



PICT1030

Introduction to Criminology

Session 1, Online-flexible 2024

Department of Security Studies and Criminology

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	7

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Alex Simpson

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the discipline and study of criminology, including a broad overview of key developments, theories and practical implications. The intention is to situate criminology, and its various strands, within its particular social, political and intellectual contexts and to outline some of the key approaches associated with the field. Specifically, the unit is concerned with three broad and interrelated questions: 1) *What and how societies define crime and harm in a particular way?* 2) *How theories of crime attempt to explain why certain people offend and certain crimes are committed?* 3) *What are the social responses to crime and how do institutions of criminal justice engage in mechanism of crime control?*

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Evaluate how societies come to define crime and the critical implications of such understandings on institutions of criminal justice.

ULO2: Identify and distinguish between key criminological theories and their practical implications.

ULO3: Analyse and demonstrate critical understanding of how social categories of gender, race and class impact experiences of crime and its responses.

ULO4: Research and locate different academic sources and express judgement about their validity.

ULO5: Engage in informed criminological discussion with practitioners, academics and peers

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Annotated Poster	20%	No	Week 7
Essay	50%	No	Week 13
Quizzes	20%	No	Weeks 7 and 8
Participation	10%	No	Ongoing

Annotated Poster

Assessment Type ¹: Poster

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will be expected to structure their poster in response to one of the essay questions. The question they chose for their poster maybe the same as for their essay (this is encouraged to offer the students formative feedback). Each poster will need to capture an overview presentation of the argument and include a minimum of four sources (two of which need to be from the course material). Alongside the poster, students will need to complete a short written summary to help signpost and explain the significance of what they have presented.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate how societies come to define crime and the critical implications of such understandings on institutions of criminal justice.
- Research and locate different academic sources and express judgement about their validity.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will need to answer one question from a list made available on iLearn and will be required to demonstrate critical knowledge of course content across a range of weeks. Students will be expected to draw on course material along with independently sourced academic texts to display skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate how societies come to define crime and the critical implications of such understandings on institutions of criminal justice.
- Identify and distinguish between key criminological theories and their practical implications.
- Analyse and demonstrate critical understanding of how social categories of gender, race and class impact experiences of crime and its responses.
- Research and locate different academic sources and express judgement about their validity.

Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 8 hours

Due: **Weeks 7 and 8**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will be required to complete a mid-semester and end of semester online quiz. The quizzes will be multiple choice or short answer format with one correct answer. The questions will be selected at random and the questions will cover key topics covered in key readings and lecture content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate how societies come to define crime and the critical implications of such understandings on institutions of criminal justice.
- Identify and distinguish between key criminological theories and their practical implications.
- Analyse and demonstrate critical understanding of how social categories of gender, race and class impact experiences of crime and its responses.

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 13 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will be required to demonstrate active and critical engagement with course materials. This includes showing a detailed knowledge and understanding of weekly readings, engagement in activities and a critical awareness of, and response to, issues raised in the weekly lecture. Students should also be able to apply these topics to ongoing national and international news events.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Engage in informed criminological discussion with practitioners, academics and peers
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¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Delivery and Resources

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- You should spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to lectures prior to seminar or tutorial, reading weekly required materials as detailed in iLearn, participating in iLearn discussion forums and preparing assessments.
- Internal students are expected to attend all seminar or tutorial sessions, and external students are expected to make significant contributions to on-line activities.
- In most cases students are required to attempt and submit all major assessment tasks in order to pass the unit.

REQUIRED READINGS

- The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's library site. Electronic copies

of required readings may be accessed through the library or will be made available by other means.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Computer and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.
- This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.
- Information about IT used at Macquarie University is available at http://students.mq.edu.au/it_services/

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

- All text-based assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.
- Assessment tasks must be submitted as a MS word document by the due date.
- Most assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process.
- The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of, 0 (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/ exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic

WORD LIMITS FOR ASSESSMENT TASKS

- Stated word limits include footnotes and footnoted references, but not bibliography, or title page.
- Word limits can generally deviate by 10% either over or under the stated figure.
- If the number of words deviates from the limit by more than 10%, then penalties will apply. These penalties are 5% of the awarded mark for every 100 words deviation from the word limit. If a paper is 300 words over, for instance, it will lose $3 \times 5\% = 15\%$ of the total mark awarded for the assignment. This percentage is taken off the total mark, i.e. if a paper was graded at a credit (65%) and was 300 words over, it would be reduced by 15 marks to a pass (50%).
- The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the course convener.

REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER

- Macquarie University operates a Final Grade Appeal procedure as part of the Assessment policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately: <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=277>
- In accordance with the Grade Appeal procedure, individual works are not subject to regrading.

STAFF AVAILABILITY

- Department staff will endeavour to answer student enquiries in a timely manner. However, emails or iLearn messages will not usually be answered over the weekend or public holiday period.
- Students are encouraged to read the Unit Guide and look at instructions posted on the iLearn site before sending email requests to staff.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)

- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2024.03 of the [Handbook](#)