital, broadcast, etc) and keep up to date with any crime-related news, events or broadcasts (fictional, factual and ‘factional’). In seminars you will bring one or more media items to discuss with your group. During the course, as a group, you will write a series of Wiki entries reflecting on one (or more) media items/topics in relation to the content covered in the course, such as the course readings or any other relevant academic material your group has sourced. The group needs to demonstrate critical reflection on the materials; this requires going beyond simply describing the content of the media item.

The media content your group selects can be contemporary or historical and each entry should follow the usual referencing expectations. Your group is encouraged to be creative in the presentation of the Crime and Media Wiki: add pictures, videos or other materials where appropriate, and feel free to present your work in non-text formats (e.g. podcasts, vlogs, etc). The entire Wiki should be equivalent to no more than 3000 words in length. It is recommended that each Wiki entry is approximately 500 words in length, allowing for six Wiki entries.

Marking Criteria

- Conformity to the task requirements i.e. 3000 words in total (6 wiki entries of approximately 500 words each);
- Integration between media item(s) and required/further academic readings;
- Demonstration of critical reflection in relation to the material presented;
- Creativity in presentation of Crime and Media Wiki and approach to Wiki entries;
- Demonstration of information literacy skills (i.e. ability to appropriately locate, evaluate and use relevant academic research and literature);
- Demonstration of academic writing skills, logical and coherent argument, clarity of written expression, including overall presentation (grammar, spelling, written expression, etc.);
- Appropriate and consistent referencing.

A more detailed marking rubric will be made available via the course Moodle site.

Submission notes: Final wikis will be submitted via the OUWiki tool on Moodle. Further details on the submission process will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Research Essay
Details: This assignment provides an opportunity to continue your critical thinking about relationship between crime and the media through an in-depth research essay. Word count = 2200 words. This task will be the final assessment for the course. You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within 10 working days of submission. The feedback sheet/marking rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so you can work towards specified standards.

Additional details:

Building on the preparation work from your first assessment (Assessment 1: Essay Plan, detailed above), this assessment provides an opportunity to develop and articulate your critical thinking about the relationship between crime, politics and the media through an in-depth research essay. For this assignment you are required to select ONE of the following research essay question options:

- **Option 1:** Why is it that some types of crime victims and criminal victimisation feature so prominently in the news, whilst others are scarcely mentioned or discussed? What are the implications of these inequalities in news reporting and how might they be addressed?

- **Option 2:** Cultural criminologists argue that crime and crime imagery has been commodified, with transgression marketed and packaged as a form of entertainment. Drawing on contemporary media and/or popular culture examples, discuss how crime has become something avidly 'consumed' by audiences, and what the consequences of this may be.

- **Option 3:** Using at least two recent examples of contemporary crime and justice-related issues/or and events, discuss the extent to which the media influence public opinion of and responses to crime and justice-related issues/events, and the role of political actors in this process.

Research essays should demonstrate that you have engaged with the themes and issues discussed in the course (in web lectures, seminars and readings) and that you are able to construct a persuasive and well-evidenced argument. You should rely primarily on evidence and commentary from published academic, criminological literature. You will be assessed on the breadth of your research, the clarity and originality of your arguments, and the extent to which your conclusions are supported by appropriate published sources cited in your work. References to the core text and required readings in the course alone will not be sufficient to pass this assessment; you are expected to source supporting literature beyond that already provide to you, so research widely. Time will be allocated in seminars to discuss the assessment and work through your ideas.

To write a good research essay you should:

- Explain in the introduction your chosen research essay question, your basic argument(s), and how the paper will proceed step by step (the structure);
- Signpost the structure throughout the paper, indicating the logical progression from paragraph to paragraph and section to section (so linking sentences at the ends of paragraphs and sections are important);
- Provide persuasive analysis of evidence in support of your argument;
- Ground your argument in the theoretical debates of the discipline.
Marking Criteria

- Articulation of a clear thesis statement based on the chosen research essay question;
- Ability to synthesise material and construct a persuasive argument (in bringing together ideas and data from several sources);
- Ability to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of relevant theories, debates and concepts in relation to the chosen research essay question;
- Ability to engage in critical discussion about the chosen research essay question;
- Demonstration of information literacy skills (i.e. your ability to appropriately locate, evaluate and use relevant academic research and literature)
- Demonstration of academic writing skills, logical and coherent argument, clarity of written expression, including overall presentation (grammar, spelling, written expression, etc.);
- Appropriate and consistent referencing.

