



1. General Course Information

1.1 Course Details

Course Code:	1014CCJ
Course Name:	Homicide
Trimester:	Trimester 3, 2019
Program:	Diploma of Criminology & Criminal Justice
	In Person
	Mt Gravatt/Gold Coast
Credit Points:	10
Course Coordinator:	Greg Stevenson
Document modified:	14 October 2019

Course Description

This course introduces students to the criminal justice process by illustration. Starting with a focus on the key elements of the crime event, students will develop an understanding of serious violent offences through the lens of offenders and victims of violence. Students then learn how the criminal justice system responds to serious violence offences with particular emphasis on lethal violence. Using a case study approach, students first learn how serious violent offences are detected and investigated by the policing arm of the criminal justice system. Students then consider how these offences are processed in the courts, which includes the criminal trial process and sentencing. Finally, students review the various forms of custodial sentencing and correctional settings. Throughout the course students review the ways that criminological theory has informed the various ways that the criminal justice system responds to serious violent offences (e.g., from policing initiatives and responses to sentencing to correctional rehabilitation).

Assumed Knowledge

Not applicable

1.2 Teaching Team

Your lecturer/tutor can be contacted via the email system on the portal.

Name	Email
Greg Stevenson	greg.stevenson@staff.griffithcollege.edu.au

1.3 Staff Consultation

Your lecturer/tutor is available each week for consultation outside of normal class times. Times that your lecturer/tutor will be available for consultation will be given in the first week of lectures. A list of times and rooms will be published on the Griffith College Portal under the "Support and Services/Teacher Consultation Times" link.

1.4 Timetable

Your timetable is available on the Griffith College Portal at Class Timetable in Student and Services.

1.5 Technical Specifications

All students must have access to a computer or suitable mobile device.

2. Aims, Outcomes & Generic Skills

2.1 Course Aims

This course has been designed with the aim of expanding your knowledge about crime and the criminal justice system through a case study approach using an international perspective of the crime of homicide. The course is focused on developing your understanding of the nature of different types of homicide, who commits it, how homicide can be explained, and how we respond to homicide. The course is deliberately designed to reflect critically on crime and justice, and to provide a holistic view of various forms homicide may take in various international contexts, approaches to the detection of the offender and societal response to the crime in the form of prosecution and punishment. In this way, the course is aimed at breaking down the singular major response to crime that is the criminal justice system into its various response phases. These phases will be critically examined in terms of fairness, justice and effectiveness.

2.2 Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you should be able to:

1. Explain how homicide is defined in law and criminology
2. Explain the different types of homicide
3. Create a prevention strategy for the crime of homicide in a domestic setting
4. Apply a range of investigative strategies used in the detection of serious violent offenders
5. Explain the criminal trial process and its limitations
6. Explain the punishment options for homicide and the challenges faced therewith
7. Communicate clearly and coherently using oral and written language

2.3 Generic skills

For further details on the Generic Skills please refer to the Graduate Generic Skills and Capabilities policy.

Griffith College aims to develop graduates who have an open and critical approach to learning and a capacity for lifelong learning. Through engagement in their studies, students are provided with opportunities to begin the development of these and other generic skills.

Studies in this course will give you opportunities to begin to develop the following skills:

Generic Skills	Taught	Practised	Assessed
Written Communication	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oral Communication	Yes	Yes	Yes
Information Literacy	Yes	Yes	Yes
Secondary Research	Yes	Yes	Yes
Critical and Innovative Thinking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Academic Integrity	Yes	Yes	Yes
Self Directed Learning	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team Work	Yes	Yes	
Cultural Intelligence	Yes	Yes	Yes
English Language Proficiency	Yes	Yes	Yes

3. Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Required Reading: Brookman, Fiona. (2005). Understanding Homicide. London: Sage. Paperback ISBN: 9780761947554 / E-book ISBN: 9781847877345

3.2 Recommended Resources

A range of recommended resources are published via MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal. Further information relating to these resources will be provided in class.

