



1. Course Information

Course Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:30 – 5:50 pm
Course Meeting Location: Education Building Room 112

2. Course Instructor

Professor: Dr. Katherine Reid

Contact: kreid2@utep.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:30, Education Building Room 111 – H or by appointment

Office Phone: 915-747-7603

Communication: Please email me, do not use Blackboard messages to contact me.

3. Course Catalog Description

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop the qualitative and quantitative research skills necessary to undertake intelligence and criminal justice work. The course demonstrates how intelligence and criminal justice data are validated, collected, systematically organized, and processed.

4. Course Learning Objectives:

After completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Differentiate, design, and critique qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research designs.
2. Apply core principles of scientific methodology to research in intelligence, national security, and criminal justice.
3. Interpret and explain basic statistical concepts, including descriptive and inferential statistics.
4. Compose clear and structured research reports and present research findings effectively.
5. Evaluate ethical issues in research design, data collection, and analysis within research settings.

5. Course Materials

This is an open access course, no textbook purchase is required. All required readings will be provided through academic journals and the below textbook.

Williams, M. (2022). Research methods for criminal justice students.

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/research-methods-for-criminal-justice-students>



6. Student Responsibilities

- Students should log on to Blackboard at least every other day to check for course updates.
- Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignments by the due dates.
- To be successful in this course, students need to complete all required assignments and tests.
- Communicate any problems as soon as possible to myself. I want to help you succeed and I cannot do that if you do not reach out.
- Students are responsible for ensuring they have uploaded the correct file before the assignment due date. What the student has uploaded by the deadline (corrupted files, incomplete papers, drafts, etc.) will be graded.

7. Course Policies

a. Attendance

I want to make sure that our class sessions are valuable and worth attending. However, I don't grade based on attendance. You are responsible for managing your own attendance. If you do miss a class session, please review slides posted and get notes from your classmates. You do not need to email me that you are missing class.

b. Late Work

All the listed assignments are due by their specific date and time. Extensions are granted on a per-case basis and requests for extensions must be made before the assignment due date. Late work will receive an immediate 10% late penalty and will increase by 10% per day until after 4 days when work will automatically be assigned a grade of 0.

c. AI Policy

Use of AI models is strictly prohibited in this course for any stage of your assignments, including idea generation, research, outlining, writing, or revising. Using AI tools makes it difficult for me to assess your individual work and provide meaningful feedback. Relying on AI for assignments undermines academic integrity, personal growth, and the learning process, as AI generated content often lacks depth, originality, and critical thinking. Any use of AI will be treated as academic dishonesty.

d. 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 Community Standards for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

e. Extra Credit

There are no guaranteed extra credit opportunities in this course. Any extra credit opportunities will be shared with the entire class; there are no individual extra credit opportunities.

f. Resubmissions

There are no resubmissions or retakes in this course.

g. Communication

Between class sessions and outside of office hours, I will be most easily reached via email. Please consider this a formal interaction and include your course name in your subject line. In general, I respond to emails between 9 am – 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Not counting weekends, I will respond within 48 hours. Please note that emailing me right before an assignment or exam may not guarantee feedback or a response in time, so please plan accordingly.

h. Course Drop

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 Registration and Records Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

i. Tech Requirements

Some 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 have access to a computer/laptop. 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 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.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Technology Support 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!

j. Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

k. Course Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit

https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.



l. Supportive Learning Environment

This course is built on the belief that we learn best in a respectful, welcoming, and engaging environment. All activities will take place in a spirit of friendly participation and open-minded discussion. Everyone brings unique experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives. These differences help us all learn more. You are expected to maintain high academic standards while treating others with kindness, curiosity, and respect. We are all lifelong learners, and learning happens when we are willing to listen to others and reflect on new ideas.

In this course, we will:

- Be kind and respectful, even when we disagree
- Stay curious and open to new perspectives
- Engage in thoughtful conversations that challenge and expand our thinking
- Support one another in learning and growing



8. Grading Scale

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	Below 60%

Final grades are a weighted average of assignment and exam grades. Final grades are not curved.

9. Course Assignments

Assignments are weighted by group; the weighting scheme will not change during the semester. In addition, this course uses APA style citations.

Assignments	Value	Total
Research Participation (SONA)	5%	5%
In Class Activities	10 x 3 %	30%
Critiques	4 x 5%	20%
Milestone 1: Research Question	5%	5%
Milestone 2: Annotated Bibliograph	10%	10%
Research Proposal	20%	20%
Presentation	10%	10%
Total		100%

a. Research Participation (SONA)

You are required to participate in three hours of research on the UTEP campus. You must sign up for one or more research studies via SONA (<https://utep.sona-systems.com>). Please refer to the handout “Sona System Policies Participant Guide” for instructions on how to obtain a participant account in SONA and how to use the SONA system.

b. In Class Activities

In-class activities will take place on Thursdays and will vary from week to week. Each activity is designed to connect with and build on the Tuesday lecture content. There will be 12 activities total, and your 2 lowest scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

c. Critiques

You will be required to critique four research papers throughout the semester. These papers will illustrate various aspects of research methodology discussed in readings and lectures. For each paper, you will complete a critique that includes questions about the paper’s content and your evaluation of it. You may be asked to critique a specific section or the entire paper.



