

CRIJ 3300 Applied Research Methods in Criminal Justice: Fall 2020

Professor: Dr. Egbert Zavala

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Lectures: Tuesdays 9:00 AM-10:20 AM

Location: Undergraduate Learning Center 126

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM (Or By Appointment)

Office Location: Education Building, Room 111

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. 2018. *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (4th Edition). Los Angeles: Sage.

Course Requirements

There are certain requirements that will be necessary to pass this class. The requirements are explained fully in this syllabus. Students will be given four (4) written assignments and four (4) exams 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.

Simple Rules for Class Behavior

PLEASE BE IN CLASS ON TIME! Class starts at 9:00 AM. If you are unable to make it to class at 9:00 AM during this semester because of work or other commitments, I recommend you drop this class. Repeated tardiness, cell phone ringing, sleeping, talking, reading material unrelated to class, and any other 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 your desk 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 your desk. 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, however, 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. Exams are to be taken on the day stated in the syllabus. 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, & any other material discussed in class.

Written Assignments

Students will be given a written assignment. These written assignments consist of answering a specific question regarding one chapter covered in class. 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 the Dean of Students, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, suspension or dismissal, among other sanctions.

Note for Students with Disabilities

If you are registered with the *Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)* as a disabled student, 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 assignments given in class.

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

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

Statement Regarding COVID-19 Precautions:

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know anyone who should report any of these three criteria, encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu. For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are pre-sent. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 Health and Safety and Section 1.2.2.5 Disruptions in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

Statement Regarding COVID-19 Accommodations:

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations. Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact *Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)* to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

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

Face-to-Face Class Meeting=		Weeks 2, 6, 10, and 14	
Week	Dates	Class Lecture	Readings and Notes
1	August 24--28	Chapter 1	Science, Society, and Criminological Research
2 UTEP Miners	August 31-September 4	Chapter 2	The Process and Problems of Criminological Research Assignment 1
3	September 7--11	Chapter 3	Research Ethnics Assignment 1 Due
4	September 14--18	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2 and 3
5	September 21-25	Chapter 4	Conceptualization and Measurement Assignment 2
6 Paydirt Pete	Sept. 28-October 2	Chapter 5	Sampling Assignment 2 Due
7	October 5--9	Chapter 6	Causation and Experimentation
8	October 12--16	Exam 2	Chapters 4,5, and 6
9	October 19--23	Chapter 7	Survey Research
10 UTEP Miners	October 26-30	Chapter 8	Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis Assignment 3
11	November 2--6	Chapter 9	Analyzing Content Assignment 3 Due
12	November 9--13	Exam 3	Chapters 7, 8, and 9
13	November 16-20	Chapter 10	Evaluation and Policy Analysis Assignment 4
14 Paydirt Pete	November 23-27	Chapter 11	Mixing and Comparing Methods Assignment 4 Due
15	November 30-Dec. 4	Chapter 12	Reporting Research Results
16	December 7--11	Exam 4	Chapters 10, 11 and 12

Team “UTEP Miners”= Last Names A-L

Team “Paydirt Pete”=Last Names M-Z