



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

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# **CRIM2042**

Explaining Crime

Term Three // 2019

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

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### School Contact Information

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## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Criminology*

What causes crime? Who is more likely to offend and why? What can we do to prevent crime? How does criminological theory help us understand the current criminal justice system? This course builds upon your understanding of the major theoretical approaches to crime and criminal justice, and seeks to answer the above questions. Criminological theory will be critically examined for its utility in developing policy responses and understanding the historical and contemporary development of our understandings of crime, criminality and the criminal justice system. Similar to other social sciences, criminology is a reflexive discipline whereby part of the criminological enterprise is to critically examine criminology itself. We will look at theories that help us to understand what generates crime, how to prevent crime and how crime is best dealt with.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Locate current crime policy within the context of criminological theory
2. Identify strengths and weaknesses in contemporary public debates and crime control policies and assess the validity of underlying theoretical assumptions
3. Map the shifts in criminological theory from the late 19th century to current day
4. Identify theoretical approaches adopted in understanding crime, causes of crime, punishment rationale and strategies
5. Demonstrate your understandings of crime theory and policy through scholarly discussion, debate and written analysis of case study material and policies

### Teaching Strategies

This course has been designed to expand your understanding of criminological theories and their relationship to policy and practice, building on prior experience and knowledge including that gained in CRIM1010 and/or CRIM1011 coupled with any electives already undertaken. It is really important to understand the rationale behind the development of criminal justice policies that potentially have such a huge impact on the rights, liberties and well-being of all of us, and this course aims to do that. Developing a capacity to critique and engage with policy alternatives really depends on having a full appreciation of the historical and contemporary context of their development in the context of some of the theoretical understandings of the day.

Students often think of theory as an elusive and sometimes dry subject, but it doesn't have to be. This course has been developed in the belief that everyone should and can access theoretical concepts and writing and that the learning process is a joint enterprise, which should be based on a conversation between students and staff. This course has been designed to engage you through discussion and structured hands-on activities and case studies that encourage independent thinking and work.

Teaching Strategies:

The lectures will provide conceptual and theoretical frameworks from which particular criminological issues can be understood. The purpose of the lecture is to discuss theoretical perspectives and crime

information so that you can reflect upon the issues raised and then discuss them in tutorials. Lectures are intended to be interactive and thought provoking and may include guest presenters, the use of video clips and films, case studies, small-group activities, problem based activities and pair-work. The lectures are designed to supplement independent study on the course that begins (but should not end) with close engagement with the weekly required readings.

Tutorials will consist of collective examination via class discussion of the theories examined in the subject and application of them to examples of criminal behaviour and events. We take the view that the classroom is a creative space and that knowledge, rather than being imparted is created and recreated in this space. The success of this process depends upon the dialogue established between participants (students and tutors). Active participation in the tutorials is essential. Weekly tutorials allow you to discuss questions, themes and issues arising from your independent study, as well as providing the opportunity to engage in productive discussion with your peers.

## Assessment

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Crime theory task	15%	11/10/2019 11:59 PM	1,2
Essay	45%	08/11/2019 11:59 PM	2,4,5
Final Exam	40%	Not Applicable	2,3,4,5

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Crime theory task

##### Start date:

**Length:** 400 words +/- 10% excluding references

**Details:** 400 word individual submission. Students will receive a numerical mark and written feedback within two weeks of submission.

##### Additional details:

This assessment consists of two components.

- The first component of the task involves the production of TWO pieces of work to be brought to tutorials in Weeks 2 & 3 for peer review.
- The second component of the task requires you to submit ONE of those pieces of work for formal assessment.
- In Week 1 tutorials, we will go through a version of this assignment as a group for practice.

As a first step, you need to collect 2 news articles that each detail an incidence of crime. The news articles you use must be recent (i.e. published on or after January 2018) and should give sufficient detail about an offence/crime issue to assist you in effectively completing the task.

Over the course of the first two tutorials (weeks 2 and 3), you will be required to bring in 2 individual pieces of work, 400 words in length, that examine the crime detailed in one of your news articles in relation to the theoretical concept being discussed in the tutorial that week (positivism and developmental theories, or anomie and strain theories). The aim of the task is for you to demonstrate your understanding of the ways in which theory is used to explain crime and criminality. Each of the two weeks of the task should make use of a different news article.

Each week (2 and 3) you must bring your submission for that week to your tutorial. Your tutor will be checking to ensure you have your submission for each tutorial. To be eligible to pass the assessment, you must bring in one submission in each of the two weeks. In tutorials you will then swap your work with another student, with students providing one another with written feedback in line with the marking criteria for the task. This peer review activity will provide you with valuable advice on the quality of your work and your choice of final submission.

In Week 4, you will choose ONE of your two pieces of work to be submitted for final assessment. You should choose your best piece to submit for marking. Your tutor will mark your work using the same marking criteria deployed in the tutorial peer review process. This final submission will be awarded a mark out of 15. A copy of the article, its date and source must accompany your work. The usual standards of academic referencing apply to this assessment task.

You must complete the task as follows:

Part A: Positivism and Developmental Theories Due Week 2 Tutorial

Part B: Anomie and Strain Theories Due Week 3 Tutorial

Applying the principles of ONE theory, in 400 words, to explain WHAT the crime was, WHY the crime occurred (its causes) and HOW it should be dealt with by the criminal justice system.

Final Submission

Submit ONE of your two pieces of work for assessment by your tutor. This piece must be submitted via the TurnItIn assignment box on Moodle by 11:59pm on the due date.

