



UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

**Arts and
Social Sciences**

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & LANGUAGES

GENT 0911

**Murderers and Medical
Detectives**

Semester 2, 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COURSE STAFF	3
COURSE DETAILS	3
COURSE AIMS	3
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES	3
LEARNING AND TEACHING RATIONALE	3
TEACHING STRATEGIES	4
COURSE SCHEDULE	4
COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT	5
REFERENCES	6
TEXTS.....	6
SUGGESTED GENERAL REFERENCES (HUC IN THE LIBRARY).....	6
ASSESSMENT	6
ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION.....	7
ASSIGNMENT COLLECTION.....	7
ASSIGNMENT EXTENSIONS.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS.....	7
ATTENDANCE	8
ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM	8
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY	8
STUDENT EQUITY AND DIVERSITY	8
OTHER STUDENT INFORMATION	8

COURSE STAFF

Convener Details:

Name: Dr Susan Hardy

Room: Morven Brown 318

Phone: 9385 2351

Email: s.hardy@unsw.edu.au

Consultation Times: Wednesdays, 3-4 pm; Thursdays, 11-12 noon

COURSE DETAILS

Why did people in the past murder other people in the ways they did? How many people in the past “got away with murder”? In what ways have both the detection of crime and the conviction of criminals been influenced by changes in society in general and by developments and discoveries in technology and medical science in particular? We will be looking at these questions, using a historical perspective to help explain how the public understanding of society’s norms and expectations, together with developments in science and medicine went hand in hand with increasingly ‘sophisticated’ methods of murder resulting in increasingly efficient methods of detection.

Some of the topics examined will be: direct violence and its drawbacks as a murder method; the ‘epidemic’ of spousal murder; criminal ‘types’; doctors as murderers; the evolving notion of ‘detection’ and science in the courtroom.

6UOC, no parallel teaching.

COURSE AIMS

The aims of this course are:

- To familiarise students with the growing field of historical studies in murder and detection
- To give an historical perspective to current issues in forensic detection

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

- communicate effectively in an analytic and critical way
- explore issues concerning the nature of society and its norms
- engage in independent and reflective learning
- appraise arguments and contribute to discussion and debate

LEARNING AND TEACHING RATIONALE

The course aims to engage students in learning through critical analysis and discussion, delivered in lecture and tutorial format. Contextualised learning strategies allow students to draw from and reflect on their own learning experiences and contribute to classes in an inclusive way.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

The teaching activities in this course involve lectures and tutorials. They are designed to support learning outcomes by creating a climate of mutual inquiry that challenges and stimulates students and links them to further research and scholarship in the field. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on and explore their experiences, challenge current beliefs and develop new practices and understandings.

The lectures provide information and theoretical concepts and exemplify critical analysis for students. Dialogue and debate are encouraged in the tutorials. Readings for tutorials and the associated questions challenge and develop students' comprehension and interpretive skills and provide a basis for group work and/or presentations. The tutorial topics are designed to reinforce and extend lecture themes and concepts. Tutorial discussions and written work allow students to reflect on their learning and improve on their performance.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weeks	Topic	Date/s	Location		Tutorial content
Week 1	1. A social history of death & detection 2. Early methods of murder	31 July	Biomed Theatre A		<i>No tutorials in week 1</i>
Week 2	1&2. Crime & punishment in pre-modern & early modern times	7 August			<i>Topic: Introduction and distribution of topics</i> <i>Details of tutorial readings & questions in Tutorial Handout to be distributed in Week 1 & on Moodle</i>
Week 3	1. Social changes in the 18 th century. 2. Colonial crime.	14 August			<i>Topic: Crime & Punishment</i>
Week 4	1.Domestic disputes 2. Death in Fall River	21 August			<i>Topic: Colonial Crime</i> <i>1st Case Study posted on Moodle</i>
Week 5	1.Early methods of 'profiling	28 August			<i>Topic: Domestic Disputes</i>

	2. From torture to detection				Submit 1 st <i>Case Study</i> by 4pm, Friday 17 August
Week 6	Revision & <i>Class Test 1.</i>	4 Sept.			Topic: <i>From Torture to Detection</i>
Week 7	1. Technology & murder 2. Medical murder	11 Sept.			Topic: <i>Class Discussion</i>
Week 8	1. Poison, bloodstains and wounds 2. The rise of the 'expert witness'.	18 Sept.			Topic: <i>Medical Murder</i> 2 nd <i>Case Study</i> posted on Moodle
Week 9	1. Fatal relationships 2. 'Women who kill'.	25 Sept.			Topic: <i>Rise of the Expert Witness</i> Submit 2 nd <i>Case Study</i> by 4pm Friday 21 September
Week 10	1. Current approaches to detection 2. Some recent Australian cases	9 Oct.			Topic: <i>Fatal Relationships</i>
Week 11	1 & 2. An ongoing fascination: murder in books, film & television	16 Oct.			Topic: <i>Class Discussion 2.</i>
Week 12	Summing up & <i>Class Test 2.</i>	23 Oct.			Topic: <i>Current Cases</i>
Week 13	<i>No lecture in last week</i>	30 Oct.			Topic: <i>Murder in the Media</i>

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Student evaluative feedback on this course is welcomed and is gathered periodically, using among other means UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

REFERENCES

Texts

There is no set textbook for this course. Tutorial Readings are on Blackboard.

