



PICT8088

Advanced Criminology Theory

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

Department of Security Studies and Criminology

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Alex Simpson

alex.simpson@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPICT or MCPICT or GradDipPICT or GradDipCPICT or PGCertPICT or MPICTMIntSecSt or MCPICTMIntSecSt or MIntSecStud or GradDipIntSecStud or GradCertIntell or MCTerrorism or M CyberSec or GradDipSecStudCr or GradCertSecStudCr or MIntell or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MSecStrategicStudMCrim or MSecStrategicStudMIntell or MSecStrategicStudM CyberSec or MSecStrategicStudMCTerrorism or MIntellMCrim or MIntellM CyberSec or MIntellMCTerrorism or M CyberSecMCTerrorism or M CyberSecMCrim or MCTerrorismMCrim or Master of Cyber Security Analysis or ((Admission to BSecStudMCTerrorism or BSecStudMCrim or BSecStudM CyberSecAnalysis or BSecStudMIntell or BSecStudMSecStrategicStud) and (10cp at 6000 level or 10cp at 8000 level))

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to advanced criminology theory. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of how theory directs critical understandings of crime and, in turn, relates to the broader social world. This includes criminological beliefs, held within the discipline of Criminology and by practitioners in the Criminal Justice System, that help understand the common attitudes and rule systems that contribute to the intellectual atmosphere of a particular time or place. Topics focus on two 'waves' of criminological theory; the first, contemporary criminological theory, focuses on the 'grand theories' that are rooted in the discipline. The second, future directions in criminology, explores the challenges the discipline presently faces and how theory can contribute to expanding a critical understanding crime.

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: Critically analyse, evaluate and compare a range of criminological theories.

ULO2: Employ independent research skills and disciplinary knowledge to evaluate domestic and transnational criminal issues.

ULO3: Demonstrate a critical understand of how criminological theory and understandings of crime can shape a policy response.

ULO4: Apply a synthesised understanding of criminological theory to explain the development of criminal issues of domestic or international significance.

ULO5: Effectively communicate advanced disciplinary knowledge in both written and oral formats.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Essay	50%	No	Week 12
Commentary Analysis - Idea Pitch	10%	No	Week 3
Commentary Analysis	30%	No	Week 6
Participation	10%	No	Ongoing

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 55 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **50%**

Selecting one question from the list that is available on the iLearn platform, you will be required to demonstrate critical knowledge of course content across a range of weeks. In no more than 4,000 words, you will be expected to respond to the question and, drawing on course material along with independently sourced academic texts, display skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking to produce a logical and coherent argument.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse, evaluate and compare a range of criminological theories.

- Employ independent research skills and disciplinary knowledge to evaluate domestic and transnational criminal issues.
- Apply a synthesised understanding of criminological theory to explain the development of criminal issues of domestic or international significance.
- Effectively communicate advanced disciplinary knowledge in both written and oral formats.

Commentary Analysis - Idea Pitch

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **10%**

As a formative assignment for the commentary analysis, students will be asked to describe in one sentence what their peace will say as well as highlight why the reader, that is to say the public audience, will need to know about their chosen topic in question. The aim will be to give early feedback to help direct the students in the development of the assignment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse, evaluate and compare a range of criminological theories.
- Employ independent research skills and disciplinary knowledge to evaluate domestic and transnational criminal issues.

Commentary Analysis

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **Week 6**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will be asked to write a 1,000 word commentary piece for a public audience. Needing to display clarity in language as well as argument, students will be asked to identify a topical story currently or recently in the news and analyse the events through the use of theory. The aim will be to provide timely, theoretically based analysis of issues in the news and the use of plain English to describe otherwise complex issues. Part of the piece should involve some form of policy critique and/or proposal to help ameliorate the topical issue in question.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse, evaluate and compare a range of criminological theories.
- Employ independent research skills and disciplinary knowledge to evaluate domestic and transnational criminal issues.
- Demonstrate a critical understand of how criminological theory and understandings of crime can shape a policy response.
- Effectively communicate advanced disciplinary knowledge in both written and oral formats.

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

You will be required to demonstrate in class an active and critical engagement with course materials. This includes showing a detailed knowledge and understanding of weekly readings and a critical awareness of, and response to, issues raised in the weekly lecture. You should also be able to apply these topics to ongoing national and international news events. This will be demonstrated by responding to the weekly questions posted on the forum as well as engage in forum discussion.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse, evaluate and compare a range of criminological theories.
- Effectively communicate advanced disciplinary knowledge in both written and oral formats.

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

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/specialconsideration>

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

- Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

WORD LIMITS FOR ASSESSMENT TASKS

- Stated word limits include all text, footnotes and the bibliography, but not the title page.
- Word limits can generally deviate by 10% either over or under the stated figure.
- If the number of words exceeds the limit by more than 10%, then penalties will apply. These penalties are 5% of the awarded mark for every 100 words over 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 Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately: <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>
- In accordance with the Grade Appeal Policy, 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 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 \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). 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](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

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

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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

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) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [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 Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

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.

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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](#).

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Changes since First Published

Date	Description
03/02/2021	The changes include a necessary amendment to the word limit restrictions.