



COURSE OUTLINE

CRM102

Understanding Crime

Course Coordinator: Nadine McKillop (nmckillo@usc.edu.au) School: School of Law and Society

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast
USC Moreton Bay

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

Understanding the complex causes of crime is essential to developing just and effective responses to offending. This course introduces you to the main theories of crime developed over the last 250 years. The approach explains the origins of theories according to their social contexts. The course also develops your knowledge of the main critiques of these theories' focusing on evidence and scientific verification, and the implications of different theories for criminal justice practice.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus tutorial - 2 hours in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.	2hrs	Week 1	6 times
Lecture – 1 hour online lecture content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Lecture – On campus seminar - 2 hours in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.	2hrs	Week 1	6 times
ONLINE 1			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online tutorial - 2 hours in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.	2hrs	Week 1	6 times
Online – 1 hour online lecture content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Online – Recorded seminar - 2 hours in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. The recorded seminar will be available to view after the scheduled on campus seminar.	2hrs	Week 1	6 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Introduction to Criminological Theory
- Role of Theory and Theory Testing
- Pre-Classical and Classical Theory: Classical Criminology and Deterrence Theory
- The Neo-Classical Age: Rational Choice and Routine Activities/Lifestyle Theories
- Positivist Criminology: Biological & Biosocial, and Psychological perspectives
- Positivist Criminology: Social Process and Learning Theories (Learning, Social Bonding and Control perspectives)
- Positivist Criminology: The Chicago School (Social Disorganisation Theory)
- Positivist Criminology: Social Structural, Anomie and Strain Theories
- Positivist Criminology: Social Reaction and Critical Theories (Labelling and Reintegrative Shaming)
- Positivist Criminology: Social Reaction and Critical Theories (Conflict, Marxist & Feminist Theory)
- Life-Course Perspectives of Criminality

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Identify and describe the origins and main concepts of modern criminological theories.	Knowledgeable
2 Explain the relevance of different theories to specific crime problems, using creative means of communication.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
3 Critique crime theories from a scientific point of view and in terms of their implications for criminal justice.	Creative and critical thinker Engaged
4 Integrate different theories to explain specific crimes and crime patterns.	Empowered

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Interactive quizzes (using Kahoot or similar app) is built into class activities from week 2 to assist you with learning and retaining key theoretical concepts learnt throughout the course.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Oral	Individual or Group	25%	5-7 minutes	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission
All	2	Essay	Individual	35%	2000 words	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	40%	2 hours	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 1: Multimedia-based recorded presentation

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment is to produce a multimedia-based recorded presentation that demonstrates your early learnings of classical criminology and its relevance to a specific crime problem.																
PRODUCT:	Oral																
FORMAT:	This task can be completed individually or in pairs. You are required to produce a pre-recorded 5-7 minute presentation. Three crimes will be provided to you at the beginning of semester. You are required to research one of these crimes and use the presentation to demonstrate how the nominated classical theory explains the crime. You will also be expected to critique the theory in terms of its ability to fully explain the crime. More information will be provided in tutorials and on the Blackboard site to help you prepare for your presentation.																
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Identification and accurate description of theoretical concepts</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Application of theoretical concepts to explain a specific crime</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Accurate critique of theory for explaining a specific crime and its implications</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Quality and creativity of presentation to convey key messages</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Identification and accurate description of theoretical concepts	1	2	Application of theoretical concepts to explain a specific crime	2	3	Accurate critique of theory for explaining a specific crime and its implications	3	4	Quality and creativity of presentation to convey key messages	2	
No.		Learning Outcome assessed															
1	Identification and accurate description of theoretical concepts	1															
2	Application of theoretical concepts to explain a specific crime	2															
3	Accurate critique of theory for explaining a specific crime and its implications	3															
4	Quality and creativity of presentation to convey key messages	2															

All - Assessment Task 2: Essay

GOAL:	The purpose of this assessment task is for you to demonstrate your knowledge of a sample of crime theories taught throughout the course. The goal is to demonstrate your ability to integrate and evaluate these theories to explain a crime and identify implications for responding to the crime.
PRODUCT:	Essay
FORMAT:	You are to produce a 2000-word academic essay that integrates three theories covered in the course to explain a specific crime and identify how this translates to practice (i.e., preventing or responding to the crime problem).

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed	
	1	Accurate description of relevant concepts for each chosen theory	1 2
	2	Integration of chosen theories to explain a crime specific crime and implications for criminal justice	4
	3	Accurate critique of chosen theories in relation to one another and for explaining the specific crime	3
	4	Appropriate use synthesis of literature to support key arguments	4
	5	Appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling	2

All - Assessment Task 3: Examination

GOAL:	This end-of-semester exam allows you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of course materials covered throughout the semester.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled		
FORMAT:	This task will take the form of a supervised test in individual mode. You will be required to respond to a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, drawn from course material covered in weeks 1 - 13. You will have 2 hours available to complete the task. Formative activities are completed in tutorials to prepare you for this exam.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Accurate recall of course material indicated by correct answers on multiple choice questions	1 2 3 4
	2	Systematic presentation of relevant knowledge addressing the nature and scope of the short-answer questions posed	1 2 3 4

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Required	Akers, R.L., Sellers, C.S., & Jennings, W.G.	2021	Criminological theories: Introduction, evaluation and application.	Oxford University Press.

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au