

## Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology

### **CRIJ 3378-14 (*Writing Enhanced & Online*) *Syllabus for Introduction to Methods of Research* Fall 2017**

**Professor:** Dr. Kristen Welch  
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**Class Hours:** *Online*  
**Classroom:** *Online*  
**Office Hours:** T&R 5-6 pm in office;  
M&W 3-4 online (virtual office)

#### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Maxfield, M.G. & Babbie, E. (2017). *Research methods for criminal justice and criminology*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (ISBN: 978-1-33709182-4). Students may purchase earlier 2014 version, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN: 978-1-285-06784-1)

Pope, C.E., Lovell, R., & Brandl, S.G. (2000). *Voices from the field: Readings in criminal justice*. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (ISBN: 978-0-534-56376-9)

Any handouts or independent readings provided or assigned by the instructor.

#### **RECOMMENDED READING**

Bachman, R.D. & Schutt, R.K. (2013). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (ISBN: 978-1452258195)

Hagan, F.E. (2003). *Research methods in criminal justice and criminology*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pearson Education, Inc.

Maxfield, M.G. & Babbie, E. (2010). *Study guide for Maxfield and Babbie's research methods for criminal justice and criminology*. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (ISBN: 978-0-495-81375-0)

Tontodonato, P. & Hagan, F.E. (1998). *The language of research in criminal justice: A reader*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Welch, K.L. (2012). *Late onset offending and substance use: Findings from the NYSFS*. El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publications LLC.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Methods and techniques of research in the behavioral sciences; historical development of psychological and social research; techniques and problems. Credit 3.

This course is an introduction to the scientific approach to understanding the social world, the relationships between theory and research, research design, and data collection. This course is designed to help students gain a working understanding of the research process with direct application to criminal justice research. Attention will be focused on various aspects of the research process including quantitative and qualitative methods. The course will highlight research aimed at understanding crime and the behavior of the criminal justice system. ***This course is a writing enhanced course which means that 50% of the student's grade will be obtained from writing activities.***

## COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING 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. 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, and
4. Read and develop a discerning critique of an academic journal article in the field of criminal justice and criminology.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

### Course Requirements:

1. 2 Exams: 10 points each; 20 points total (20%)
2. Final Exam: 10 points total (10%)
3. 2 Article Critiques: 20 points each; 40 points total (40%)
4. Online Discussions: 10 points total (10%)
5. Weekly Assignments: 10 points total (10%)
6. Quizzes: 10 points total (10%)

**Exams (30%):** A total of three exams will be given on the dates listed in the course outline. Exam I and II will be worth 10 points each for a total of 20 points. The final exam is due by 11:59 **Wednesday, December, 6<sup>th</sup>** and is worth 10 points. Exams will be composed of a combination of multiple choice, true false, and fill in the blank questions. Questions will come from class discussion notes, homework assignments, and the required readings. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize the course resources to enhance their understanding of the materials, to prepare for exams, and successfully complete assignments.

Students will have to use **Respondus Lockdown Browser software** for all exams. A practice quiz is set up for students to use throughout the semester to test the respondus software prior to taking an exam. For more information, contact SHSU online support at 936-294-2780 or email [blackboard@shsu.edu](mailto:blackboard@shsu.edu). See section on Technical Issues for more information.

**Major Writing Assignments (40%):** Students will write 2 primary article critiques worth 20 points each (40 points total) during the semester. Major writing assignments will be submitted to 2 peers to review and through the TURNITIN assignment dropbox on blackboard on the dates assigned in the course outline. Failure to turn in a digital copy on both the review date and the due date will result in a zero for the assignment. The writing assignments must meet APA format requirements, academic requirements, and the instructor's specifications on the assignment instructions. Each student will be expected to review and provide feedback to two classmates on their papers in a timely fashion as part of their assignment grade. More information will be provided on the writing assignment sheet.

