Research Methods in Criminal Justice
Summer I 2019
CRIJ 4345_001

Instructor: Dr. Wendi Pollock
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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday 10-11:55 AM
Classroom: CI-106
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 2 - 3 PM, or by appointment.

Required Text:

Course Description:
This course will introduce students to research methods in criminal justice. It will begin with basic intuition and curiosity and will lead students through the process of creating, understanding, and interpreting 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

Learning Objectives and outcomes:
The course objectives are:

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.

**Learning Outcomes** - By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to apply professional standards in criminal justice research.
2. Discuss basic concepts and terminology in research methods
3. Explain the research process, research designs, and methods used in social sciences,
4. 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, and
5. Read an academic journal article and write a discerning abstract of the article, and research and write an academic paper in the field of criminal justice and criminology.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction/Lit Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>90 – 100 = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variables/ RQ’s/Survey</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80 – 89 = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70 – 79 = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60 – 69 = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>59 &amp; Below = F</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Writing Assignments:**

You will be writing the individual sections of your research project and turning them in for grading and feedback. Before you write each of these sections, you will receive lecture materials as well as instructions on the requirements for each assignment, in class. Your final project will consist of the revised sections that you will have already written, along with a final section on the results of your survey which you will have administered to your classmates. You will also be required to present a PowerPoint presentation of your final project (See below).

**Late Assignments:**

All written assignments can be turned in one calendar day late, for a 20 point deduction. They will not be accepted after that.
**Presentations:**

We will perform a piece of original research as a class project. You will present your results orally, before the class. A PowerPoint presentation is required. More information on this assignment, including an example presentation format, will be given in class prior to the dates of these presentations.

**Exams:**

The final exam will be multiple choice and comprehensive, primarily focused on research methods terminology. We will review for this exam before you take it. The exam will be multiple choice and true/false.

**Make-Up Exams:**

As there is only a final exam, there will be no make-up exams.

**Participation & Attendance:**

You are expected to be in class daily, on time. Though attendance is not an official part of your grade, it will be taken daily for two reasons: (1) the information is reported to the university and can be used against you in future determinations of financial aid allowances, and (2) if you do not attend, you will be responsible for what you miss. Taking attendance allows me to know if you simply need more explanation or if you are asking questions because you were not there when the topic was covered. Please make sure that a classmate will be getting you notes and assignment information before you miss a class. If you are more than 15 minutes late for an exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam and you will receive a zero. Please make sure you are on time to class, particularly on exam day.

**Academic Honesty:**

The Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

**Cellphones, Laptops, Ipads Etc.:**

All communication style or general noise making devises should be set to off or silent during class. If you have an emergency situation or if you are on call from a professional position, please let me know before class begins. Some exceptions
will, of course, be allowed in these cases. If you decide that, for any reason, you must send or receive a call or text, please leave the classroom to do so. **If you are texting in my class, I consider this rude and I reserve the right to ask you to leave my class.** Because of the capabilities of modern cell phones, **if you have a phone out on your desk for any reason, during an exam, it is assumed that you are cheating on the exam** and will result in a zero on that test.

**Student Behavior:**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Disability Services:**

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 Corpus Christi Hall 116.

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 Advising:**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the
CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Grade Appeals Process:**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *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. 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean's office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **June 21st, 2019, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” for the Summer I 2019 term.**

**Inclusive Excellence**

The Criminal Justice Program is committed to University Values as stated in the Momentum 20/20 Strategic Plan. It values Inclusion, “to foster an environment of mutual respect that values and engages diverse people, ideas, views, and practices.” With the University, the Program believes “we must foster a campus climate with an ethos of respect, inclusion, empowerment, shared responsibility and social justice for all.”
**Class Schedule:**

Please note that this schedule is tentative as we may need to spend more time on some topics than others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Chapters</th>
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</table>
| June 3     | - Introduction  
             - Syllabus  
             - Start picking topic | None              |
| June 4     | - Scientific inquiry in Criminal Justice  
             - Discuss paper introductions | Ch 1              |
| June 5     | - Ethics in CJ research  
             - Discuss literature reviews | Ch 2              |
| June 6     | - General issues in research design  
             (data types, causation, and inquiry) | Ch 3              |
| June 10    | - Operationalization and measurement | Ch 4              |
| June 11    | - Open class: discuss trouble with intro/lit reviews | None              |
| June 12    | - Experimental vs. Quasi-experimental Research designs  
             - Introduction and literature reviews due | Ch 5              |
| June 13    | - Sampling  
             - Discuss variables and RQ's (in-class assignment) | Ch 6              |
| June 17    | - Survey Research  
             - Discuss Surveys (in-class assignment) | Ch 7              |
| June 18    | - Give surveys  
             - Work on writing up results (how to do it) | None              |
<p>| June 19    | - Open class: discuss issues with results write-up | None              |
| June 20    | - Qualitative and field research | Ch 8 &amp;9           |
| <strong>Last day to drop a class is June 21st</strong> |                     |                   |
| June 24    | - Secondary data analysis | Ch 10             |
| June 25    | - Program evaluations | Ch 11             |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>- Open class: discuss issues with final papers</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Discuss final presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>- Open class: discuss issues with final papers</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Discuss final presentations</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>FINAL PAPERS DUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>- Presentations</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>- Presentations</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>- Final Exam Prep Day</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td><strong>No class – Independence Day Holiday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
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<td><em>(Note that this exam will be done online through Blackboard. The exam will open at 8 AM on the exam day, and will close at 8 PM. You make take the exam at any time during those hours, however, you will have two hours to take the exam once you begin. This is a 50 question, multiple choice, true/false exam that is designed to take approximately one hour to complete, so two hours should be ample time for you to complete the exam with relative ease.)</em></td>
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*This syllabus is tentative and subject to revision in whole or in part, in writing, at my discretion.*