3.3 College Support Services and Learning Resources

The College provides many facilities and support services to assist students in their studies. Links to information about College support resources that are available to students are included below for easy reference.

[Digital Library](#) – Databases to which Griffith College students have access to through the Griffith Library Databases.

MyStudy – there is a dedicated website for this course via MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal.

[Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) - this tutorial helps students to understand what academic integrity is and why it matters. You will be able to identify types of breaches of academic integrity, understand what skills you will need in order to maintain academic integrity, and learn about the processes of referencing styles.

Services and Support provides a range of services to support students throughout their studies including personal support such as Counselling; Academic support; and Welfare support.

Jobs and Employment in the [Student Hub](#) can assist students with career direction, resume and interview preparation, job search tips, and more.

[IT Support](#) provides details of accessing support, information on s numbers and internet access and computer lab rules.

3.4 Other Learning Information

Attendance

You are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials and to actively engage in learning during these sessions. You are expected to bring all necessary learning resources to class such as the required textbook and /or Workbook. In addition, you may BYOD (bring your own device) to class such as a laptop or tablet. This is not a requirement as computer lab facilities are available on campus, however, the use of such devices in the classroom is encouraged with appropriate and considerate use principles being a priority.

Preparation and Participation in Class

In order to enhance learning, prepare before lectures and tutorials. Read the relevant section of your text book before a lecture, and for a tutorial read both the textbook and the relevant lecture notes. If you have been given tutorial exercises, make sure you complete them. Active participation in lectures and tutorials will improve your learning. Ask questions when something is unclear or when you want to bring some issue to your lecturer or tutor's attention; respond to questions to test your knowledge and engage in discussion to help yourself and others learn.

Consultation Sessions

Teachers offer extra time each week to assist students outside the classroom. This is known as 'consultation time.' You may seek assistance from your teacher on email or in person according to how the teacher has explained this to the class. Attendance during consultation time is optional but you are encouraged to use this extra help to improve your learning outcomes.

Course Materials

Lecture notes will be made available to you in MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal and you are advised to either print these out and bring them to each class so that extra notes can be added or BYOD (bring your own device) and add extra notes digitally.

Self-Directed Learning

You will be expected to learn independently. This means you must organise and learn the course content even when you are not specifically asked to do so by your lecturer or tutor. This involves revising the weekly course material. It also means you will need to find additional information for some assessment items beyond that given to you in textbooks and lecture notes, and to construct your own response to a question or topic. All of this requires careful planning of your time. Expect to spend, on average, at least 10 hours per week including class time for each of your courses.

Program Progression

You are reminded that satisfactory Program Progression requires that attendance in classes is maintained at equal to or greater than 80%, and that GPA is maintained at equal to or greater than 3.5 [please see Griffith College Policy Library - Program Progression Policy - for more information].

Teacher and course Evaluation

Your feedback is respected and valued by your lecturers and tutors. You are encouraged to provide your thoughts on the course and teaching, both positive and critical, directly to your lecturer and tutor or by completing course and lecturer evaluations via Griffith College's evaluation tool whenever these are available.

