



# CRIM2001

## Media, Representation and Crime

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

*School of International Studies*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

### Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Lara Palombo

[lara.palombo@mq.edu.au](mailto:lara.palombo@mq.edu.au)

Contact via email

### Credit points

10

### Prerequisites

40 credit points at 1000 level or above

### Corequisites

### Co-badged status

### Unit description

Why are we so fascinated by crime and deviance? What role does the media play in engaging people's fascination? To what extent can – and does – the media tap into and increase people's fears about crime? How does the media create subtle biases that inform our perceptions of crime? In addressing such questions, this unit brings together analysis from criminology, sociology, media studies and cultural studies to provide a critical understanding of the relationships that underpin our understanding of crime as a mediated phenomenon. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to the theoretical frameworks that help us understand media influence, examining, amongst other topics, the media's contrasting approach to children as victims and perpetrators of crime, the often misogynist portrayals of women who offend, the impact of social and mobile media in accelerating sensationalism of news reporting, the changing nature and impact of public surveillance culture as well as the news values that determine which crime events are considered worthy of media attention. Concerned with the ways in which crime is represented and 'manufactured' through the media, students will be able to critically evaluate the production, representation and consumption of crime in the media, analysing how these processes, in turn, shape our perceptions of crime, risk and security.

## 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:** Identify and assess the impact of media representations on public perceptions of crime and criminal justice relating to vulnerable and marginalised communities.

**ULO2:** Examine the ways in which media representations contribute to shaping fears regarding risk and security.

**ULO3:** Articulate a nuanced understanding of the role of media literacy in shaping critical perspectives on crime and justice.

**ULO4:** Synthesise and compare theoretical perspectives on the relationship between media, crime, and policy development.

**ULO5:** Assess the impact of social and mobile media on the nature of news production, dissemination and consumption.

## General Assessment Information

**Assessment 1- Media Report/Log Book; Due in Turnitin: Week 5**

**Purpose: The goal of this assignment is to provide a reflect (250-300 words) on how a chosen media text representation of crime, harm and/or justice connects to one of the required weekly readings.**

**Instructions:** For each of the first four weeks (Weeks 1, 2, 3, and 4), select one media text that engages with crime, harm or justice. This can be:

- A media article
- Content from a podcast
- TikTok videos
- A documentary etc...

Write a reflection (250-300 words) on how you think the selected media text relates to one of the required readings for that week.

### Marking Criteria

- Identify and selects relevant media texts (ULO1).
- Analysis & Reflection (ULO 1 & ULO2).
- Expression, Grammar and Referencing (ULO1).

**Assessment 2- Group Vlog Video; Due in Blog: Week 8**

**Purpose:** The aim of this task is to collaborate and create a 5-8 min vlog video that evaluates

critically the representation of crime, harm or justice in a chosen piece of popular culture. The purpose here is to evaluate the ways your selected media defines social perceptions and understandings of crime, harm and/or justice by integrating unit readings and theories to the analysis of a media text.

### **Instructions:**

- Form groups of three students by week 4. If you are not in a group the Convenor will allocate you.
- Choose a piece of popular culture (e.g. a movie, TV show, song, social media content, podcasts, video games etc...) that represents crime, harm and/or justice.
- Incorporate unit readings & unit theories and other resources to develop your critical evaluation and argument on how crime, harm and /or justice are defined in this representation.
- Create a vlog video (5-8 minutes) that presents your group's critical analysis and discussion of the representation of crime in the chosen piece of popular culture. Ensure the video is engaging, informative, and well-structured.
- Be ready to present your vlog video in one of the tutorials for further discussion and feedback.

### **Marking Criteria**

- Clarity, engagement, and presentation: The vlog is clear, engaging, creatively presented, and visually appealing (ULO4).
- Content relevance and understanding: Articulate a nuanced understanding of the role of media literacy in shaping critical perspectives on crime and justice.(ULO 3).
- Use of evidence and examples: Synthesise and compare theoretical perspectives on the relationship between media, crime, and policy development (ULO 4).
- Group Collaborations: The vlog demonstrates effective collaboration among group members (ULO3).

### **Assessment 3- Case Study: 2,000 words Essay; Due in Turnitin: Week 13**

**Purpose: The purpose of this essay is to produce a critical analysis of media texts that demonstrates the social implications of media representations of crime, harm and/or justice. You are required to undertake a media analysis based on the selection of one of the assigned topics and by choosing two media texts.**

### **Marking Criteria:**

- **Relevance: The analysis accurately addresses the chosen topic and engages with the selected media texts identifying and assessing the impact of media representations (UL01;**

## UL05).

- **Critical Thinking: Demonstrates a deep, critical analysis of media representations using theoretical approaches and unit readings (UL02).**
- **Application of Course Content: Effectively applies criminological theories and unit readings to the analysis of media texts, articulating a nuanced understanding of the role of media literacy in shaping critical perspectives on crime and justice (UL03).**
- **Theoretical Synthesis and Comparison: Synthesizes and compares theoretical perspectives on the relationship between media, crime, and policy development (UL04).**
- **Referencing and Academic Writing: Adheres to referencing style, with clear and professional academic writing.**

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Case study task</a>	40%	No	Week 13
<a href="#">Media report</a>	20%	No	Week 5
<a href="#">Analysis task</a>	40%	No	Week 8

### Case study task

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 40 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Students will produce a 2,000 word written case study analysing the representation of crime in the media.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and assess the impact of media representations on public perceptions of crime and criminal justice relating to vulnerable and marginalised communities.
- Examine the ways in which media representations contribute to shaping fears regarding

risk and security.

- Articulate a nuanced understanding of the role of media literacy in shaping critical perspectives on crime and justice.
- Synthesise and compare theoretical perspectives on the relationship between media, crime, and policy development.
- Assess the impact of social and mobile media on the nature of news production, dissemination and consumption.

## Media report

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Non-academic writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 12 hours

Due: **Week 5**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will collate a weekly log book of media reports, providing a short, 100-300 word, reflection on how each piece relates to the given topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and assess the impact of media representations on public perceptions of crime and criminal justice relating to vulnerable and marginalised communities.
- Examine the ways in which media representations contribute to shaping fears regarding risk and security.
- Assess the impact of social and mobile media on the nature of news production, dissemination and consumption.

## Analysis task

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 25 hours

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **40%**

Students will produce a 5-10 minute podcast or vlog, analysing the representation of crime in a chosen piece of popular culture.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate a nuanced understanding of the role of media literacy in shaping critical perspectives on crime and justice.
  - Synthesise and compare theoretical perspectives on the relationship between media, crime, and policy development.
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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

This unit is worth 10 credit points which equates to 150 hours of work; therefore, you should expect to commit an average of 12 hours of your time per week to this unit including all scheduled and unscheduled activities as well as preparing and executing the assessment tasks.

- 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/](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 or as a Video 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 [connect.mq.edu.au](http://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/>

## Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) 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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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/](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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Unit information based on version 2025.01 of the [Handbook](#)