

CRM203

# Homicide, Investigations & Forensic Science

School: School of Law and Society

2026 Trimester 1

 UniSC Sunshine Coast  
 UniSC Moreton Bay

**BLENDED  
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

**ONLINE**

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

Please go to [unisc.edu.au](http://unisc.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

Homicide is an extreme form of crime. This course analyses the nature of homicide and examines investigation processes including forensic science. You will learn trends of homicide types such as interpersonal, crime-related and socio-political homicide; forensic science techniques; and legal and ethical considerations when investigating homicide, gathering evidence, and interpreting forensic science. You will engage in case studies and practical exercises to develop your understanding of homicide, investigations and forensic science leading to effective prevention strategies.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>BLENDED LEARNING</b>			
<b>Learning materials</b> – Asynchronous online learning materials	1hr	Week 1	11 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – Face-to-face tutorials	2hrs	Week 1	11 times
<b>ONLINE</b>			
<b>Learning materials</b> – Asynchronous online learning materials	1hr	Week 1	11 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – Live online tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	11 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

Example topics include

- Interpersonal homicide
- Homicide related to other criminal activities
- Socio-political homicide
- Explanations of homicide
- Detecting homicide
- Forensic science
- Evidence gathering
- Preventing homicide
- [All topics contain mature content]

### 1.4. Mature Content

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

## 2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

## 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 Demonstrate knowledge of the nature of homicide and the criminal justice responses to homicide	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered
2 Explain and critique forensic science practices	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical
3 Apply scholarly writing, research, and reference practice	Knowledgeable Ethical
4 Develop and support their own arguments using evidence-based research and critical analysis	Knowledgeable 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

5.5. Microcredential Information

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

Tutorials/learning materials will include quizzes for early feedback

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	Artefact - Creative	Individual	35%	1000 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Case Study	Individual	40%	2000 Words	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	25%	1.5 hours	Exam Period	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Homicide Patterns

<b>GOAL:</b>	The purpose of this task is for students to demonstrate their understanding of the nature of homicide.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Artefact - Creative		
<b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b>			
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Creative format		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Students will be assessed on their knowledge, evaluation, analysis, application, presentation, and originality and argument.	1 3 4
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>			

### All - Assessment Task 2: Homicide Investigation Review

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of this assessment task is for students to demonstrate their ability to explain and critique homicide investigations and forensic science practices.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Case Study		
<b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b>			
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Written report, completed using Cadmus.		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Students will be assessed on their understanding of homicide responses, and to explain and critique forensic science practices. Students will be assessed on their ability to develop and support their own arguments and apply scholarly writing.	1 2 3 4
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>			

### All - Assessment Task 3: Final Exam

<b>GOAL:</b>	The end-of-trimester exam allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of course materials covered during the trimester.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Examination - Centrally Scheduled		
<b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b>			
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Exam format		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Demonstrate an understanding of homicide types, forensic science, the punishment for homicide, and prevention.	1 2
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>			

## 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

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

### 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. 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>

### 10.5. 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.

### 10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- [UniSC Student Central](#)
- [UniSC Adelaide Student Central](#)