UniSC

COURSE OUTLINE

CRM102 Understanding Crime

School: School of Law and Society

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast UniSC Moreton Bay	**BLENDED LEARNING**	You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.
Online	**ONLINE**	You can do this course without coming onto campus.

Please go to usc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

Understanding the complex causes of crime is essential to developing just and effective responses to offending behaviour. This course introduces you to the main theories of crime developed over the last 250+ years. The approach explains the origins of theories according to their social contexts. The course also develops your knowledge of the main critiques of these theories focusing on evidence and scientific verification, and the implications of different theories for crime prevention and criminal justice practices.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Asynchronous online learning materials	1hr	Week 2	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Face-to-Face Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
Seminar – Course Seminar	1hr	Week 1	Once Only
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Asynchronous online learning materials.	1hr	Week 2	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
Seminar – Course Seminar	1hr	Week 1	Once Only

1.3. Course Topics

Module 1: Introduction to Theory and Theory Testing

- Role of Theory & Theory Testing

Module 2: Classical Criminology

- Pre-Classical and Classical Theory
- The Neo-Classical Age

Module 3: Positivist Criminology

- Biological & Biosocial, & Psychological perspectives
- Social Process & Learning Theories
- Social Structural, Anomie & Strain Theories
- Social Reaction & Critical Theories
- Life-Course Perspectives of Criminality
- Theoretical Integration

1.4. Mature Content

Drug Use, Nudity, Sex/Sexual references, Violence, Coarse Language, Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

> 100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

> 12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Identify and describe the origins and main concepts underpinning criminological theories.	Knowledgeable Empowered
2 Apply different theories to explain specific crimes and crime patterns.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered
3 Critique various crime theories from a scientific viewpoint and assess their potential impact on criminal justice policy and practice.	Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged
4 Develop and support key arguments using evidence-based research and analysis	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Engaged
5 Demonstrate high-quality written and oral communication skills, including scholarly writing and reference practices.	Empowered Ethical

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the UniSC Glossary of terms for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1. Pre-requisites

> Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Interactive online quizzes are built into class activities from week 2 to assist you with learning and retaining key theoretical concepts taught throughout the course; and for you to bench mark your progress.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	25%	1 hour	Week 6	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Portfolio	Individual	40%	2,000 words	Week 11	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Essay	Individual	35%	1,500 words	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Online Quiz

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment is to test your knowledge and understanding of key concepts covered in Modules 1 and 2.
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes
FORMAT:	This assessment task is in the form of a CANVAS online quiz. More information will be provided in tutorials and on CANVAS to help you prepare for this task.

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Accurately identify and describe theoretical concepts	1
	2	Successful apply theoretical concepts to crime problems and solutions	2
	3	Accurately identify and describe the role of theory and theory testing in criminology	3

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Information literacy

AII - Assessment Task 2: Theory Portfolio

GOAL:	The purpose of this assessment task is to demonstrate your knowledge and application of criminological theories covered in module 3, and how these explanations might guide specific criminal justice responses.
PRODUCT:	Portfolio
FORMAT:	You will be required to complete all questions contained in the portfolio to demonstrate your knowledge, understanding, and application of positivist theoretical concepts for explaining and responding to crime.

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Accurate description and application of relevant theoretical concepts	① ②
	2	Accurate critique of chosen theories in relation to one another and for explaining the specific crime	③
	3	Supports arguments using research literature	④
	4	Appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling	⑤
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy		

AII - Assessment Task 3: Essay

GOAL:	To demonstrate your knowledge of Life-Course perspectives of criminality and apply them to a specific crime problem.
PRODUCT:	Essay
FORMAT:	You are required to produce an essay that applies the Life-course perspective to a specific crime problem, and evaluates its strengths and limitations for explaining the crime.

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Accurately describe and apply relevant theoretical concepts to a specific crime problem	① ②
	2	Accurately critique the theory for explaining the specific crime	③ ④
	3	Appropriate use and synthesis of literature to support key arguments	④
	4	Appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling	⑤
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy		

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Stephen G. Tibbetts & Alex R. Piquero	2023	Criminological Theory: The Essentials	4th edition	SAGE Publications

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:
(a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
(b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:
(a) One day: deduct 5%;
(b) Two days: deduct 10%;
(c) Three days: deduct 20%;
(d) Four days: deduct 40%;
(e) Five days: deduct 60%;
(f) Six days: deduct 80%;
(g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:
Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: 07 5430 1168 or using the SafeZone app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone 07 5456 3864 or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call 07 5430 1226 or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the Learning Advisers web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to Student Hub, email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, AccessAbility Services can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to Student Hub, email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The Student Charter sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au