A more detailed marking rubric will be made available via the course Moodle site.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.
Attendance Requirements

**CRIM2034 is delivered in blended mode.** This means that you will be required to watch a ‘web lecture’ and complete pre-class activities on Moodle, as well as attend 5 x 4-hour face-to-face seminars. Your face-to-face seminars will be held in the Interactive Learning Spaces in the Electrical Engineering building (Room G03). This space is designed to maximise interactivity, engagement and collaboration, around which the course is designed. I welcome your feedback on your experience using this space during the course.

The success of our seminars will be dependent on you having completed the course readings, viewed the web lectures, and completed any associated activities prior to attending class. In seminars I will act as a facilitator for your learning, so completing this pre-seminar work is essential for meeting the learning outcomes for the course. You are encouraged to bring your electronic devices – laptops, iPads, etc. – to seminars to facilitate the learning activities we will engage in. For more details on the web lectures and seminars, see below.

**It is my expectation that you will attend and participate actively in 100% of learning and teaching activities.** If you miss any of the face-to-face seminars it is your responsibility to contact me to discuss your attendance. You should keep track of your own attendance to ensure you're meeting course requirements. Please note that the development of assessment work, especially the Crime and Media Wiki group assessment, occurs during seminar time, so your attendance is crucial for yourself and your group members.

**Web Lectures**

Web lectures will be available on Moodle before our first face-to-face seminars, and will be essential viewing ahead of your 5 seminars. Please ensure you review the web lectures for the relevant topics ahead of the corresponding seminars. Web lecture content will equate to just over 1.5 hours of learning time each topic (there 10 topics in total; each face-to-face seminar will cover 2 topics) and will complement your required readings, providing you with a foundation for the discussion and activities that will follow in face-to-face seminars. Please ensure you set aside sufficient time each week to complete the web lecture components ahead of seminars.

**Seminars**

There are 5 x 4-hour seminars scheduled for this course:

- Seminar 1: Friday 23rd August 10:00am – 4:00pm Electrical Engineering G03
- Seminar 2: Saturday 24th August 10:00am – 4:00pm Electrical Engineering G03
- Seminar 3: Friday 30th August 10:00am – 4:00pm Electrical Engineering G03
- Seminar 4: Saturday 31st August 10:00am – 4:00pm Electrical Engineering G03
- Seminar 5: Friday 6th September 10:00am – 4:00pm Electrical Engineering G03

Seminars are an opportunity for you to engage in facilitated discussion and activities led by your Course Convenor. Seminars will consist of collective examination via class discussion of the theories and concepts examined in the course and application of them to current news and events. As such, it is important that you complete the required readings and view the web lectures prior to attending your seminar.

You should come to each seminar:
• Having watched the web lecture for the topics being covered in that particular seminar;
• Having read the required readings for the topics;
• Having completed any preparation work requested of you for the seminar;
• Having made notes on any pertinent and/or unclear areas of your reading;
• Having engaged with news and entertainment items relevant to the course;
• Prepared to engage in discussion and other learning activities with your classmates;
• Having checked the Moodle site for updates and links to additional useful information as it arises throughout the course.

After each seminar you should:

• Consolidate and review your notes and additional materials;
• Research and read around specific issues and areas of interest;
• Consider points raised in discussion and/or feedback you’ve been given;
• Prepare, plan, research and draft assignments.

