Research Methods in Criminal Justice
Fall 2020
CRIJ 4345.W01

Instructor: Dr. Wendi Pollock
Office: Bay Hall 347
Telephone: 361-825-3061
Email: wendi.pollock@tamucc.edu
Class Hours: Online
Classroom: Online
Office Hours: I will be in regular communication with you during this course. If you need to have a video meeting with me, send me an email, and I will set that up. I am available for these Monday – Thursday 8–5. These are never required, but I am always happy to have them when needed.

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:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction/Lit Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variables and RQ’s</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>59 &amp; Below</td>
<td>F</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, using videos and other materials given to you in Blackboard. 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.
**Late Assignments:**

All written assignments will receive a 10-point deduction per calendar day, including weekends and holidays, until the assignment is submitted or until no points remain.

**Exams:**

The final exam will be multiple choice and comprehensive, primarily focused on research methods terminology. The exam will be multiple choice and true/false and will be administered through Blackboard.

**Make-Up Exams:**

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

**Participation & Attendance:**

You are expected to complete all class materials and communicate with your professor weekly. If you do not, you will not pass. Because this is a summer class, getting behind will mean that you will not be able to complete your class project on time. Participation is not counted as a separate grade, however, because it will be clear if you do not log in, watch materials, ask questions, and get your materials submitted. Logging into Blackboard regularly is very important if you want to do well in this class.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:**

**Definition:** In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on [MLA documentation rules](#) and [APA documentation rules](#) is available at Purdue University’s OWL:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

Classroom/Professional 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.

Disabilities Accommodations

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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.

**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. November 5th, 2020, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” for the Fall 2020 term.

**Statement of Civility**

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.
Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Campus Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**
- Face Coverings—**Face coverings** (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the **Face Covering policy** and **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** available on the **Provost website**.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the **Student Conduct office** for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.
Class Schedule:

Please note that this schedule is tentative as we may need to spend more time on some topics than others. All materials for each week will open up on Blackboard every Monday at 8 AM.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (Aug 19-21)</td>
<td>Log in to Blackboard and check the Course Content tab. There you will find a course introduction video. Watch that, familiarize yourself with the Blackboard course layout, and start thinking about your project topic. If you have any questions you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board. I will log on periodically throughout the week to answer those questions.</td>
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<td>Week 2 (Aug 24-28)</td>
<td>Watch the video lecture on chapter one, and the video lecture on how to write your Introduction and Literature Review. Look through all provided materials on that assignment. If you have any questions you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board. I will log on periodically throughout the week to answer those questions.</td>
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<td>Week 3 (Aug 31-Sept 4)</td>
<td>Watch video lectures on chapters two and three. Read chapters two and three in the textbook. Continue working on your Introduction and Literature Review assignment. If you have any questions you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board. I will log on periodically throughout the week to answer those questions.</td>
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<td>Week 4 (Sept 7-11)</td>
<td>Monday September 7th is a holiday. The materials for this week will still open on the 7th, however, nothing is due that day and you will have less work assigned this week, so that you can choose not to work on the Labor Day Holiday. Watch the video lecture on chapter four and read chapter four in the</td>
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Week 5 (Sept 14-18) – Your Introduction and Literature Review assignment is due Wednesday September 16th, by 11:59 PM. Submit these in Blackboard under the Course Content tab, in your week 5 folder. Watch the video lectures on chapters five and six and read those chapters in the textbook. If you have any questions on this week’s materials, you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board.

Week 6 (Sept 21-25) – Watch video lecture on how to create your Variable and Research Questions assignment and review all additional materials related to this topic, that were given to you for guidance. Watch video lecture on Chapter seven and read chapter seven in the textbook. Continue working on your Variables and Research Questions assignment. If you have any questions on this week’s materials, you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board.

Week 7 (Sept 28-Oct 2) – Your Variables and Research Questions assignment is due Wednesday September 30th, by 11:59 PM. Submit these in Blackboard under the Course Content tab, in your week 7 folder. Watch the video lectures over chapters eight and nine and review those chapters in the textbook. If you have any questions on this week’s materials, you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board.

Week 8 (Oct 5-9) - Watch the video lecture on how to create your Survey and review all additional materials related to this topic that were given to you for guidance. REVIEW ALL FEEDBACK ON YOUR VARIABLES AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS ASSIGNMENT, and then begin working on your surveys. If you have questions about this week’s materials, email the professor or leave your question on the Blackboard discussion forum.

Week 9 (Oct 12-16) – Your Survey is due Wednesday October 14th, by 11:59 PM. Submit those in Blackboard under the Course Content tab, in your week 9 folder. Watch the video lectures on chapters 10 and 11, and review those chapters in the textbook. If you have any questions on this week’s materials,
you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board.

**Week 10 (Oct 19-23)** – Watch the video lecture on how to distribute your surveys, and review all related materials given to you for guidance. REVIEW ALL FEEDBACK ON YOUR SURVEY ASSIGNMENT AND MAKE ANY CHANGES BEFORE YOU DISTRIBUTE YOUR SURVEY. **Distribute your surveys by Friday October 23rd at 5 PM.** If you have any questions on this week’s materials, you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board.

**Week 11 (Oct 26-30)** – Watch the video lecture on how to calculate your results and as your surveys come back to you, begin that process. If you complete your results calculations, just hang on to your spreadsheet until next week’s assignment. If you have any questions on this week’s materials, you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board.

**Week 12 (Nov 2 – 6)** - Complete the process of calculating your results. Once you have your spreadsheet completed, watch the video lecture on how to write up your results, and review any additional related materials given to you for guidance. Write your results section. If you have any questions on this week’s materials, you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board. **Remember that November 5th is the last day to drop a class this semester.**

**Week 13 (Nov 9-13)** – Watch the video lecture on how to format your final paper. Be sure to also look at the checklist and example given to you, so that you can make sure that you have every element in the correct place. Assemble your final paper. If you complete this early in the week, do not forget to complete your final exam review sheet if you have not already done so. If you have any questions on this week’s materials, you can email the professor, or you can leave your questions on the course discussion board.

**Week 14 (Nov 16 – 20)** – **Your final papers are due Wednesday November 18th, by 11:59 PM.** **Submit those in Blackboard under the Course Content tab, in your week 14 folder.** This is all that you must accomplish this week, but if you have not yet completed your final exam review sheet, please take this time to do so. If you have any questions, email the professor or leave the question on the course discussion board.
Week 15 (Nov 23-27) - Review for the final exam and enjoy the Thanksgiving Break.

Final Exam (Dec 1 – 3) – The final exam is a 50-question multiple choice and T/F exam, that will cover chapters 1-11 of the textbook materials. I highly recommend that you complete the review sheet as the exam questions do come from that material. The exam will open in Blackboard under the Course Content tab on December 1st, 2020 at 8 AM and will remain open until December 3rd, 2020 at 11:30 PM. You must log-in and begin taking the exam before 11:30 PM on December 3rd, or you will receive a zero on the test. You may take the exam any time between 8 AM on December 1st and 11:30 PM on December 3rd. This exam will likely take you one to two hours to complete, but everyone will have three hours to finish the test. You will have a longer time period if accommodations have been granted for that, through Disability Services. Finish strong!