

Professor: Dr. Egbert Zavala

Email: egbertz@utep.edu

Lectures: Monday-Friday at 9:20AM to 11:30AM

Location: Liberal Arts Building 108

Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM (Or by appointment)

Office Location: Liberal Arts Building, Room 116

Office Phone: 915-747-6218

Course Overview & Objectives

This course is intended to introduce you to the basic methods of conducting research in the social sciences. It is not expected that you will emerge from this course as a professional researcher -- this generally takes more time and experience than can be gained in one semester. However, a major objective of the class is to make you a more critical evaluator and consumer of social research. By learning the basic methods of social research, you should be better able to analyze and critically evaluate research conducted by other social scientists. A second objective of the course is to provide you with some initial experience in conducting social research. The course will provide experience in constructing hypotheses, designing a research project, analyzing data via statistical software on the computer, and writing and reporting research findings. This experience will provide a base from which you can work toward becoming an experienced researcher. Gaining research experience is important because such skills are required in many areas of business and government, including the criminal justice system.

Required Textbook

Bachman, Ronet and Russell K. Schutt. 2014. *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (3rd Edition). Los Angeles: Sage.

Course Requirements

There are certain requirements that will be necessary to pass this class. The requirements are explained in this syllabus. Students will be given four exams and four written assignments during the semester.

Class Structure, Important Announcements, and Participation

You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned readings and being prepared for class discussions. The textbook readings are intended to provide background information to my lectures. Because I like to have class discussions when I am lecturing, it is of utmost importance that you read the assigned reading for that particular lecture in the textbook. If for some reason, due to the class discussion, I am unable to lecture on a particular topic in the textbook you are still responsible for knowing that particular section of the assigned reading. So please be aware that you will be tested on what the textbook covers as well as my lectures. The readings will be from the textbook listed above, as well as any other material that I may handout during the semester. I will not be posting my lecture slides online.

Simple Rules for Class Behavior

PLEASE BE IN CLASS ON TIME! Class starts at 9:20AM. If you are unable to make it to class at 9:20 AM during this semester because of work or other commitments, I recommend you drop this class. Repeated tardiness, cell phones ringing, sleeping, talking, reading material unrelated to class, i.e. distracting behavior, will not be tolerated and I will ask you to leave the classroom if you are conducting this type of behavior.

Use of Laptops and Other Technology In My Class

Laptops are not necessary in my class. However, the use of laptops will be allowed in my class for note taking ONLY. I also ask that you put all electronic devices away. When entering my class, I ask that you put your electronic devices in your purse/backpack. Furthermore, text messaging via cell phone or any other device will not be allowed in my class. Cell phones and any other devices should be in silent mode while in my class. If, for some reason, you need your phone on because of a particular emergency that day, please speak to me before class, and then, and only then, are you allowed to have your phone on. However, please still have it in silent mode.

Attendance

Attendance is not required in this class as an official portion of your overall grade. However, it is mandatory. Given the rather specialized subject matter of the course those who do attend class regularly will be more likely to understand the material and will therefore be in a better position to do well in the class. If you miss class, please obtain the lecture notes from one of your fellow classmates. I will not provide you with copies of my notes.

Exams

Your grade in this class will be based on 4 exams and 4 written assignments. Make-up exams may only be acceptable under extreme circumstances, such as a medical or personal emergency. I must warn you, however, that I base these decisions on a very narrow definition of extreme. The student must provide me with proper documentation to qualify for a make-up (documentation does not, unfortunately, guarantee that a make-up will be given). Missed exams will be assigned a grade of zero (0). Exams will cover material from lectures, textbook, and any other material discussed in class. Exams will be administered through Blackboard.

Written Assignments

Students will be given a written assignment each week. These written assignments consist of answering a specific question regarding one chapter covered for that week. Answers are limited to no more than 500 words. There will be 4 written assignments and is worth 10 points each. More details will be provided when the assignment is distributed to students.

Scholastic Integrity

In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, the submission for credit of any work or any materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, an act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, and available in the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, and other sanctions.

Note for Students with Disabilities

If you are registered with the *Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)*, please let me know so I can accommodate your needs. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance in a timely manner.

Final Grade Calculation:

Your grade in this class will be determined based on the exams and written assignments.

Exam 1	100 Points
Written Assignment #1	10 Points
Exam 2	100 Points
Written Assignment #2	10 Points
Exam 3	100 Points
Written Assignment #3	10 Points
Exam 4	100 Points
Written Assignment #4	10 Points
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Total Points:	440 Points

Final Grade Distribution:

440-396 Points=**A**
395-352 Points=**B**
351-308 Points=**C**
307-264 Points=**D**
263-0 Points=**F**

Please note: I have the right to make any changes to the course or syllabus and any changes will be announced ahead of time in class and/or email.

Week	Date	Class Lecture	Readings and Notes
1	Monday, July 6	Science, Society, and Criminological Research	Syllabus & Chapter 1 <i>Assignment 1 Distributed</i>
	Tuesday, July 7	Process and Problems of Criminological Research	Chapter 2
	Wednesday, July 8	Research Ethics and Philosophies	Chapter 3
	Thursday, July 9	Study Day	
	Friday, July 10	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, & 3 Assignment 1 Due
2	Monday, July 13	Conceptualization and Measurement	Chapter 4 <i>Assignment 2 Distributed</i>
	Tuesday, July 14	Sampling	Chapter 5
	Wednesday, July 15	Causation and Research Design	Chapter 6
	Thursday, July 16	Study Day	
	Friday, July 17	Exam 2	Chapters 4, 5, & 6 Assignment 2 Due
3	Monday, July 20	Survey Research	Chapter 7 <i>Assignment 3 Distributed</i>
	Tuesday, July 21	Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis	Chapter 8
	Wednesday, July 22	Analyzing Content	Chapter 9
	Thursday, July 23	Study Day	
	Friday, July 24	Exam 3	Chapters 7, 8, & 9 <i>Assignment 3 Due</i>
4	Monday, July 27	Evaluation and Policy Analysis	Chapter 10 <i>Assignment 4 Distributed</i>
	Tuesday, July 28	Mixing and Comparing Methods	Chapter 11
	Wednesday, July 29	Reporting Research Results	Chapter 12
	Thursday, July 30	Study Day	
	Friday, July 31	Exam 4	Chapters 10, 11, & 12 <i>Assignment 4 Due</i> 10:00AM-12:45PM