4. Learning and Teaching Activities

4.1 Weekly Learning Activities

Week	Topic	Activity	Readings	Learning Outcomes
1	Introduction: what is crime and criminal justice? Homicide: Introduction to the crime event: the crime of homicide. This lecture will focus on deconstructing the crime event by identifying its key legal components and highlighting some real life cases.	Lecture	Nil this week	1,2,7
2	Domestic Homicide: This lecture will focus on explaining key aspects of domestic homicide. Students will learn about the detection and prevention of this type of killing from a policing perspective.	Lecture	Text Chapters 6 & 7	1,2,3,7
3	Child Homicide: This lecture will focus on the killing of children and infants. Students will learn about patterns in the characteristics of these types of homicide.	Lecture	Text Chapter 8	1,2,3,7
4	Serial Homicide: This lecture will provide a particular focus on serial killers. Students will learn to develop an understanding of the rare phenomenon that is serial killing.	Lecture	Text Chapter 9	1,2,4,7
5	Police Homicide: This lecture will focus on the blurry lines in cases in which the police kill in the line of duty.	Lecture	Reading 5.1	1,2,4,7
6	Detection of the Offender(s): This lecture will be delivered by a police detective who will showcase the role of police detectives in interpreting evidence, finding suspects and detecting offenders.	Lecture	Text Chapter 10	1,2,4,7
7	Protracted Investigation Techniques and Use of Intelligence: This lecture will describe some of the techniques police detectives employ to solve complex homicides that cannot be solved promptly.	Lecture	Reading 7.1	1,2,4,7
8	Forensics & Evidence Gathering at Crime Scenes: This lecture will highlight the role of forensics in homicide investigations.	Lecture	Text Chapter 10	1,2,4,7
9	Offender Profiling: This lecture focuses offender profiling and the psychology behind tracking serious, violent offenders.	Lecture	Text Chapters 3 & 4	1,2,4,7
10	Prosecution of Offenders: This lecture will turn students' attention to what happens after homicide suspects are arrested, with a focus on legal procedures and prosecution.	Lecture	Reading 10.1 and 11.1	1,4,5,7
11	Incarceration and Historical Perspective of Homicide: This lecture will wrap up the course by exploring the incarceration of homicide offenders and associated challenges, then focusing on a case study of some of the most notorious killers throughout history.	Lecture	Text Chapter 5	1,2,6,7
12	Course Review & Exam Preparation: This session will be dedicated to reviewing and synthesizing the key phases and components of the course. It is designed to recap what the students should have learned over the duration of the course and to prepare for the end of trimester exam.	Lecture	Text Chapter 12	1,2,3,4,5,6,7

5. Assessment Plan

5.1 Assessment Summary

Item	Assessment Task	Weighting	Learning Outcomes	Due Date
1	Assignment- Domestic Homicide	30%	1,2,3,7	Week 4
2	Homicide Investigation Action Plan	40%	1,2,4,7	Week 10
3	Final Examination	30%	1,2,3,4,5,6	Exam Period

5.2 Assessment Detail

1. Assignment - Domestic Homicide

Type: Assignment- Written Assignment

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1,2,3,7

Due Date: 5pm, Wednesday Week 4

Word Count: 1500

Weight: 30% (marked out of 30)

Task: This is a take home assignment, where you will be required to respond to the following statements:

- a) Domestic homicide is a significant crime problem for Australia (20 marks); and
- b) Domestic homicide in Australia is preventable (10 marks).

Criteria and Marking: Marking criteria for this assessment item will be available in class and on the Griffith College Portal.

Submission: Students must submit via the online submission point in the Griffith College Portal. This assessment item is an individual activity and does not have a resubmission provision.

2. Homicide Investigation Action Plan

Type: Assignment- Written Assignment

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1,2,4,7

Due Date: 5pm, Wednesday Week 10

Word Count: 2000

Weight: 40% (marked out of 40)

Task: This assessment requires students to complete an investigation action plan outlining the police response to a given homicide scenario. A template will be provided to students to complete and submit. The requirements of an investigation action plan will be taught and practised during class activities.

Criteria and Marking: Marking criteria for this assessment item will be available in class and on the Griffith College Portal.

Submission: Students must submit via the online submission point in the Griffith College Portal. This assessment item is an individual activity and does not have a resubmission provision.

3. Final Examination

Type: Exam- selected response

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1,2,3,4,5,6

Due Date: Examination Period

Weight: 30%

Marked out of: 60

Perusal: 10 minutes

Duration: 90 minutes

Format: Closed book

Task: The end of trimester exam will consist of multiple choice items designed to test students' knowledge of core course material. The exam will cover material covered in weeks 1 – 11 and

will be based on the required readings and other class content. Exam revision will be conducted during the lecture in week 12.

