

CRM307

Crime Research Methods

School: School of Law and Society

2025 | Semester 2

Online

ONLINE

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

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

Criminology and justice is research-driven. So, having knowledge and skills to undertake crime research is valuable. This course exposes you to the complexities of contemporary crime research methods and provides practical skills to undertake crime-related research projects from conception to a full report. You will be trained in qualitative and quantitative methods using contemporary data analytic software (SPSS and NVIVO), engage with spatial mapping (GIS) and learn how to perform qualitative and quantitative data analysis, interpret and communicate the findings and their implications.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ONLINE			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online tutorial/workshop	3hrs	Week 1	11 times

1.3. Course Topics

Methodology (Theory and Paradigm) and Methods (Quantitative and Qualitative) Approaches

Computer software for Data Analysis: Quantitative; Qualitative; and Geo-Spatial (GIS) Applications

Sampling

Human Ethics relevant to Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

1.4. Mature Content

Drug Use, Sex/Sexual references, Violence, Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

300 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth 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	Critically evaluate and synthesise literature relevant to a research topic.	Creative and critical thinker Ethical
2	Describe and explain key philosophical, theoretical and ethical perspectives underpinning crime-related research.	Knowledgeable Ethical
3	Demonstrate sound knowledge and practical application of qualitative and quantitative research methods.	Empowered
4	Demonstrate sound capacity to interpret and communicate research findings and their implications.	Empowered Engaged
5	Apply scholarly writing, research and reference practice.	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

Enrolled in AR325, AR363, AR396, AR364, AB316, or SA307 and successfully completed 96 units.

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

Formative tasks are built into workshop activities during weeks 1 - 4 to prepare you for assessment task 1. Once submitted, you will also be given feedback on assessment task 1 to improve your literature review in preparation for the final research report.

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	Literature Review (or component)	Individual	20%	1000 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled	Individual	35%	2 hours	Week 12	In Class
All	3	Report	Individual	45%	2500-3000 words	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Draft literature review

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment task is to allow you to prepare a structured introductory literature review to be included in your final research report.		
PRODUCT:	Literature Review (or component)		
FORMAT:	Written essay format, uploaded in Canvas.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Critical evaluation and synthesis of literature relevant to the research topic	1
	2	Ability to communicate this information clearly and concisely	4 5
	3	Adherence to APA style is expected.	1 4 5
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 2: In-class exam

GOAL:	The exam will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of the course material covered during weeks 1-11.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled		
FORMAT:	This task will be undertaken, under supervision, during the week 12. You will be required to answer a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	This is a knowledge-based assessment task. You will be assessed on the accuracy and depth of knowledge demonstrated in your answers to the exam questions.	2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 3: Research Report

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to complete a research report that builds on the task 1 literature review, a clear methodology and accurately presents, interprets and communicates research findings, including their implications, according to the structure provided by your course coordinator.		
PRODUCT:	Report		
FORMAT:	Written essay format, uploaded to Canvas. Submit: Friday, First Week of the examination period.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Critical evaluation and synthesis of literature relevant to a research topic	1
	2	Knowledge and practical application of qualitative and quantitative research methods	3
	3	Capacity to interpret and communicate research findings and their implications	4
	4	Ability to communicate clearly and concisely, according to APA format, as would be required in a graduate position.	5
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, 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	Callie Marie Rennison; Timothy C. Hart	2023	Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology	2nd	SAGE Publications, Inc

8.2. Specific requirements

Access to PC lab UniSC data analysis software (or off-campus via an internet connection to UniSC Anywhere virtual machines) is required to successfully undertake workshop and assessment activities.

Please note: The prescribed text can be purchased online as an electronic or hard copy book. Please refer to the following link to select your preferred copy and you're your purchase: <https://www.booktopia.com.au/researchmethods-in-criminal-justice-and-criminology-callie-marie-rennison/book/9781506347813.html>

In addition to this prescribed text three other resources are recommended for this course. All are accessible through the library:

- Kraska, P.B., and Neuman, L.W. (2012). Criminal Justice and Criminology Research Methods (2nd Ed). Pearson.
- Pallant, J. (2011). SPSS Survival Manual: A step-by-step guide to data analysis using SPSS, Allen & Unwin.
- Thomas, D.R. & Hodges, I.D. (2010). Designing and managing your research project: Core skills for social and health research. Sage publications. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.usc.edu.au:2048/10.4135>

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](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) 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](tel:0754301226) 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