



COURSE OUTLINE

CRM203 Homicide, Investigations & Forensic Science

Course Coordinator: Eric Wilson (ewilson@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Law and Society

2021 Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

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

Online

ONLINE 1

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

This course introduces students to the crime of homicide, including the investigation processes and elements of forensic science. Initially, students focus on the key fundamentals of the crime event and develop an understanding through the lens of offenders and victims and experts in the field, including police. Students also learn how various criminal justice systems respond to lethal violence, including the application of forensic science. Using a real life, case study approach, students learn how homicides are detected and investigated by the police; how they are processed in the courts, including the criminal trial process and sentencing; and the management and prison experience of convicted offenders.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Lecture – On campus Lecture - 2 hours in weeks 1-6 and 8-13.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop – On campus tutorial - 1 hour in weeks 2-6 and 8-13.	1hr	Week 2	11 times
ONLINE 1			
Tutorial/Workshop – Online tutorial - 1 hour in weeks 2-6 and 8-13 via Zoom.	1hr	Week 2	11 times
Online – Online lecture via MediaSite in Weeks 1-6 and 8-13. This will be available to view live at the same time as the scheduled on campus lecture or immediately afterwards.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Introduction to – and dimensions of – Homicide
- Infanticide & Child Homicide
- Domestic Homicide
- Detection, Investigation, Prosecution & Adjudication
- Introduction to Forensic Science: Part 1
- Introduction to Forensic Science: Part 2
- Theoretical Perspectives & Offender Profiling
- Multiple Homicide: Serial, Mass, Genocide, Terrorists and Corporations
- Sentencing, Prison Experiences, and Wrongful Convictions
- Homicide on the Roads
- Homicide Prevention

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

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 Demonstrate an understanding of how homicide is defined and explained.	Knowledgeable
2 Develop an in-depth understanding of different types of homicide and forensic science.	Knowledgeable Empowered
3 Gain an understanding of the strengths and limitations of key investigative strategies used in the detection of serious violent offenders.	Knowledgeable Empowered
4 Demonstrate an understanding of the criminal trial process and its limitations.	Knowledgeable Empowered
5 Develop an understanding of the punishment for homicide.	Knowledgeable Ethical

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

You will be provided with early feedback on knowledge for this block of work via a non-examinable quiz within the first 2 weeks of tutorials.

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	Essay	Individual	25%	1000 words	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Case Study	Individual	45%	2500 Words	Week 11	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	30%	2 hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class

All - Assessment Task 1: Minor Essay

GOAL:	The purpose of this essay is for you to demonstrate your early learning of the nature and theoretical explanations of child homicide, the characteristics of offenders and victims, prevalence, and the reasons for child homicide.	
PRODUCT:	Essay	
FORMAT:	The written essay will require you to use information covered in the course and academic literature to address the issue of child homicide.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	You will be assessed on your ability to research child homicide and write an essay on the nature of child homicide, the reasons, and prevalence of this phenomenon. You will be required to demonstrate accurate referencing and citation practices
	2	Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes. 1 2 3 4 5

All - Assessment Task 2: Homicide Detection, Investigation and Prosecution Case Study Report

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment task is for you to demonstrate your ability to research, analyse and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the detection, investigation and prosecution process (including reference to forensic science) of a real-life homicide case study. You are to recommend ways in which the failures could have been overcome.
PRODUCT:	Case Study
FORMAT:	This task will require you to write up a report on the homicide criminal justice process involved in a homicide case of your choice.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	You will be assessed on your ability to identify, communicate and critically assess the entire process from the case information and academic literature. You will also be required to demonstrate standard referencing.
	2	All questions are to be answered.

All - Assessment Task 3: Final Exam

GOAL:					
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled				
FORMAT:	This task will take the form of an exam. You will be required to respond to 5 short-answer questions worth 6 marks each. You will have two hours available to complete the task.				
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Learning Outcome assessed		
No.	Learning Outcome assessed				

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	Brookman, F	2005	Understanding Homicide	Sage: London

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 Manly and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au