



# SOC 126

## Crime and Society

S2 External 2016

*Dept of Sociology*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit offers students an opportunity to examine the social relationships that underpin crime and criminal behaviour, the policy and politics of crime, and our understanding of 'justice' in the modern world. The unit brings criminology and sociology together as social sciences, providing insight into both social and criminal justice. Particular attention is paid to the purpose and aims of the criminal justice system. The 'cycle of justice' is unpacked, including: interacting with the police; what happens in court; and how we punish people and what we expect to happen after punishment has been administered. Issues discussed include: questions of how crime is defined, measured and prevented; criminal responsibility and victimisation; the form and function of law in democratic society; gender-based violence; hate crimes; and crimes of the powerful; as well as an introduction into debates surrounding terrorism and security. Students are encouraged to re-examine the socially constructed nature of crime, questioning the purpose of law and the role it plays in maintaining, or disrupting, established notions of fairness and equity from a criminological perspective.

## 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:

Demonstrate a scholarly understanding of the criminal justice system using social and criminological theory and research

Critically apply 'criminal justice' and 'social justice' to the Australian criminal justice system

Use social research skills to analyse, interpret and assess different sources of data and evidence

Critically assess justice 'done' and justice 'managed' in the Australian criminal justice system

Critically assess key concepts in the sociology of law and criminology across local, regional and global examples

Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format

Engage in independent observation activity in a courtroom environment

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#"><u>Active Participation</u></a>	20%	ONGOING
<a href="#"><u>Online Quiz</u></a>	20%	Week 7
<a href="#"><u>Court Report</u></a>	60%	Week 13

### Active Participation

Due: **ONGOING**

Weighting: **20%**

This is about much more than simply turning up. There are several parts to your active participation grade.

- **PREPARATION** - students will complete no more than ONE A4 PAGE OF REFLEXIVE NOTES on the reading material (listed online) every week as *preparation*. This is to be posted in the weekly activity space in the ONLINE WIKI for marking (SEE **IMPORTANT NOTE** BELOW).
- **EXTERNAL STUDENT WIKI PARTICIPATION** - Your engagement and participation in all activities and discussions in the online wiki space will be marked. This includes, but is not limited to: using appropriate materials (e.g. readings) in posts, multiple discursive engagements with the weekly topic (i.e. posting between 4-8 times a week on average to the wiki page), participation in feedback by responding to posts

made by other students in the wiki, asking informed questions, with extra credit for flagging readings and other relevant materials beyond those provided in your posts.

- **GENERAL DISCUSSION BOARD PARTICIPATION** - You will be asked to contribute to other online activities, such as periodic READING REVIEWS in the general discussion board.
- **All online activities MUST be completed within 7 days of the weekly lecture.**  
**Failure to meet the deadline will result in a mark of '0' for that activity.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If a student cannot complete their preparation notes or has a serious disruption that prevents them from completing an online task they are required to provide documentation for their absence through the *serious disruption of study* system online. Once all documentation has been approved by our teaching staff (unit convenor or tutors only) you will be authorised to complete an alternative activity in the general discussion board thread entitled 'PREPARATION MAKE UP ACTIVITIES'. If you do not post in the correct thread for your makeup activity your post will be deleted and you will receive a mark of '0' for the task, so make sure to post in the right place and follow all of the instructions provided.

**THRESHOLD PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:** *If a student fails to complete a total of 75% of ALL ACTIVE PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES you will receive a mark of '0' for this component of assessment in your final unit grade. This may also lead to you being deemed INELIGIBLE TO CONTINUE. If not considered eligible to continue, the student will be excluded from the unit and this will result in the award of a Fail grade (F) for the ENTIRE unit. Refer to policy central 'Assessment procedure' for full details.*

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a scholarly understanding of the criminal justice system using social and criminological theory and research
- Critically apply 'criminal justice' and 'social justice' to the Australian criminal justice system
- Use social research skills to analyse, interpret and assess different sources of data and evidence
- Critically assess justice 'done' and justice 'managed' in the Australian criminal justice system
- Critically assess key concepts in the sociology of law and criminology across local, regional and global examples
- Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format
- Engage in independent observation activity in a courtroom environment

## Online Quiz

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

The online quiz will test some basic knowledge on the course content for the first 6 weeks of the unit. It also tests student engagement with web resources and awareness of some basics about the Australian criminal justice system required for completion of later assessments. It serves to review and consolidate previous learning techniques, strategies and writing skills that are a core of social science, sociology and criminology disciplines.

This test will be made available through i-learn from week 5 until week 7 of the term (including the semester half-term break). Students may complete the quiz at any time within this period. Failure to complete the quiz within this time will result in a mark of '0' for the online quiz component. Instructions for the completion of the quiz will be provided in i-learn when the quiz is released. This focuses on discipline specific knowledge and developing a basic set of reflections at the lower order level of learning. Nonetheless it remains vital as a basis for your further study and as a commitment to continuous learning testing a narrow but important range of capabilities and learning outcomes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a scholarly understanding of the criminal justice system using social and criminological theory and research
- Critically assess justice 'done' and justice 'managed' in the Australian criminal justice system
- Critically assess key concepts in the sociology of law and criminology across local, regional and global examples
- Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format

## Court Report

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **60%**

**In observing justice in the courtroom, would you say that what you saw was the IDEAL of justice being DONE or the PROCESS of justice being MANAGED?**

**Make reference to specific cases and contrast and compare the outcomes to support your claims.**

A full break down of the assessment requirements will be provided in the i-Learn space. refer to this guidance for a full breakdown of the assessment, the stages you go through and details of how to make observations.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically apply 'criminal justice' and 'social justice' to the Australian criminal justice system
- Critically assess justice 'done' and justice 'managed' in the Australian criminal justice system
- Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format
- Engage in independent observation activity in a courtroom environment

## Delivery and Resources

### Teaching

LECTURE & TUTORIALS are used in this unit. A 2 hour lecture is supported by one hour tutorials in smaller groups. Locations will be confirmed through the online system. Rooms may change depending on timetabling and enrollments so check these on the online timetable regularly for updates.

