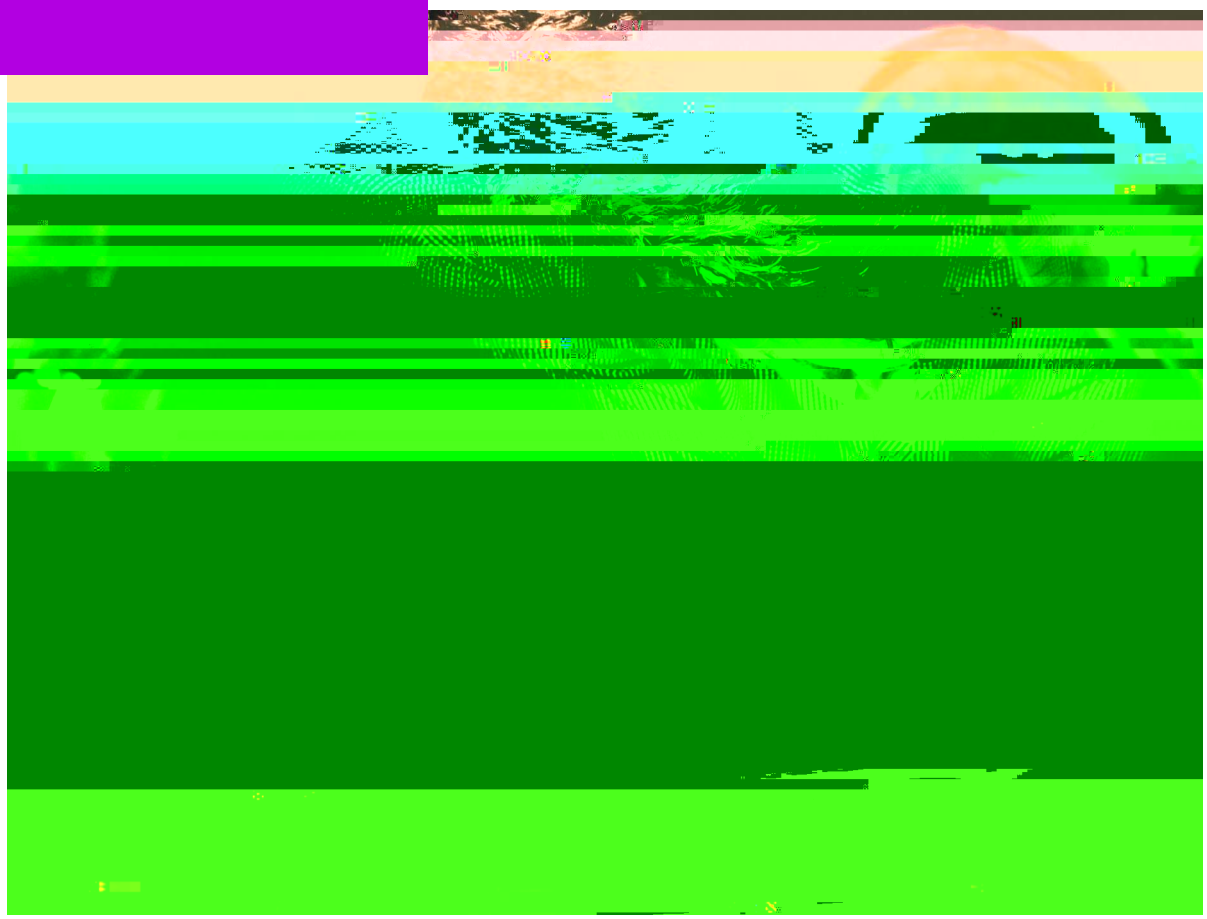

CRIM2042

Explaining Crime

Term Three // 2019

School of Social Sciences // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Kev Dertadian	k.dertadian@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Morven Brown 119	(02) 9385 2019
Dr Phillip Wadds	p.wadds@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Morven Brown 117	(02) 9385 2312

