Instructor: Dr. Melissa L. Jarrell

Day/Time: TUESDAYS 4:20-6:50
Class Location: CI 109
Office: BH-345
Office Hours: Mon 1-2, Tues 1-4, Wed 1-2
Phone Number: 825-2188
E-mail Address: Melissa.Jarrell@tamucc.edu

Required Texts:

Course Description:
This course is designed to help students gain a working understanding of the research process with direct application to criminal justice research. Attention will focus on various aspects of the research process including quantitative and qualitative methods. Students will complete literature reviews, create research proposals, conduct observations/interviews, and construct surveys in addition to various assignments and activities. Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301 or CRIJ 1313

Student Learning Objectives:

1. To improve students’ basic understanding of research methods and familiarize them with key concepts and terminology in the field.
2. To provide students with an overview of the fundamentals in research methods.
3. To encourage and assist students to become competent and discerning consumers of research by expanding their interest and ability to read and fully comprehend scholarly journal articles in the field.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Discuss basic concepts and terminology in research methods.
2. Explain the research process, research designs, and methods used in social sciences.
3. Process and discuss professional literature in the field of criminal justice and criminology, while identifying scholarly sources and determining the quality of the articles based on their methodology.
**Student Responsibilities:**
- TURN OFF CELL PHONES!!!
- Pay attention during class. Private conversations, sleeping, and reading non-class related material will not be tolerated.
- Learn something! Participate in class discussions.

**Students with Disabilities/Religious Needs:**

If you are a student with a disability or have special needs, please let me know during the first week of class. In addition, students observing religious holidays that conflict with class exams/presentations must let me know during the first week of class.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Honesty:**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. If unsure of what honesty entails or for more information regarding the penalties for academic dishonesty, please refer to the University Catalog.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.
1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)

2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.

3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.

4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.

5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.

6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.

7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)

8. Decision by Provost.

9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm.

For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project 1: Journal Article Critique</th>
<th>50</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 2: Literature Review</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 3: Interview/Observation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 4: Research Proposal</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Assignments</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>500 points</td>
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</tbody>
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A = 90-100% 450-500 points
B = 80-89% 400-449 points
C = 70-79% 350-399 points
D = 60-69% 300-349 points
F = 59% and below 299 and below

No extra credit will be given. No exceptions!!!

Projects (300 points):
Research Methods is a labor intensive course. My goal is to help you become better researchers and better writers; therefore the bulk of your grade is dependent on your ability to research and write. Students are responsible for the completion of four projects during the semester. Each project will be described in detail in advance of the due date. Two projects are worth up to 100 points each (Literature Review and Research Proposal). Two projects are worth up to 50 points each (Journal Article Critique and Interview/Observation). Late projects will lose five points per day. If problems arise, they must be brought to the attention of the instructor prior to the due date, not immediately before/on/after the due date.

Exams (150 points):
Two exams will be administered in this course. Each exam is worth up to 75 points and will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. Questions will come from class notes and the required readings. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize the study guide to prepare for exams and to enhance their understanding of materials.

Attendance/Assignments (50 points):
Each lecture/discussion will build on previous lectures/discussions; consequently attendance is critical for success in this course. Leaving class early will result in an absence for that class. In addition, tardiness will not be tolerated. Participation in class/group discussions is expected and factored into your final grade. Group activities, in-class quizzes, and homework assignments will count toward the assignment grade. If students are keeping up with the readings and participating in class discussions, I will more than likely give advanced notice of quiz dates. Otherwise, quizzes will be given at random at the instructor’s discretion.
Concluding Remarks
If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to speak with me after class or to give me a call/send me an e-mail. I am available to assist you with information pertaining to this course and to the criminal justice system in general. You may not consider yourself to be a great writer, or even a good one. Don’t despair! I will make every effort to help you IF you ask for help. But don’t wait until the last minute!

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus throughout the semester. Students will be given advanced notice of any syllabus modifications.

Note: Assigned Readings should be completed prior to the date listed on the syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Syllabus/Research Process</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Fundamentals/Theory Journal Article Critique</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Project 1 Assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Literature Review Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Project 2 Assigned</td>
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<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Research Design Measurement</td>
<td>Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Research Design Measurement Review for Exam 1</td>
<td>Chapters 6 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 19</td>
<td>Data Collection Sampling</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Project 1 Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 26</td>
<td>Data Collection Sampling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 2</td>
<td>Survey Research</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Apr 9</td>
<td>Field Research</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Content Analysis Evaluation Research</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Project 4 Assigned</td>
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<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>Discuss Project 3 Review Project 4 Drafts</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>Review for Exam 2</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>Project 4 Due</td>
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<td>Project 4 Due</td>
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