Suggested general references (HUC in the Library)

D'Cruze, Shani et al, *Murder: social and historical approaches to understanding murder and murderers*. Willan, Cullompton, 2006 [S364.1523]

Gatrell, V.A.C. et al (eds), *Crime and the Law: the social history of crime in Western Europe since 1500*. Europa Publications, London, 1980. [S364.94/2]

Spierenberg, Pieter, *A History of Murder: personal violence in Europe from the Middle ages to the present*. Polity, Cambridge, 2008.

Students seeking resources can also obtain assistance from the UNSW Library. One starting point for assistance is:

<http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/web/services/services.html>

ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Learning outcomes assessed	Graduate attributes assessed	Due date
2 short answer class tests on lecture material only	10 questions, 1 hour each	20% (10% each)	1, 2, 3, 5	2, 4, 7	Weeks 6&12
Tutorial case history exercises	2 x 500 words	30% (15% each)	1, 5, 6	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Weeks 4&8
Tutorial Presentation + Paper	20 minute presentation and class discussion + 2000 word fully referenced response paper	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Week chosen by student with hard copy submission the following week
Peer Assessment (8 responses)		10%	1, 5, 6		During tutorial period

It is compulsory to complete and submit all the assessment tasks in order to pass the course.

Assignment Submission

- The cut off time for all assignment submissions in the School is **4pm** of the stated due date.
- 2 assignment copies must be submitted for every assessment task - 1 paper copy and 1 electronic copy.
- All hard/paper copy assessments should be posted into the Assignment Drop Boxes at the School of Humanities and Languages, opposite the front counter located on Level 2, Morven Brown Building by 4pm on the due date. A completed cover sheet must be securely attached to assignments. The School is not responsible for any missing pages from poorly bound or stapled assignments.
a soft copy must be sent by 4pm on the due date by email to assessment@unsw.edu.au. All emailed assessments sent to assessment@unsw.edu.au will receive an electronic acknowledgement.

Important Note

- Electronic copies emailed to assessment@unsw.edu.au will not be marked. Only hard copies submitted in the drop boxes will be marked/assessed.
- The electronic copy will be used as evidence of assignment submission during appeal and dispute cases. Students have no recourse if a soft copy is not submitted. Therefore it is essential that students keep the electronic record of their sent assignment (eg. If assignment was sent to assessment@unsw.edu.au; the original sent email with the attached assignment kept in their 'sent box' and the electronic acknowledgment.

Assignment Collection

Assignments should be collected from your lecturer/tutor and must be collected by the owner/author of the assignment. A Stamped Self Addressed Envelope must be provided on submission if students require their assignment to be posted back to their home address.

Assignment Extensions

A student may apply to the Lecturer/Tutor for an extension to the submission date of an assignment. Requests for extension must be made via myUNSW before the submission due date, and must demonstrate exceptional circumstances, which warrant the granting of an extension. If medical grounds preclude submission of assignment by due date, contact should be made with subject coordinator as soon as possible. A medical certificate will be required for late submission and must be appropriate for the extension period.

To apply for an extension please log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration

Late Submission of Assignments

Assignments submitted after the due or extended date will incur a 5% penalty per day excluding weekends (calculated from the maximum marks available for that assignment). Assignments received more than 10 calendar days after the due or extended date will not be allocated a mark.

ATTENDANCE

To successfully complete this unit you are required to attend minimum 80% of classes. If this requirement is not met you will fail the unit. The Tutor will keep attendance records.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Students seeking information on plagiarism should visit the following web site:
<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/index.html>

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others.

Any OHS concerns should be raised with your immediate supervisor, the School's OHS representative, or the Head of School. The OHS guidelines are available at:
http://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/ohs_policies/index.html

STUDENT EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to, or at the commencement of the course. Alternatively, the Student Equity and Diversity Unit can be contacted on 9385 4734. Further information is available at: <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au>

GRIEVANCES

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should in the first instance attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors. If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and Languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at:
<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/Complaints.html>

OTHER STUDENT INFORMATION

myUNSW is the single online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing & current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au>
<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html>