**Discussions (10%):** Students are required to participate in four class discussions (1 per each of the 3 major course sections) and one introductory discussion during the semester. For each student, a minimum of 3 posts per required discussion session is required to meet this standard. One original post and two responsive posts per chosen discussion section are necessary. Please proofread your comments prior to submitting them for clarity, grammar, and tone. The goal of these discussions is to encourage a collaborative environment of learning and discussion, to foster teamwork, and not to engage in heated debate or confrontational rhetoric. Try to stay on topic and refrain from offensive remarks. Feel free to engage in more than the 4 required discussion sessions. Discussion participation comprises 10% of your final grade (10 points total).

**Weekly Assignments (10%):** Students will receive grade based upon completion of homework assignments. Weekly chapter homework assignments must be completed by **11:59 on Thursday** of the scheduled lecture week unless otherwise noted on course schedule. *Students can do the assignment any day or time prior to the deadline.* Students will have 5 attempts to submit their chapter homework assignments on blackboard and their highest grade will be recorded for each assignment. Assignments may include definitions and examples of key concepts, matching exercises, research of assigned topics, chapter outlines, or practical exercises. Students are expected to read the chapters and any additional readings assigned.

**Quizzes (10%):** Several quizzes are given during the semester to ensure student engagement (i.e. students are keeping up with the required readings and actively participating in class discussions) and to help students prepare for the exams. Quizzes may be composed of true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the blank questions, or a combination of each. **Students must complete the weekly chapter homework assignment with a grade of 80 or higher to access and take the quiz.** Students must complete the quiz by **11:59pm on Friday** of the scheduled lecture week they are due unless otherwise noted on course schedule. Only one attempt at the quiz will be allowed.

**Practical Exercises:** *At the end of each chapter presentation, students will be provided with practical exercises to assist students in applying the concepts from the chapter. These exercises are not required assignments, but students are strongly encouraged to do them, especially if they are struggling with certain concepts. This allows students to apply course materials, expand their understanding, and test themselves.*

**GRADING POLICY: (100 Points Possible)**

Letter Grade	Course Points	Interpretation
A	90-100 points	Excellent
B	80-89 points	Above Average
C	70-79 points	Average
D	60-69 points	Below Average
F	Below 60 points	Fails to meet Basic Requirements

**Late Work:** *Late work will NOT be accepted without appropriate documentation of an extreme emergency and a University approved excuse.* Assignments will not be accepted after the deadline since the student has every opportunity to turn in assignments at any point in time online, well in advance of deadlines. Students are encouraged not to wait until the last minute or the deadline to submit their assignments. The deadlines are there to keep students from falling too far behind in the class so they may successfully complete a course in the online format. Deadlines are not the same as due dates, they are just the last day an assignment will be allowed to be handed in for a grade. Students are strongly encouraged to complete assignments earlier in the week for optimal learning. Students must provide a typed excuse for any late assignment to the professor with accompanying documentation that arises out of those rare emergency situations in which it is impossible to complete assignments due to a major illness or accident.

This must be provided to the professor within five school days of the missed assignment. Failure to complete, submit, and/or present assignments on time will result in a **zero** for the assignment.

**Make-up Exam Policy:** Students are required to take the examinations on the dates indicated in the course schedule. Please make the necessary arrangements in advance to ensure your completion of the exams on the dates listed. If an emergency arises, students should notify the instructor as soon as possible **before** the exam. Notifications after the exam are not acceptable, barring extreme circumstances. If you miss an examination without prior approval from the instructor, the grade recorded will be a zero. If it is not possible to discuss the missed exam, prior to the exam date due to an emergency, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible after the emergency (within two days) to reschedule the exam. Appropriate **typed** documentation of the nature of the missed exam and why it meets the university guidelines for approved excuses must be provided to the instructor to receive a grade for the exam.

## COURSE & ACADEMIC POLICIES

**Virtual Office & Email:** All students are encouraged to use the *Virtual Office* to ask general questions about the course, course materials, and assignments. By posting to the Virtual Office, you are guaranteed a timely response (within 48 hours). Before posting a question or emailing the professor, please check the virtual office to be sure another student hasn't posted the same question and received a response. Do not post anything of a personal nature that you do not wish other students to see to this forum as it is visible to all students in the class. If you have a more personal question, please feel free to email the professor directly. Although I try to respond quickly to emails, do not expect an email reply in less than 48 hours. Be sure that your emails include the **course and section number** in the subject heading and adhere to professional guidelines. Please phrase your questions clearly and concisely. Be sure to include your complete name, email address, and course number (CRIJ 3378\_14) in the text of the email.