Assessment Criteria

1. Identifies the crime as detailed in the news article;
2. Correctly applies the nominated theory to explain why the crime occurred (its causes);
3. Correctly applies the nominated theory to explain how the crime should be dealt with by the criminal justice system;
4. Demonstrates ability to analyse the crime example and the theoretical perspective with respect to essential/further readings;
5. Demonstration of academic writing skills, logical coherent argument, clarity of written expression including overall presentation (grammar, spelling, written expression, etc);
6. Appropriate and consistent referencing.

A detailed marking rubric of these criteria will be made available via the course Moodle site.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

## **Assessment 2: Essay**

**Start date:**

**Length:** 2500 words +/- 10% excluding references

**Details:** 2500 word individual submission. Students will receive a numerical mark and written feedback within two weeks of submission.

**Additional details:**

This assignment is to be written in an essay format and requires you to critically examine two of the theories/perspectives covered in Weeks 4-8 in the course in relation to a case study of an offence

prosecuted in the NSW District Court.

Select ONE of the following case studies:

Case Study A: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/nsw/NSWDC/2014/302.html>

Case Study B: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/nsw/NSWDC/2013/222.html>

Case Study C: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/nsw/NSWDC/2011/70.html>

Using TWO of the theories/perspectives discussed from Week 4-8 in the course, critically analyse your case study in relation to the crime committed, the offender, victim, associated facts and penalty handed down.

In your answer you must explain how the theoretical approaches help to understand or explain the case study you have chosen by comparing/contrasting the theories and, in doing so, outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the theories.

This is not a descriptive narrative so please do not simply relate the story of the offence, or describe the individuals involved; you must apply your theoretical understanding to your analysis of the case study.

#### Assessment Criteria

1. Demonstration of in-depth understanding of chosen theoretical concepts and tools of analysis;
2. Ability to apply theoretical concepts to case study through in-depth discussion of crime, offender, victim, associated facts and penalty handed down;
3. Ability to engage in critical discussion;
4. Ability to summarise and evaluate qualities of theories chosen for analysis;
5. Ability to compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the two chosen theories;
6. Demonstration of information literacy skills i.e. ability to appropriately locate, evaluate and use relevant academic research and literature;
7. Demonstration of academic writing skills, a logical and coherent argument, and clarity of written expression including overall presentation (grammar, spelling, written expression, etc);
8. Appropriate and consistent referencing.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

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#### **Assessment 3: Final Exam**

**Start date:**

**Details:** 2 hour exam in formal examination period. This is the final assessment in the course for the purpose of the attendance requirement.

**Additional details:**

The examination will be of two hours duration; no books or other assistance will be permitted in the examination room. The exam will cover content from course lectures, tutorials, online content, and required readings (textbook and others) and will focus on the application of theory to situations and scenarios. The aim is for you to think through the issues in the exam, not just to memorise prepared answers. Obviously, remembering the contents of the course is important but you are also marked on your ability to use this material to reason and argue your response to the questions in an applied way. Further details on the format of the exam will be communicated on Moodle and in lectures and tutorials.

**Submission notes:** This exam will be held in the official UNSW exam period.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment



## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 16 September - 20 September	Lecture	What is Criminological theory? / Classicism & Rational Choice
	Tutorial	Classicism & Rational Choice
	Online Activity	Module on Moodle: Quantitative Research and Criminological Theory
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Lecture	Positivism & Developmental Theories
	Tutorial	Positivism & Developmental Theories
	Homework	<b>PART A of Assessment 1. DUE in your tutorial</b>
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Lecture	Anomie & Strain Theories
	Tutorial	Anomie & Strain Theories
	Homework	<b>PART B of Assessment 1. DUE in your tutorial.</b>
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Lecture	Chicago School & Social Disorganisation
	Tutorial	Chicago School & Social Disorganisation
	Assessment	<b>Assessment 1. DUE Friday 11 October, 2019 at 11.59pm.</b>
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Lecture	Labelling & Cultural Perspectives
	Tutorial	Labelling & Cultural Perspectives
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Lecture	Marxism & Left Realism
	Tutorial	Marxism & Left Realism
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Lecture	New Right & Control Theories
	Tutorial	New Right & Control Theories
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Lecture	Foucault & Postmodernism
	Tutorial	Foucault & Postmodernism
	Assessment	<b>Assessment 2. DUE Friday 8 November, 2019 at 11.59pm</b>
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Lecture	Feminist Theories
	Tutorial	Feminist Theories
	Online Activity	Module on Moodle: Feminist Criminology
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Lecture	Southern Criminology, Queer Criminology and Critical Theories
	Tutorial	Southern Criminology, Queer Criminology and Critical Theories
	Online Activity	Module on Moodle: The Future of Criminology

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

#### **Core text (available at UNSW Co-op Bookstore)**

Bernard, T., Snipes, J. and Gerould, A. (2015). Vold's Theoretical Criminology 7th ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Recommended Resources**

Prescribed and Recommended Readings and Resources additional to the textbook will be available on the Moodle site, with resources available through Leganto and the UNSW library.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

Both formal and informal feedback on this course is welcome from students throughout the semester. Student feedback on the course content, assessments and format plays an important role in the development and evolution of our courses, to ensure that we make the necessary adaptations to the course for the future. This semester we will be seeking feedback from you at various points in the course, and are interested in understanding if and how course activities assist in your development as an independent learner. We will also be using the University's myExperience system to evaluate the course, but you are welcome to communicate any other feedback to your lecturers or tutor at any time. Recent feedback received on this course has resulted in improvements to course content, delivery and assessment tasks for students.

## **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 [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@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/>

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