Course Outline

Code: CRM401
Title: Research Dissertation A

School: Law and Criminology
Teaching Session: Semester 1
Year: 2020

Course Coordinator: Dr Nadine McKillop
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Course Moderator: Dr Lara Christensen
Email: lchriste@usc.edu.au

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
In this course, you are required to develop and implement an independent scholarly investigation into a core area of Criminology and Justice. The research question/s under investigation should be innovative and should have either significant theoretical or applied implications. Under the supervision of an academic supervisor, you will conceptualise your project, develop a research proposal, and undertake initial project tasks necessary to conduct research. This course is Non-Examinable (NE), with the dissertation mark being assigned exclusively to CRM402, which will carry a weighting of 48 units for the purpose of GPA calculations.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. What level is this course?
400 level Graduate - Independent application of graduate knowledge and skills. Meets AQF and professional requirements. May require pre-requisites and developing level knowledge/skills. Normally taken in the 4th year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?
0
4. **How does this course contribute to my learning?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment tasks</th>
<th>Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:</td>
<td>You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:</td>
<td>Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate advanced theoretical knowledge in the core area of Criminology which they have chosen to undertake their dissertation.</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>Knowledgeable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate advanced skills in reviewing, critically analysing and synthesising information to complete a range of research activities.</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>Creative and Critical Thinkers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply appropriate project management skills.</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
<td>Empowered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply appropriate ethical decision-making and conduct research in compliance with ethical standards, requirements and protocols.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ethical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicate a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to contribute to the discipline.</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>Engaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate autonomy, well-developed judgement, adaptability and responsibility for own learning and practice.</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>Empowered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 **Enrolment restrictions**  
Must be enrolled in program AR409

5.2 **Pre-requisites**  
Nil

5.3 **Co-requisites**  
Nil

5.4 **Anti-requisites**  
Nil

5.5 **Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)**  
Completion of CRM307 Crime Research Methods or equivalent is recommended

6. **How am I going to be assessed?**

6.1 **Grading scale**  
Limited – Pass (PU), Fail (UF). All assessment tasks are required to be passed for successful completion of the course.
6.2 Details of early feedback on progress
You will receive formative feedback on your research proposal in two ways: informally, through supervision sessions with your supervisor, and formally, as written and formal feedback for Task 1 & 2. You will also receive additional feedback on your project from other research supervisors when you present your proposed research project in Task 3.

6.3 Assessment tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task No.</th>
<th>Assessment Product</th>
<th>Individual or Group</th>
<th>Weighting %</th>
<th>What is the duration / length?</th>
<th>When should I submit?</th>
<th>Where should I submit it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Written Piece</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Non-Examinable (NE)</td>
<td>Approx. 2500 words</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>To Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Artefact - Technical and Scientific, and Written Piece</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Non-Examinable (NE)</td>
<td>As per the HREC’s requirements</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>To Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Non-Examinable (NE)</td>
<td>5 – 7 minutes</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Task 1: Research proposal

**Goal:** The goal of this assessment is to formulate a research proposal for your chosen topic. It should include an overview of research topic, outline key theoretical framework/s, state the overall aims and research questions, and propose appropriate research methods, developed in consultation with your supervisor.

**Product:** Written Piece

**Format:** Submission of this 2500-word research proposal is compulsory and is an important component of Task 2, your ethics application. This proposal will include an introduction to the research topic, a critical analysis of current research to highlight current gaps in knowledge, outline the theoretical framework/s underpinning the research and a set out a clear rationale for the proposed research questions, and methodologies, to address these questions. Resources will be made available on Blackboard to assist you with this task.

**Criteria:**
- Apply advanced theoretical and technical knowledge related to your chosen core area of Criminology and Justice
- Advanced analytical and critical thinking skills to inform research proposal
- Clear and coherent presentation and defence of your research ideas through written communication

Assessment Task 2: HREC Ethics Application

**Goal:** The goal of this assessment task is to prepare and submit the ethics application for your thesis research project. You will work with your supervisor to develop and finalise your ethics application to meet the requirements of the relevant University Ethics Committees.

**Product:** Artefact - Technical and Scientific, and Written Piece

**Format:** Your ethics application should include all materials required for an ethics application at USC, e.g., the research protocol, HREA application form, information and consent forms, data collection instruments, and permissions to survey possible participants. Additional information about these processes are available in Blackboard. Delays associated with these procedures are not a justification for an extension of submission of your thesis.

**Criteria:** Submission of application via USC’s Human Research Ethics Committee
### Assessment Task 3: Elevator Pitch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Goal:</strong></th>
<th>The goal of this task is to practice communicating your research proposal in a clear and concise manner.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Product:</strong></td>
<td>Oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong></td>
<td>This is a 5 - 7-minute elevator pitch that communicates the rationale and importance of your research study. This will be presented to your peers and relevant academic staff. It should include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A clear rationale and statement of the importance of this research for the discipline</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Theoretical framework/s and aims;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Research questions or hypotheses for your research project;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Research design, sample, measures and procedures; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Proposed analytic strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creativity in presenting this pitch to engage your audience and convey key messages is encouraged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criteria:</strong></td>
<td>• Synthesise relevant academic, institutional and media sources to situate the importance of this research within the broader literature</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Advanced analytical and critical thinking skills</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Clear articulation of theoretical framework/s, research questions or hypotheses; research design, measures and proposed data collection methods</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Use of evidence and examples to effectively illustrate arguments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Communicate complex ideas simply and in an engaging format</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### 7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

There are no formal weekly class contact hours for this course. You, the student (hereafter you), meet weekly or fortnightly with your dissertation supervisor as per the schedule of meetings agreed on by the supervisor in consultation with you. There will be a one-day Honours Dissertation Conference in Week 12 of Semester 1 at which all Honours Dissertation students will present and justify their Honours dissertation topic (assessment task 3).

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

Please note that 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**

Information regarding prescribed texts or other associated resources will be made available on the Blackboard site prior to commencement of study.

**8.2 Specific requirements**

Nil
9. **How are risks managed in this course?**

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility as a student 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. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module 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**

**Limited Graded Course:**

This course will be graded as Pass in a Limited Grade Course (PU) or Fail in a Limited Grade Course (UF) as per clause 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 of the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) - Institutional Operating Policy of the USC.

In a course eligible to use Limited Grades, all assessment items in that course are marked on a Pass/Fail basis and all assessment tasks are required to be passed for a student to successfully complete the course. Supplementary assessment is not available in courses using Limited Grades.

10.3 **Assessment: Submission penalties**

You must contact your Course Coordinator and provide the required documentation if you require an extension or alternate assessment.

10.4 **Study help**

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)
10.5 Wellbeing Services
Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, AccessAbility Services can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to Student Hub, email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or accessibility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226

10.6 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

10.7 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