### Required and recommended resources

The required texts (and weekly readings) for this unit of study are not listed in the online unit guide.

The *reference* for weekly readings will be posted in the iLearn system, be aware that we cannot post up large sections of the books online due to copyright restrictions so many of readings may be rotated in the library system for shorter periods of time.

**Text books** should be available through the Co-op bookstore on MQ campus, though stock may be limited. You can also check the second hand book store on campus or book exchanges for cheaper second-hand copies. Visit the book store for more information. *Supplementary readings* may be made available on iLearn and in e-reserve where possible, but your required readings each week are usually from one of the two textbooks.

### Technologies Used & Required

Enrolled students on this course will need access to a computer and to the internet (both of which are available through MQU campus). Though use of a solid internet connection off campus will facilitate the ease of access to online learning materials and support.

## Unit Schedule

WEEK 1	INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIT
WEEK 2	KEY CONCEPTS
WEEK 3	WHAT IS JUSTICE?

WEEK 4	THE POLITICS OF CONTROL
WEEK 5	ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS
WEEK 6	HOW DOES JUSTICE HAPPEN?
WEEK 7	WHATS TO JUDGE
WEEK 8	WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
WEEK 9	A DIFFERENT APPROACH
WEEK 10	CRIME STOPPERS
WEEK 11	WHO SUFFERS MOST?
WEEK 12	UNIT SUMMARY
WEEK 13	NO LECTURE

## Learning and Teaching Activities

### Lectures

Weekly lectures on discipline specific content

### Tutorials

Weekly tutorials on content, workshops on assessments and skill development

### Online Discussion

Accessing group spaces online and general discussion boards to participate in critical debate

### Announcements

Access convenor announcements for up-to-date information

### iLearn

Access iLearn and echo360 to download and review lecture slides, content and relevant information

## Policies and Procedures

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

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

**New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016** [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html). For more information visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new\\_assessment\\_policy\\_in\\_place\\_from\\_session\\_2/](http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/)

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

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

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.



## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](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.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Use social research skills to analyse, interpret and assess different sources of data and evidence
- Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format
- Engage in independent observation activity in a courtroom environment

#### Assessment tasks

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz
- Court Report

### Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Critically assess justice 'done' and justice 'managed' in the Australian criminal justice

system

- Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format
- Engage in independent observation activity in a courtroom environment

### **Assessment tasks**

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz
- Court Report

## **Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Use social research skills to analyse, interpret and assess different sources of data and evidence
- Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format
- Engage in independent observation activity in a courtroom environment

### **Assessment tasks**

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz
- Court Report

## **Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate a scholarly understanding of the criminal justice system using social and criminological theory and research
- Critically assess key concepts in the sociology of law and criminology across local, regional and global examples
- Engage in independent observation activity in a courtroom environment

## Assessment tasks

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz
- Court Report

## Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcome

- Critically assess key concepts in the sociology of law and criminology across local, regional and global examples

## Assessment tasks

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz

## Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Use social research skills to analyse, interpret and assess different sources of data and evidence

- Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format
- Engage in independent observation activity in a courtroom environment

## **Assessment tasks**

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz
- Court Report

## Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate a scholarly understanding of the criminal justice system using social and criminological theory and research
- Critically assess justice 'done' and justice 'managed' in the Australian criminal justice system

## **Assessment tasks**

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz
- Court Report

## Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Critically apply 'criminal justice' and 'social justice' to the Australian criminal justice system

- Critically assess justice 'done' and justice 'managed' in the Australian criminal justice system
- Critically assess key concepts in the sociology of law and criminology across local, regional and global examples

## **Assessment tasks**

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz
- Court Report

## **Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible**

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Critically apply 'criminal justice' and 'social justice' to the Australian criminal justice system
- Critically assess justice 'done' and justice 'managed' in the Australian criminal justice system
- Communicate ideas on crime and society to fellow students and teachers clearly in spoken and written format

## **Assessment tasks**

- Active Participation
- Online Quiz
- Court Report

## **Changes from Previous Offering**

### **WHAT HAS CHANGED in 2016**

The weighting of assessment has been changed to prioritise the major writing component. Attendance and participation has been adjusted and the guidance clarified to ensure students are clear on what is expected of them on a weekly basis throughout the session. This is in response to confusion in previous years on the student preparation requirements for tutorials, linked to a *commitment to continuous learning* as a graduate capability. Online participation tasks have been adjusted to bring the workload closer to that of internal students and to increase accountability of external students when not participating throughout the session

The 'online quiz' component has been reviewed and update with more contemporary material; this includes updated empirical material and a deeper reflection in some of the questions on the online Lawlink and BOCSAR resources available to students.