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Apgkglmjmew*

What causes crime? Who is more likely to offend and why? What can we do to prevent crime? How does criminological theory help us understand the current criminal justice system? This course builds upon your understanding of the major theoretical approaches to crime and criminal justice, and seeks to answer the above questions. Criminological theory will be critically examined for its utility in developing policy responses and understanding the historical and contemporary development of our understandings of crime, criminality and the criminal justice system. Similar to other social sciences, criminology is a reflexive discipline whereby part of the criminological enterprise is to critically examine criminology itself. We will look at theories that help us to understand what generates crime, how to prevent crime and how crime is best dealt with.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Locate current crime policy within the context of criminological theory
2. Identify strengths and weaknesses in contemporary public debates and crime control policies and assess the validity of underlying theoretical assumptions
3. Map the shifts in criminological theory from the late 19th century to current day
4. Identify theoretical approaches adopted in understanding crime, causes of crime, punishment rationale and strategies
5. Demonstrate your understandings of crime theory and policy through scholarly discussion, debate and written analysis of case study material and policies

Teaching Strategies

This course has been designed to expand your understanding of criminological theories and their relationship to policy and practice, building on prior experience and knowledge including that gained in CRIM1010 and/or CRIM1011 coupled with any electives al † a

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information so that you can reflect upon the issues raised and then discuss them in tutorials. Lectures are intended to be interactive and thought provoking and may include guest presenters, the use of video clips and films, case studies, small-group activities, problem based activities and pair-work. The lectures are designed to supplement independent study on the course that begins (but should not end) with close engagement with the weekly required readings.

Tutorials will consist of collective examination via class discussion of the theories examined in the subject and application of them to examples of criminal behaviour and events. We take the view that the classroom is a creative space and that knowledge, rather than being imparted is created and recreated in this space. The success of this process depends upon the dialogue established between participants (students and tutors). Active participation in the tutorials is essential. Weekly tutorials allow you to discuss questions, themes and issues arising from your independent study, as well as providing the opportunity to engage in productive discussion with your peers.

prosecuted in the NSW District Court.

Select ONE of the following case studies:

Case Study A: http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/nsw/NSWDC/2014/302.html

Case Study B: http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/nsw/NSWDC/2013/222.html

Case Study C: http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/nsw/NSWDC/2011/70.html

Using TWO of the theories/perspectives discussed from Week 4-8 in the course, critically analyse your case study in relation to the crime committed, the offender, victim, associated facts and penalty handed down.

In your answer you must explain how the theoretical approaches help to understand or explain the case study you have chosen by comparing/contrasting the theories and, in doing so, outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the theories.

This is not a descriptive narrative so please do not simply relate the story of the offence, or describe the individuals involved; you must apply your theoretical understanding to your analysis of the case study.

Assessment Criteria

1. Demonstration of in-depth understanding of chosen theoretical concepts and tools of analysis;
2. Ability to apply theoretical concepts to case study through in-depth discussion of crime, offender, victim, associated facts and penalty handed down;
3. Ability to engage in critical discussion;
4. Ability to summarise and evaluate qualities of theories chosen for analysis;
5. Ability to compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the two chosen theories;
6. Demonstration of information literacy skills i.e. ability to appropriately locate, evaluate and use relevant academic research and literature;
7. Demonstration of academic writing skills, a logical and coherent argument, and clarity of written expression including overall presentation (grammar, spelling, written expression, etc);
8. Appropriate and consistent referencing.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