**Participation & Attendance Policy:** Unlike the traditional face to face course, this course does not require you to show up in a specific classroom on specific dates and times. Instead, you will be required to make a regular and constant effort to complete the online course lectures, assignments, assessments, and participate in online class discussion. Regular and ongoing participation in this course is *required*. Among other things, this means that exams must be completed during the scheduled time and that assignments must be completed within the specified time. Participation is highly important because discussion groups and class assignments will be assessed throughout the session. The student is expected to review all class materials and actively participate in online class discussions. Because of this, students **should** complete the assigned readings **PRIOR** to reviewing the lecture notes and engaging in online discussions. In addition, you are expected to routinely check the course materials, notices, and resources online throughout the week.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are expected 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.

The University expects students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in all their academic experiences. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a

complete listing of the University policy, please refer to Academic Dishonesty Policy Statement 810213 on the website: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf).

**Student Religious Holy Day Policy:** Section 51.91 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observation of a religious holy day, including travel for the purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University Policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed and may be accessed online at [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf).

**Disabled Student Policy:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Any student with a disability that affects his or her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Building Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786; E-mail: [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu); Web Address: [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability)) to request accommodations. In addition, students with a disability which affects their academic performance are encouraged to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. If you believe you may have a disability that would interfere with your work, I strongly encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center. **NOTE:** *No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. To review services provided to students with disabilities, see [www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html). To see the University policy on disabled students refer to [www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf). To review additional academic policies for students please refer to the documents provided online at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>.*

## TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

It is the students' responsibility to ensure that they have the computer hardware, software, and online access to fully participate in this course. Information technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for late or missing assignments, quizzes, or exams. You must complete all assignments and assessments on the dates listed in the course schedule. Try to have things completed early, so you do not have difficulties when it is time to upload assignments. Any blackboard, computer help, or technical issues should be immediately addressed via SHSU online support at 936-294-2780 or [blackboard@shsu.edu](mailto:blackboard@shsu.edu). **It is in your best interest to familiarize yourself with the course layout and materials to effectively navigate blackboard throughout the semester.** Because this is an online class that offers flexibility, there will be no make-up work accepted. If you become unable to participate for a period of time, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible.

## CONDUCT POLICY

**General Conduct - All students are expected to be respectful to others and the instructor at all times.** General civility and decorum are expected. Class discussions may include controversial topics. Students should be respectful of others' viewpoints and opinions, even those that they may not agree with. Debate is encouraged but disrespect is not acceptable. Please refer to the handout on **online etiquette** for further instruction.

**Professional behavior:** The University, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. 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. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.



**Statement of Civility:** The University 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.

### ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Confidentiality:** If you would like to discuss your course performance or grades you are encouraged to email the instructor, come by during the posted office hours, or an appointment with the instructor may be made at a mutually agreeable time. In order to protect student confidentiality, it is against University policy for an instructor to discuss grades by telephone. In addition grades will be posted to Blackboard and students can review their graded assignments, quizzes, and exams under the “My Grades” link.

**Academic Advising:** Students should meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. If you have not already met with an advisor I strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible. The Student Advising and Mentoring Center, also known as the SAM Center, offers a wide variety of services for students at SHSU. An Academic Advisor can assist students in setting up a degree plan. Students MUST meet with an academic advisor per University requirements if the students does not have a SHSU GPA (new or transfer students), has below a 2.5 GPA, are subject to TSI requirements, and/or have 90+hours including the current semester. It is mandatory for seniors to meet with an academic advisor early in the semester. Please refer online for additional information and advising locations at <http://www.shsu.edu/centers/sam-center/advising/index.html>.

**Extra Credit:** In general, extra credit opportunities will not be given, but may be offered at the instructor’s discretion. However, if an extra credit opportunity is extended to one student, then all students will be given the opportunity to complete the same assignment for extra credit.

