



PICX8012

Critical Thought and Research Design

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

Lise Waldek

lise.waldek@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MIntell or MCTerrorism or M CyberSec or GradDipSecStudCr or GradCertSecStudCr or MIntPubDip or M PICT or MIntSecStud or GradDipIntSecStud or M PICTMIntSecSt or M C P I C T or M C P I C T M I n t S e c S t 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 10cps at 6000 level or 10cps 8000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

PICT8012

Unit description

This unit is a graduate seminar that provides training for student proficiency in critical thinking and research design. The course content utilises inter-disciplinary approaches and methods for the social sciences. Students will practice advanced reading and writing skills, examine the logic of inquiry, investigate methodologies and theoretical approaches, and evaluate diverse sources. Students will apply their advanced research skills through critical thinking and problem-solving. Students will be assessed based on their application of skills to practice, both in formulating research design and presenting their research for broader consumption.

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 the theoretical approaches that frame the field of Security Studies and Criminology, including the relationship to their historical context.

ULO2: Demonstrate critical thinking skills through the understanding and questioning of key concepts, issues and debates.

ULO3: Demonstrate understanding of both the assumptions that underpin key theories, and the methods used for research and investigation.

ULO4: Demonstrate critical communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original verbal and written arguments cogently and coherently, and mediate in-class debate and discussion.

ULO5: Engage consistently with the unit through proactive communication with peers and the convener, and demonstrate professional conduct in all class activities and in the submission of assessments.

General Assessment Information

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 more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments - e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|
| Portfolio task | 40% | No | Week 3 and Week 5 |
| 3-minute challenge | 20% | No | Week 9 |
| Engagement | 10% | No | Ongoing |
| Research Design | 30% | No | Week 13 |

Portfolio task

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 3 and Week 5**

Weighting: **40%**

The portfolio tasks must be completed regularly at a set period throughout the semester. Students will be asked to respond to key questions in a short and succinct manner during the seminar to scaffold knowledge. The aims are twofold: demonstrating skill, as well as enabling students to do research on their projects. Each portfolio task will relate to their developing research questions and will help with the final research design assessment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the theoretical approaches that frame the field of Security Studies and Criminology, including the relationship to their historical context.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills through the understanding and questioning of key concepts, issues and debates.
- Demonstrate understanding of both the assumptions that underpin key theories, and the methods used for research and investigation.
- Demonstrate critical communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original verbal and written arguments cogently and coherently, and mediate in-class debate and discussion.

3-minute challenge

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **20%**

A critical skill required of all graduates is the demonstrated ability to present one's own research. Students are therefore required to present their research design in 3 minutes in a manner that conveys their argument and significance of their research to a nonspecialist audience. Students should consider the presentation as a type of "pitch" for their research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking skills through the understanding and questioning of key concepts, issues and debates.
- Demonstrate critical communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original verbal and written arguments cogently and coherently, and mediate in-class debate and discussion.

Engagement

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Students 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. 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:

- Evaluate the theoretical approaches that frame the field of Security Studies and Criminology, including the relationship to their historical context.
- Engage consistently with the unit through proactive communication with peers and the convener, and demonstrate professional conduct in all class activities and in the submission of assessments.

Research Design

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will be expected to work with convenors to produce a coherent and logical research design. Students will be expected to demonstrate and articulate: 1. A research question (what is the focus of their study); 2. Research significant and objectives (why their project is of critical importance); 3. Research methods (how they propose to conduct their study); and 4. Preliminary literature review (what relevant literature that currently exists will inform the project).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the theoretical approaches that frame the field of Security Studies and Criminology, including the relationship to their historical context.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills through the understanding and questioning of key concepts, issues and debates.
- Demonstrate understanding of both the assumptions that underpin key theories, and the methods used for research and investigation.
- Demonstrate critical communication skills, including the ability to present sustained, persuasive and original verbal and written arguments cogently and coherently, and mediate in-class debate and discussion.

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 and 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 of 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 for this unit is available at https://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.
- Most assessment tasks will be subjected to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the

submission process.

- The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Disruption Policy. Extensions will not in normal circumstances be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Disruption to Study: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration/disruption-to-studies>

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

- Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a penalty for lateness will apply:
 - Two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date
 - No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.

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 exceeds the limit by more than 10%, 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%).

REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER

- Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately: http://student.mq.edu.au/support/complaints_appeals/appeals/grade_appeals/
- Conforming to the Grade Appeal Policy, individual works are not subject to regrading

STAFF AVAILABILITY

- Department staff will endeavor 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](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management 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

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 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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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/.

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.