

CRIJ 3300: Applied Research Methods in CJ

CRN: 27024

Spring 2022

Professor. Hyunjung Cheon

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(915) 747-7700

Office Hours: MW 1:30pm – 3:30pm MST

Office Location: Education Building, 111J

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course meeting time: MW 10:30am – 11:50am MST

Course location: Education Building 112

COURSE DESCRIPTION

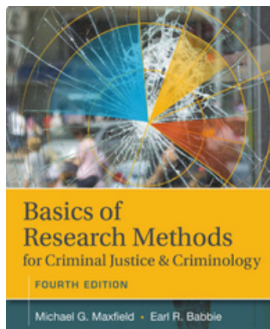
This course focuses on topics surrounding conducting original and secondary research. Specifically, students will learn the processes involved in developing and evaluating research designs, deciphering primary from secondary data sources, as well as understanding the concepts of validity and reliability and how to operationalize and conceptualize constructs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic methods of research design and data collection.
2. Understand the ethics surrounding research with human subjects.
3. Critically evaluate information sources.
4. Articulate the measurement process, including conceptualizing and operationalizing constructs.
5. Identify the various challenges facing social scientists.

REQUIRED MATERIALS



Maxfield, Michael G., and Earl R. Babbie. Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice & Criminology 4th edition

ISBN: 1305261100

ISBN13: 9781305261105

*Additional readings are available on Blackboard.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

*Exams (100 points * 3 = 300 points total)*

This course will include three in-class exams, each worth 20% of your final grade. Each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course material. The third (final) exam will not be cumulative; it will be held during finals week.

The exams will include a mix of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer/short essay questions. They will cover material from the required readings and class lectures. Exams are all closed book and closed notes.

*Homework Assignments (25 points * 4 = 100 points total)*

There will be four homework assignments during the course of the semester. You will submit a paper in response to a topic covered in class that week. The format of these papers will vary depending on the topic assigned. See the Blackboard to review assignment specifics once each prompt is posted. You are expected to turn them in on Blackboard before the due date.

Term Project (100 points)

There is one term project assigned for this course. For this project, you will create several elements of a research proposal. These include a short paper discussing your research question, the population of interest, the units of analysis, the variables of interest, the background and rationale of the proposed study (including 3 outside references), the sampling strategy, potential threats to validity, ethical and practical considerations, limitations, and a reference section. The term project is due on Sunday, May 1 by 11:59pm. The project must be submitted on Blackboard. Failure to make submission by the deadline will result in point deductions as detailed in the project instructions.

Attendance (20 points)

Attendance is required for this course. Attendance will be randomly checked throughout the semester accounting five percent of your final grade.

Summary of Graded Assignments

Assignment	Possible Points	Percent of Total Grade
Exam #1	100	20%
Exam #2	100	20%
Exam #3	100	20%
Homework Assignments (4)	100	15%
Term Project	100	20%
Attendance	20	5%
Total	520	100%

Policy on Late or Missed Exams/Assignments:

You are required to notify me before the due date if an urgent situation arises and an assignment will not be submitted on time or an exam cannot be completed during class. Please follow the appropriate university policies to request an accommodation for religious practices or to accommodate a missed assignment due to University-sanctioned activities.

Late assignments/make-up exams will only be permitted at the discretion of the instructor and will be contingent upon three requirements being met:

- a. Valid documentation of an emergency (e.g. physician’s note)
- b. Notification PRIOR to the due date
- c. Immediate arrangements to make up the assignment

Grade Scale

Grad	Percentage
A	Above 90%
B	80% – 89.99%
C	70% – 79.99%
D	60% – 69.99%
F	Below 59.99%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

COURSE COMMUNICATION

There are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** MW 1:30pm – 3:30pm MST
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the

body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages

COURSE POLICIES

General

This class will feature lectures, discussions, and a variety of activities to promote learning. To succeed in the class, it is essential that you keep up with readings, lectures, and assignments. The grade you earn in this course will be based on the amount of effort you exert. If you need a specific grade for this course, be proactive and contact me as early and often as possible. I will make every effort to assist you in achieving your goals.

Students with Disabilities

If you require modifications to the course or testing environment, please inform me as soon as practical via email or during office hours. Accommodations are coordinated through the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). If you feel an accommodation is necessary please contact CASS at 915-747-5148 (tel) cass@utep.edu (email) or visit them at Union Building East Room 106.

Electronic Device Policy

Modern communication technology can be extremely disruptive in a learning environment; therefore, smart phones must be turned off and placed in your belongings. I understand that many of you may prefer to take notes on laptops or tablets; therefore, I will allow these in the classroom with one caveat: they must be used solely for note-taking. **Those who violate these policies may be asked to leave the room.** If you are a first responder or otherwise need limited access to a mobile device for emergency purposes, please notify me during the first week of class.

Dissemination Policy

All the materials in this course, aside from that in the assigned text, should be considered as my intellectual property and, as such, under copyright protection. This includes my lectures, exams, written assignments, and notes. These are intended for your use during this course and may not be disseminated to anyone outside of the course without my explicit written permission.

Email Policy (Contacting the Instructor)

There are two ways you can contact me in this course. 1) Through your institutional email address. 2) Through the “send email” function under the course tools tab in Blackboard. I expect you to identify yourself within the body of the email. I also expect you to compose emails using standard word and sentence structure (i.e., no acronyms, slang, etc.). In other words, do not email me as if you are texting your friends.