### COURSE SCHEDULE & OUTLINE

The *anticipated* schedule of lectures, readings, and examinations is as follows:

Date	TOPIC	Assignment <i>For this week, complete:</i>	Readings <i>For this week, read:</i>
Aug 23-27	Introduction to Class	Introductory Quiz A Introductory Discussion	Syllabus Introduction (M&B)
Aug 28-Sept.1	Why We Study Research Methods: Fundamentals of Research Methods	HMWK 1 Quiz 1 Discussion 1	Chapter 1 (M&B) Part I (P,L,&B) Lecture 1 Handouts
Sept.2-8	Theory in Criminal Justice Research	HMWK 2 Quiz 2 Discussion 2	Chapter 2 (M&B) Chapter 5 (P, L, &B) Lecture 2 Handouts
Sept.9-15	Ethics in Criminal Justice Research	HMWK 3 Quiz 3 Discussion 3	Chapter 3 (M&B) Chapter 12 (P, L, &B) Lecture 3 Handouts
Sept.16-22  Sept. 18 Sept. 22	Overview of the Research Design and the Research Process <i>Copy of WA1 due for review</i> <i>Peer review copy due back</i>	HMWK 4 Quiz 4 Discussion 4	Chapter 4 (M&B) Chapter 4 Handouts
Sept. 25	EXAM I (Due by 11:59 pm on Monday)		REVIEW Handouts

Sept. 26- Oct 1	Concepts, Operationalization, & Measurements	HMWK 5* Quiz 5* Discussion 5 <i>(*due by Sunday this week)</i>	Chapter 5 (M&B) Chapter 5 Handouts Chapter 1 (P,L,&B)
Oct 2-6 <b>Oct. 2</b>	Measures of Crime <b><i>Final Copy of WA1 due</i></b>	HMWK 6 Quiz 6 Discussion 6	Chapter 6 (M&B) Chapter 6 Handouts Chapter 2 (P,L,&B)
Oct 7-13	Experimental & Quasi-Experimental Designs	HMWK 7 Quiz 7 Discussion 7	Chapter 7 (M&B) Chapter 7 Handouts Chapter 7 (P,L,&B)
Oct. 14-20	Data Collection & Sampling	HMWK 8 Quiz 8 Discussion 8	Chapter 8 (M&B) Chapter 8 Handouts Chapter 7 (P,L,&B)
<b>Oct.23</b>	<b>EXAM II</b> (Due by 11:59 pm on Monday)		REVIEW Handouts
Oct.24-29	Asking the Right Questions: Surveys	HMWK 9* Quiz 9* Discussion 9 <i>(*due by Sunday this week)</i>	Chapter 9 (M&B) Chapter 9 Handouts Chapter 4 (P,L,&B)
Oct. 30-Nov.3 <b>Oct.30</b> <b>Nov. 3</b>	Qualitative Interviewing & Methods <i>Copy of WA2 due for review</i> <i>Peer review copy due back</i>	HMWK 10 Quiz 10 Discussion 10	Chapter 10 (M&B) Chapter 10 Handouts Chapter 6 (P,L,&B)
Nov. 4-10	Field Research	HMWK 11 Quiz 11 Discussion 11	Chapter 11 (M&B) Chapter 11 Handouts Chapter 7&8 (P,L,&B)
Nov. 11-17 <b>Nov. 17</b>	Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data <b><i>Final Copy of WA2 due</i></b>	HMWK 12 Quiz 12 Discussion 12	Chapter 12 (M&B) Chapter 12 Handouts Chapter 14 (P,L,&B)
Nov. 18-22	Comparing Various Methods & Designs: Article Discussions		Chapter 17 (P,L,&B)
Nov. 25-Dec.1	Evaluation Research & Problem Analysis	HMWK 13 Quiz 13 Discussion 13	Chapter 13 (M&B) Chapter 13 Handouts Chapter 11 (P,L,&B)
Dec. 2-5	Review for Final		Review Handouts & Study Guides
<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> (Due by 11:59 pm on Wednesday)		