

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

CRIJ 3378.05

Introduction to Methods of Research (Writing Enhanced)
FALL 2017

PROFESSOR: Tri Keah S. Henry

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CLASS HOURS: MWF 9:00-9:50am

CLASSROOM: A201

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday/Thursday 10:30-12:00pm and by appointment

TEXTBOOK(S):

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2017). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Sage. ISBN: 978-1-5063-0681-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to Research Methods is designed to introduce students to the scientific methods used in criminal justice and criminology research. In this course you will develop the skills necessary for conducting and evaluating research that are directly applicable to different areas of the criminal justice field. Special attention will be given to topics related to quantitative vs. qualitative methods, sampling, and data collection. Ultimately, this course will allow you to analyze and interpret “facts” about human behavior and criminal justice agencies. Additionally, this course is writing enhanced, meaning that at least 50% of your grade will come from writing assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Gain a basic understanding of key concepts and methods related to research in criminal justice and criminology.
2. Learn to critically evaluate and summarize findings of research studies.
3. Develop skills necessary for completing a research project, including using academic resources to answer research questions.
4. Develop and enhance writings skills in a manner that effectively conveys criminal justice research in a scholarly manner.
5. Transform scholarly written information into a format more readily accessible to practitioners

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be required to complete several assignments throughout the semester that will help them achieve the course objectives outlined above. These assignments include exams, short writing assignments, as well as, a research paper. Information related to each assignment are detailed below.

Exams: Four exams will be administered to students throughout the course. These exams will cover information discussed in class as well as information from any assigned required reading. Tests will be worth 45% of the final grade (15% each). Three exams will be given during the semester and the final exam grade will be used to replace the lowest test grade of the previous exams. All exams will be multiple choice and/or true false students will need to provide their own scantrons on test days.

****Student Legal Services gives these out for free in the LSC****

Research Paper: Students will be required to complete a research paper in order to satisfy part of the writing requirements of this course. The paper itself is divided into sections and students will submit each section for review throughout the semester. These components include 1) research questions/hypotheses, 2) annotated bibliography, 3) introduction and literature review, 4) methodology, and 5) abstract. A full draft of the paper, worth 10% of the final grade, will be due on **12/1/2017**. All written assignments will be submitted via Blackboard through links to Turnitin.

Technical Reports: Students will create two technical report summarizing the literature, methods, and results of a peer-reviewed article assigned by the professor. One report will focus on quantitative research and the other will be based on qualitative research. The purpose of this assignment is for students to demonstrate that they can effectively interpret and analyze previously conducted research and reproduce it in an easily readable format. All written assignments will be submitted via Blackboard through links to Turnitin.

Abstract Writing: Students will be assigned a de-identified research article and will be required to create an abstract based on the information they have acquired from the reading. Student abstracts will then be discussed in class and compared to the actual abstract written by the authors. All written assignments will be submitted via Blackboard through links to Turnitin.

Participation: Participation will account for 5% of the students overall grade. Students demonstrating attentiveness and preparedness for class, as well as participation in class discussion will maximize the points they receive. Additionally, students will be assigned a research article to be discussed during a class session. After reading the article, students should create 2-3 questions related to what they have read. Individual discussion questions should be typed and turned in and will contribute to the students' participation grade.

Extra Credit: Extra credit will be offered at the professor's discretion.

****The professor reserves the right to make changes this syllabus at any time for any justifiable reason. If changes are made, the students will be notified immediately via email and/or blackboard.**

GRADING:

Grade Breakdown	End of Semester Grading
Exams = 45%	A = 90-100%
Research Paper Components = 25%	B = 80-89%
Final Paper = 10%	C = 70-79%
Technical Reports = 10%	D = 60-69%
Abstract Writing = 5%	F = 0-59%
Participation = 5%	

This is a "W" course which means that at least 50 percent of your course grade will derive from writing activities designed to help you master course objectives.

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS:

If exams are missed, it is the student's responsibility to contact me prior to the posted examination date. If an exam is missed for an acceptable reason (as determined by myself or the university), students will be allowed to make up the exam, no later than 2 days after the original examination. Students will be responsible for scheduling the makeup exam.

Late assignments will be accepted but a 10% reduction in the grade will be applied for each day the assignment is late. No assignments will be accepted after 2 days.

EMAIL POLICY:

If you have any questions about the course material or administrative questions about deadlines, assignments, etc., please let me know as soon as possible during office hours or via e-mail. I will not respond to emails received after 6pm on weekdays. However, I will attempt to respond to all emails within 24 hours of receipt. Additionally, emails sent over the weekend will be replied to the following Monday.

Please ensure that your email is formatted professionally. For example, include an informative subject line, a detailed explanation of problem, your name, and appropriate greetings/titles (i.e. Good Morning/Evening Professor Henry). Also, please refrain from using text language when writing emails.

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS DUE
	Unit 1	
August 23	Syllabus Day & Introductions	
August 25	Science, Society, & Criminological Research	CH. 1
August 28		CH. 1
August 30	Chapter 1 Application	
September 1	The Process & Problems of Criminological Research	CH. 2
September 4	Labor Day- NO CLASS	
September 6	The Process & Problems of Criminological Research	CH. 2
September 8	Chapter 2 Application Library Day (Last day to drop w/o Q)	Research Questions/Hypotheses
September 11	Research Ethics	CH. 3
September 13		CH. 3
September 15	Chapter 3 Application	
September 18	TEST 1	
	Unit 2	
September 20	Conceptualization & Measurement	CH. 4
September 22		CH. 4
September 25	Chapter 4 Application	Annotated Bibliography
September 27	Sampling	CH. 5
September 29		CH. 5
October 2	Chapter 5 Application	
October 4	Causation & Research Design	CH. 6
October 6		CH. 6
October 9	Chapter 6 Application	“Article” – Abstract Writing Assignment
October 11	TEST 2	
	Unit 3	
October 13	Experimental Designs	CH. 7
October 16		CH. 7
October 18	Chapter 7 Application	“Article” Technical Report
October 20	Survey Research	CH. 8
October 23		CH. 8
October 25	Chapter 8 Application	Introduction/Literature Review
October 27	Qualitative Methods	CH. 9
October 30		CH. 9
November 1	Chapter 9 Application	
November 3	TEST 3	

	Unit 4	
November 6	Analyzing Content: Secondary Data Analysis, Comparative Analysis, Content Analysis, Crime Mapping, & Big Data	CH. 10
November 8		CH. 10
November 10	Chapter 10 Application (Last day to drop w/ Q)	“Article” Technical Report
November 13	Evaluation & Policy Analysis	CH. 11
November 15		CH. 11
November 17	Chapter 11 Application	Methodology
November 20	Mixing & Comparing Methods	CH. 12
November 22	Thanksgiving Break- NO CLASS	
November 24	Thanksgiving Break- NO CLASS	
November 27	Mixing & Comparing Methods	CH. 12
November 29	Chapter 12 Application	
December 1	Review Day	Abstract/Final Paper
December 6	TEST 4 (Final Exam)	9:30-11:30am