I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours under most circumstances from Monday through Friday. I will also do my best to check my email at least once on Saturdays and Sundays; however, at times I may not be able to respond over the weekends. Please plan accordingly.

Course Drop Policy

If circumstances arise to where a student must drop this course, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate the course drop. It is also the student’s responsibility to determine how dropping

courses may affect his or her financial aid. Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.

- a) If a course is dropped within the first 2 weeks before the “official census date”:
 - a. the course will not appear on the transcript and
 - b. the course will not count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- b) If a course is dropped after the official census data but before the “course drop date”:
 - a. the student will receive a “W” in the course
 - b. the drop will show on transcripts but will not lower GPA
 - c. the drop will count toward the 6 class drop limit
- c) If the course is dropped after the “course drop date” or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc.:
 - a. UTEP requires the instructor to issue an “F” in the course that permanently remains on the transcript.
 - b. the drop will count against the 6 class drop limit.
- d) UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of excessive absences, lack of effort, or disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP email account. A “W” will be issued if the drop occurs before the course drop date, and an “F” will be issued if a student is administratively dropped for disciplinary reasons or after the course drop date. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- e) If circumstances occur where a student must miss an excessive number of classes and/or is unable to submit multiple assignments (e.g., student medical reasons, medical conditions of a family member, death of a family member, active military service), they should first discuss the possibility of withdrawal from all classes with their academic advisor. If a student withdraws completely from all classes, kindly notify me at: tedickinson@utep.edu. Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-

5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Class Recordings

Students may NOT record any portion of the course meetings without first obtaining my permission. This includes audio and video recordings. If permission is granted, these recordings cannot be shared with others outside of this course unless required by UTEP.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

A Note about Sexual Misconduct

What you should know about sexual misconduct: UTEP does not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. It is important to know that federal regulations and University policy require faculty to promptly report complaints of potential sexual misconduct known to them to their campus Title IX Coordinator(s) to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. The University will work with you to protect your privacy by sharing information with only those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. Any student who believes that he or she may be experiencing sexual harassment or misconduct is encouraged to consult with or report such conduct immediately to the Title IX Coordinators. Contact information for UTEP's Title IX Coordinators can be found here:

<http://utep.edu/titleix/Title%20IX%20Coordinators%20.html>

Covid-19 Precautions

Please stay home if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the

first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Mask Statement

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. For employees and students who have not been vaccinated, face coverings are highly recommended, especially when indoors, to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

You do not have to wear a mask in our classroom, but it is highly recommended – especially if you have not been vaccinated. I will be wearing a mask in class, except for when I am at the front of the classroom actively speaking to the class as a whole.

COURSE RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- * Students are responsible for reading all the required materials prior to coming to class on the dates listed below.
- * I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus as needed. Students are required to regularly check their UTEP email and Blackboard to look for communication of syllabus revisions.

Week 1

Wednesday, January 19

Class introduction; overview of the syllabus; pop quiz

Week 2

Monday, January 24 & Wednesday, January 26

Topic: Criminal Justice and Scientific Inquiry

Required Reading: Chapter 1

Week 3

Monday, January 31 & Wednesday, February 2 (Spring Census Day)

Topic: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research

Required Reading: Chapter 2

***Homework Assignment #1 due: Sunday, February 6 by 11:59pm**

Week 4

Monday, February 7 & Wednesday, February 9

Topic: General Issues in Research Design

Required Reading: Chapter 3

Week 5

Monday, February 14 & Wednesday, February 16

Topic: Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement

Required Reading: Chapter 4

***Homework Assignment #2 due: Sunday, February 20 by 11:59pm**

Week 6

Monday, February 21

Topic: Review for Exam #1

Required Reading: N/A

Wednesday, February 23

Topic: Exam #1

Required Reading: N/A

Week 7

Monday, February 28 & Wednesday, March 2

Topic: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs

Required Reading: Chapter 5

Week 8

Monday, March 7 & Wednesday, March 9

Topic: Sampling

Required Reading: Chapter 6

***Homework Assignment #3 due: Sunday, March 13 by 11:59pm**

Week 9 Spring Break (no classes on 3/14 and 3/16)

Week 10

Monday, March 21 & Wednesday, March 23

Topic: Survey Research

Required Reading: Chapter 7

Week 11

Monday, March 28

Topic: Review for Exam #2

Required Reading: N/A

Wednesday, March 30

Topic: Exam #2

***April 1: Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline**

Week 12

Monday, April 4 & Wednesday, April 6

Topic: Qualitative Interviewing

Required Reading: Worrall, Chapter 8

***Homework Assignment #4 due: Sunday, April 10 by 11:59pm**

Week 13

Monday, April 11 & Wednesday, April 13

Topic: Field Observation

Required Reading: Chapter 9

Week 14

Monday, April 18 & Wednesday, April 20

Topic: Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data

Required Reading: Chapter 10

Week 15

Monday, April 25 & Wednesday, April 27

Topic: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis

Required Reading: Chapter 11

***Term Project due: Sunday, May 1 by 11:59pm**

Week 16

Monday, May 2 & Wednesday, May 4

Topic: Special Topics in Criminal Justice Research

Required Reading: N/A

Week 17

Exam #3 during Finals Week (date/time to be determined)