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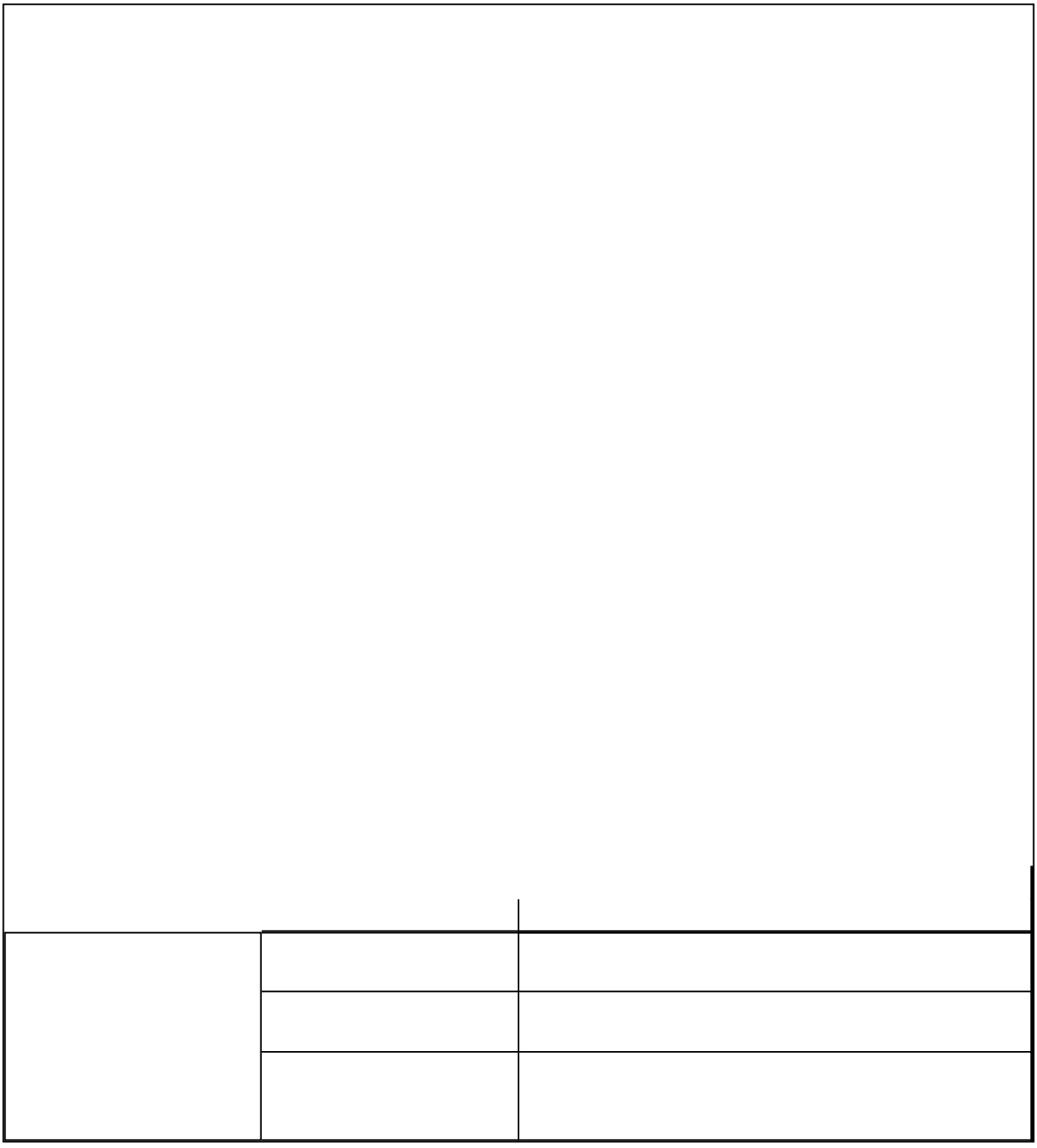
Assessment 3: Final Exam

Start date:

Details: 2 hour exam in formal examination period. This is the final assessment in the course for the purpose of the attendance requirement.

Additional details:

The examination will be of two hours duration; no books or other assistance will be permitted in the examination room. The exam will cover content from course lectures, tutorials, online content, and



Resources

Prescribed Resources

Core text (available at UNSW Co-op Bookstore)

Bernard, T., Snipes, J. and Gerould, A. (2015). Vold's Theoretical Criminology 7th ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Resources

Prescribed and Recommended Readings and Resources additional to the textbook will be available on the Moodle site, with resources available through Leganto and the UNSW library.

Course Evaluation and Development

Both formal and informal feedback on this course is welcome from students throughout the semester. Student feedback on the course content, assessments and format plays an important role in the development and evolution of our courses, to ensure that we make the necessary adaptations to the course for the future. This semester we will be seeking feedback from you at various points in the course, and are interested in understanding if and how course activities assist in your development as an independent learner. We will also be using the University's myExperience system to evaluate the course, but you are welcome to communicate any other feedback to your lecturers or tutor at any time. Recent feedback received on this course has resulted in improvements to course content, delivery and assessment tasks for students.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
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