

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
CRIJ 3378.04 (Writing Enhanced) Introduction to Methods of Research
Spring 2018

Professor: Matthias J. Woeckener

Office: CL-13

Telephone: (936)294-3645

Email: woeckener@shsu.edu

Email policy: I will usually only respond to emails between 8 am and 8 pm during the week, and sparingly on the weekends. I will do my best to respond to emails as quickly as possible, but I cannot guarantee I will respond within 2 hours.

Class Hours: Online

Classroom: N/A

Office Hours: By Appointment

Required Textbook

Bachman, R. and Schutt, R. K. (2017). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* 6th Eds. Los Angeles: Sage Publications. ISBN-13: 9781506306810

Course Description: Introduction to Methods of Research is designed to provide an overview of the basics of research in Criminal Justice, including terminology, methodologies, and the process ethics involved in studying criminological phenomenon. Topics such as conceptualization and operationalization, sampling, and measurement validity and reliability will be discussed throughout the semester. Research is important to all fields of Criminal Justice, as it helps inform policy and guidelines in various local, state, and federal departments.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course of the semester it is expected you will

1. Learn common terminology used in Criminal Justice research
2. Be able to identify the different kinds of Criminal Justice research
3. Improve your writing ability

Course Requirements and Grading

Note: 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.

Final course grades will be calculated based on the percent earned at the end of the semester.

A = 89.5-100%

B = 79.5-89.49999%

C = 69.5-79.49999%

D = 59.5-69.49999%

F = <59.49999%

Homework/Reading Checks: 10%

Exams: 30% (3 exams)

Written Assignments: 60% (5 total assignments)

Homework/Reading Check: There are 12 total assignments, one for each week that does not have an exam or a break. Each of these is due at the end of their respective week at 11:59 PM.

Exams: The exams are worth 10% of your total grade apiece. There are 45 questions (multiple choice and true/false) on the exam. You will be given 60 minutes to complete the exam. If the timer exceeds 60 minutes, Blackboard will submit your exam automatically. Each exam is due the last day of the week in which it is assigned at 11:59 PM.

Written Assignments: These are due at the end of the week they are assigned. For example, your first written assignment is due in week 4. That means it is due on 2/11 at 11:59 PM. If your assignment is submitted at 12:00 AM on 2/12, it is considered late. Any assignments that are submitted late will not be given full credit. The first day an assignment is late you will lose five points (so the maximum grade would be a 95), the second day an assignment is late you will lose 10 points, the third day an assignment is late you will lose 20 points, the fourth day an assignment is late you will lose 30 points, and the fifth day an assignment is late you will lose 40 points. After the sixth day, an assignment will not be accepted for grading and you will get a zero. The only exception to this is if I am notified beforehand of a reason why you will not be able to submit the assignment. You know well in advance when they are due, so I will not accept ignorance of the due date as a legitimate reason.

Disclaimer: I will not meet with students or answer questions two days before any of the listed assignments are due. If you have questions at any other time I would be happy to answer them and do my best to clarify anything, but it is not productive or appropriate to wait until the last minute to start a writing assignment. I will not answer questions that can be easily found in the book or lectures, unless you have consulted them first and would like clarification

Extra credit: There will be no opportunities for extra credit in this course.

Grade Rounding: There will be no grade rounding, as I have already stipulated what constitutes an A, B, C, D, and F. Please do not ask for me to make an exception at the end of the semester, because I will not make one. It's not that I'm a jerk, but rather that making exceptions to students on a case by case basis is unfair to the rest of the students who do not request for exceptions.

Plagiarism: It is a form of cheating, and will not be tolerated. If I find out that any student's assignment was plagiarized then that student will receive a 0 on the assignment and will have to schedule a meeting with me to discuss the infraction. I reserve the right to impose more serious sanctions if the infraction is egregious. When in doubt, cite the source of the information and use direct quotes. If you have any questions regarding citations do not hesitate to ask me. If you are struggling with meeting the due dates of the assignments please contact me so we can figure out how best to move forward.

Make-up Exams: There will be no make-up exams unless the student has communicated with the professor beforehand or there was an unavoidable emergency that inhibited the exam's completion. If an unavoidable emergency happens proper documentation is required.

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>

The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any point in time. If this happens, the professor will contact the class via email to outline the changes.

Course Schedule		
Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Week 1 1/17-1/28	Science, Society, and Criminological Research	Chapter 1
Week 2 1/29-2/4	The Process and Problems of Criminological Research	Chapter 2
Week 3 2/5-2/11	Research Ethics	Chapter 3
Week 4 2/12-2/18	Conceptualization and Measurement	Chapter 4/Writing Assignment #1
Week 5 2/19-2/25	Exam 1 (Covers Chapters 1-4)	
Week 6 2/26-3/4	Sampling	Chapter 5/Writing Assignment #2
Week 7 3/5-3/11	Causation and Research Design	Chapter 6
Week 8 3/12-3/18	Spring Break!	
Week 9 3/19-3/25	Experimental Design	Chapter 7/Writing Assignment #3
Week 10 3/26-4/1	Survey Research	Chapter 8
Week 11 4/2-4/8	Exam 2 (Covers Chapters 5-8)	
Week 12 4/9-4/15	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 9/Writing Assignment #4
Week 13 4/16-4/22	Analyzing Content	Chapter 10
Week 14 4/23-4/29	Evaluation Research	Chapter 11/Writing Assignment #5
Week 15 4/30-5/6	Reporting Research Results	Chapter 15
Week 16 5/7-5/10	Exam 3 (Covers Chapters 9, 10, 11, 15) <i>Due at 11:59 PM on 5/10</i>	