COURSE OUTLINE

CRM309 Working with Victims and Offenders

School: School of Law and Society

2026 | Trimester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast	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 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

This course builds knowledge and skills for working effectively with victims and offenders in the criminal justice system. You will learn about trauma and the impacts of crime, challenges faced by victims in the criminal justice system, and support needs. You will also learn key skills in offender rehabilitation including assessment and treatment planning. Relevant professional and ethical considerations are also addressed. This course is taught as an intensive workshop, held across five days in Orientation Week, plus three extra tutorials during trimester, linked to assessment preparation.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online learning materials	1hr	Orientation week	5 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-campus intensive workshops	25hrs	Orientation week	Once Only
Tutorial/Workshop 2 – On-campus tutorials	1hr	Week 3	3 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Online learning materials	1hr	Orientation week	5 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online intensive workshops	25hrs	Orientation week	Once Only
Tutorial/Workshop 2 – Online tutorials	1hr	Week 3	3 times

1.3. Course Topics

Criminal justice system responses to victims of crime, Trauma and the impacts of crime, Support and therapeutic needs, Trauma informed care, Offender management, Assessment, Risk assessment, Client engagement, Rehabilitation, Victim-offender overlap, Professional issues (mature content across all course topics)

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 On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		GRADUATE QUALITIES Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Describe the impacts of crime on primary and secondary victims and explain some of the challenges experienced by crime victims during their interactions with the criminal justice system	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
2	Describe and evaluate existing approaches to support victims of crime, both within and external to the criminal justice system	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
3	Describe and evaluate existing approaches to offender rehabilitation	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
4	Demonstrate skills in offender assessment and intervention planning	Empowered Engaged
5	Synthesise and apply theoretical knowledge and empirical evidence to enhance practice with victims and offenders	Empowered Engaged
6	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, AR374, AR362, AR363, AR364, AR316, AB316, AR396, AR109, or SA307 and 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

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

Formative assessment activities will be undertaken during the intensive workshops in Orientation week including: discussion of assessment tasks, discussion of knowledge to practice transfer, practice case studies, and verbal feedback provided to students, as well as peer 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	Case Study	Individual	35%	2,000 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Essay	Individual	35%	1,500 words	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	30%	2 hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Case Study

GOAL:	Effective rehabilitation requires systematic assessment and evidence-informed intervention planning. For this assessment task you will be provided case study materials about an individual who has committed an offence. The goal of this task is to assess this case and develop an evidence-informed intervention plan for this client. You will be required to apply your knowledge of the causes of crime, assessment processes, and evidence-based rehabilitation, to the assigned case study. The case study details will be provided in class and on Canvas.
PRODUCT:	Case Study
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	This is an individual case study report. Case study details will be provided in class and on Canvas. Formative activities will be completed during course workshops to familiarise you with relevant assessment and planning processes and to build the skills necessary to undertake an assessment and develop a suitable intervention plan.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Accurate assessment, analysis and planning	3 4 5
2	Evidence informed case planning	3 4 5
3	Relevant theoretical knowledge	3 4 5
4	Effective communication	4

GENERIC SKILLS:	

All - Assessment Task 2: Essay

GOAL:	The goal of this essay is to demonstrate your understanding of the complex issues facing victims of crime in the criminal justice system. You will be required to explore one of the common challenges experienced by crime victims and to explore and critique current approaches used to address these challenges. Topics for this essay will be provided in class and on Canvas.
PRODUCT:	Essay
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	This is an individual essay assignment. Formative activities will be completed in course workshops to build the knowledge and skills necessary to complete this task. Students are required to complete this task using Cadmus.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Knowledge of the impacts of crime, the interface between crime victims and the criminal justice system, and current approaches to address areas of challenge	1 2 5
2	Theory and research addressing current practice challenges	5
3	Critical thinking, analysis and reasoning	1 2 5
4	Research and academic writing	5 6

GENERIC SKILLS:	

All - Assessment Task 3: Examination

GOAL:	To work with clients (victims or offenders) of the criminal justice system, you must have knowledge of research and theory relevant to this field and to understand the application of this knowledge to practice. The goal of this examination is to test your knowledge from course materials throughout the trimester.
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	This task will take the form of an online examination in individual mode. You will be required to respond to a set number of essay questions drawn from course materials presented throughout the trimester.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	You will be assessed on course materials from throughout the trimester. Short-answer responses will be marked on the accuracy and comprehensiveness of each answer.	1 2 3 4 5

GENERIC SKILLS:	

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