Seminar attendance is compulsory. You are required to attend 5 x 4-hour seminars across the course. You must personally sign the attendance register to be regarded as attending the class. It is your responsibility to ensure you sign the register before the conclusion of the seminar.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1: Topics 1-4</td>
<td>Web</td>
<td>You should review the web lecture content for the following 4 topics before face-to-face seminars on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th August.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 1</strong>: Understanding the crime-politics-media relationship</td>
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<td><strong>Topic 2</strong>: Theorising crime and the media</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 3</strong>: The politics of law and order</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 4</strong>: Constructing crime news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td></td>
<td>In our first seminar on Friday 23rd August we will cover the following topics:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 1</strong>: Understanding the crime-politics-media relationship</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Topic 2</strong>: Theorising crime and the media</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td></td>
<td>In our second seminar on Saturday 24th August we will cover the following topics:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 3</strong>: The politics of law and order</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2: Topics 5-8</td>
<td>Web</td>
<td>You should review the web lecture content for the following 4 topics before face-to-face seminars on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st August.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 5:</strong> Cultural criminology: Crime as entertainment</td>
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<td><strong>Topic 6:</strong> Victims and offenders in the media</td>
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<td><strong>Topic 7:</strong> Police and the media</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Topic 8:</strong> Courts and the media</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>In our third seminar on Friday 30th August we will cover the following topics:</td>
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<td><strong>Topic 5:</strong> Cultural criminology: Crime as entertainment</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Topic 6:</strong> Victims and offenders in the media</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>In our fourth seminar on Saturday 31st August we will cover the following topics:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Topic 7:</strong> Police and the media</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Topic 8:</strong> Courts and the media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3: Topics 9-10</td>
<td>Web</td>
<td>You should review the web lecture content for the following 2 topics before face-to-face seminars on Friday 6th September.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 9:</strong> Corrections and the media</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Topic 10:</strong> Technology, surveillance and citizen journalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>In our fifth and final seminar on Friday 6th September we will cover the following topics:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 9:</strong> Corrections and the media</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Topic 10:</strong> Technology, surveillance and citizen journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Assessment 2: Crime and media wiki is due on Friday 6th September at 11:59pm.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Assessment 3: Research essay is due on Friday 13th September at 11:59pm.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Resources

Prescribed Resources

For each topic there will be a number of required readings that you need to complete (see the course Moodle site for the details of these readings). Readings will be available either in your textbook, or via Leganto, accessible on the course Moodle page. Please ensure you bring copies of your readings to the relevant seminar to help facilitate discussion.

Core textbook

Recommended Resources

You may find the following references useful in the preparation of your assignments for the course:


The following crime and media related journals might also be useful for your assessments or other activities related to this course:

• British Journal of Criminology
• British Journalism Review
• Crime, Media, Culture: An International Journal
• Media, Culture and Society
• Television and New Media
• Policing and Society
• Crime and Delinquency
• Crime, Law and Social Change
• Criminal Law Review
• Howard Journal
• The Journal for Crime, Conflict and Media Culture
• Theoretical Criminology
• Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture
• Current Issues in Criminal Justice
• Social and Legal Studies
• Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology
• Law Text Culture
• Journal of Law and Society
• Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies
• International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy

These online sources may also be relevant to your studies:

• Imagining Justice http://imaginingjustice.org/
• The Marshall Project https://www.themarshallproject.org/
• The Crime Report http://www.thecrimereport.org/
• Cultural Criminology http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/culturalcriminology/
• The Conversation http://theconversation.com.au
• Australian Institute of Criminology http://www.aic.gov.au/
• Home Office www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Course Evaluation and Development

Both formal and informal feedback on this course is welcome from students throughout the course. Student feedback on the course content, assessments and format plays an important role in the development and evolution of my courses to ensure that I make the necessary adaptations to the course for the future. During the course I will be seeking feedback from you about your experience in the course, the Interactive Learning Space in which seminars are held, and the web lecture/blended learning aspects of the course. Feedback will also be sought through the University's formal evaluation tool, myExperience at the end of term. I welcome any additional feedback on the course throughout the term. This is your learning experience, and I want to make it a positive one!
Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteilsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course’s Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle
Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another’s ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another’s ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person’s individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person’s academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person’s work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
• understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
• be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
• be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
• locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise
**Academic Information**

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

[https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/](https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/)

**Image Credit**

Photo by Hayden Walker on Unsplash

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