5.3 Late Submission

An assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension from the Course Coordinator, will be penalised. The standard penalty is the reduction of the mark allocated to the assessment item by 5% of the maximum mark applicable for the assessment item, for each working day or part working day that the item is late. Assessment items submitted more than five working days after the due date are awarded zero marks.

Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library > Assessment Policy for guidelines and penalties for late submission.

5.4 Other Assessment Information

Retention of Originals

You must be able to produce a copy of all work submitted if so requested. Copies should be retained until after the release of final results for the course.

Requests for extension

To apply for an extension of time for an assignment, you must submit an [Application for Extension of Assignment](#) form to your teacher at least 24 hours before the date the assignment is due. Grounds for extensions are usually: serious illness, accident, disability, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances and must be able to be substantiated with relevant documentation [e.g. [Griffith College Student Medical Certificate](#)]. Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library - for guidelines regarding extensions and deferred assessment.

Return of Assessment Items

1. Marks awarded for in-trimester assessment items, except those being moderated externally with Griffith University, will be available on the Student Portal within fourteen [14] days of the due date. This does not apply to the final assessment item in this course (marks for this item will be provided with the final course result).
2. Students will be advised of their final grade through the Student Portal. Students can review their exam papers after student grades have been published (see relevant Griffith College Fact Sheet for allocated times at Support> Factsheets). Review of exam papers will not be permitted after the final date to enrol.
3. Marks for **all** assessment items including the final exam (if applicable) will be recorded in the Moodle Course Site and made available to students through the Moodle Course Site.

The sum of your marks overall assessment items in this course does not necessarily imply your final grade for the course. Standard grade cut off scores can be varied for particular courses, so you need to wait for the official release of grades to be sure of your grade for this course.

6. Policies & Guidelines

Griffith College assessment-related policies can be found in the [Griffith College Policy Library](#) which include the following policies:

Assessment Policy, Special Consideration, Deferred Assessment, Alternate Exam Sitting, Medical Certificates, Academic Integrity, Finalisation of Results, Review of Marks, Moderation of Assessment, Turn-it-in Software Use. These policies can be accessed using the 'Document Search' feature within the [Policy Library](#)

Academic Integrity Griffith College is committed to maintaining high academic standards to protect the value of its qualifications. Academic integrity means acting with the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in learning, teaching and research. It is important for students, teachers, researchers and all staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work. Academic integrity is important for an individual's and the College's reputation.

All staff and students of the College are responsible for academic integrity. As a student, you are expected to conduct your studies honestly, ethically and in accordance with accepted standards of academic conduct. Any form of academic conduct that is contrary to these standards is considered a breach of academic integrity and is unacceptable.

Some students deliberately breach academic integrity standards with intent to deceive. This conscious, pre-meditated form of cheating is considered to be one of the most serious forms of fraudulent academic behaviour, for which the College has zero tolerance and for which penalties, including exclusion from the College, will be applied.

However, Griffith College also recognises many students breach academic integrity standards without intent to deceive. In these cases, students may be required to undertake additional educational activities to remediate their behaviour and may also be provided appropriate advice by academic staff.

As you undertake your studies at Griffith College, your lecturers, tutors and academic advisors will provide you with guidance to understand and maintain academic integrity; however, it is also your responsibility to seek out guidance if and when you are unsure about appropriate academic conduct.

In the case of an allegation of a breach of academic integrity being made against a student he or she may request the guidance and support of a Griffith College Student Learning Advisor or Student Counsellor.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the Griffith College Academic Integrity Policy; this policy provides an overview of some of the behaviours that are considered breaches of academic integrity, as well as the penalties and processes involved when a breach is identified.

For further information please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library > Academic Integrity Policy

Reasonable Adjustments for Assessment – The Disability Services policy

The Disability Services policy (accessed using the Document Search' feature with the [Policy Library](#)) outlines the principles and processes that guide the College in making reasonable adjustments to assessment for students with disabilities while maintaining academic robustness of its programs.

Risk Assessment Statement

There are no out of the ordinary risks associated with this course.

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