Critiques are due by 5 pm on September 19th, October 10th, October 31st and November 21st.

d. Research Proposal

You will complete an individual research proposal for a quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods study using data on a topic related to intelligence, national security, or criminal justice. You will also give a brief presentation of your proposal during the week of December 1st. Feedback from your classmates and instructor should be incorporated into your final written proposal, which is due on December 9th. To help you stay on track, you are required to complete two milestones prior to submitting your final proposal:

Milestone 1: Research Question (due October 3)

Clearly state your research question and explain its relevance to your chosen field.

Milestone 2: Annotated Bibliography (due November 7th)

Submit 5 key sources related to your topic. For each, provide a summary and explain how it supports your research.

10. Course Calendar

Week	Topic	Date	What's Going On	Notes
Week 1	Welcome & Course Overview	Aug 26	Course Meet & Greet	
		Aug 28	Lecture	
Week 2	The Scientific Method	Sept 2	Lecture	
		Sept 4	In Class Activity 1	
Week 3	Reviewing the Literature	Sept 9	Lecture	
		Sept 11	In Class Activity 2	<u>Meet in Library @ 4:30 pm, RM 204A</u>
Week 4	Theories & Hypothesis	Sept 16	Lecture	
		Sept 18	In Class Activity 3	Critique 1 Due Sept 19 @ 5 pm
Week 5	Research Ethics	Sept 23	Lecture	
		Sept 25	In Class Activity 4	
Week 6	Measurement	Sept 30	Lecture	
		Oct 2	In Class Activity 5	Milestone 1 Due Oct 3 @ 5 pm
Week 7	Sampling	Oct 7	Lecture	
		Oct 9	In Class Activity 6	Critique 2 Due Oct 10 @ 5 pm
Week 8	Qualitative Methods	Oct 14	Activity 7	<u>Complete Citi Training Online</u>
		Oct 16	Lecture	
Week 9	Quantitative Methods	Oct 21	Lecture	
		Oct 23	In Class Activity 8	
Week 10	Mixed Methods	Oct 28	Lecture	
		Oct 30	In Class Activity 9	Critique 3 Due Oct 31 @ 5 pm
Week 11	Causality & Experiments	Nov 4	Lecture	
		Nov 6	In Class Activity 10	Milestone 2 Due Nov 7 @ 5 pm

Research Methods in Intelligence and Criminal Justice

CRIJ 5302, CRN #13142

INSS 5300 CRN # 11467

The University of Texas at El Paso

Fall 2025



Week 12	OSINT	Nov 11	Lecture	
		Nov 14	In Class Activity 11	
Week 13	Interpreting Results	Nov 17	Lecture	
		Nov 20	In Class Activity 12	Critique 4 Due Nov 21 @ 5 pm
Week 14	Communicating Your Findings	Nov 25	Lecture	
Week 15	In Class Presentations	Dec 2		Presentations pt 1
		Dec 4		Presentations pt 2
Week 16	Finals	Final paper is due: Dec 9 @ 5pm <i>You made it to the end! Good luck on finals in your other courses!</i>		

11. Readings

Week	Topic	To be done before Tuesday's lecture
Week 2	The Scientific Method	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 2 – 19 2. The Truth Wears Off: Is there something wrong with the scientific method? By: Jonah Lehrer published in the New Yorker
Week 3	Reviewing the Literature	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading Tips for Graduate Students 2. How to Read in Graduate School 3. “So What?” A Question that Every Journal Article Needs to Answer <u>Skim the below to find current theories, what researchers are studying etc.</u> 4. The Current State of Criminological Research in the United States: An Examination of Research Methodologies in Criminology and Criminal Justice Journals 5. Topics in terrorism research: reviewing trends and gaps, 2007-2016
Week 4	Theories, Models & Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 42 – 66 2. Hypothesis and Theory (Read First) 3. Theories and Models: What They Are, What They Are for, and What They Are About
Week 5	Research Ethics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 21 – 37 2. Online Extremism and Terrorism Research Ethics: Researcher Safety, Informed Consent, and the Need for Tailored Guidelines 3. Ethical challenges to research in the criminal justice system
Week 6	Measurement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 77 – 87 2. True Crime Stories? Accounting for Differences in our National Crime Indicators 3. Mapping the scientific knowledge and approaches to defining and measuring hate crime, hate speech, and hate incidents: A systematic review. 4. Measurement Issues in the Study of Terrorism: Introducing the Special Issue
Week 7	Sampling & Survey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 88 – 108, 159 – 181 2. Police research, officer surveys, and response rates 3. Surveying American State Police Agencies About Terrorism Threats, Terrorism Sources, and Terrorism Definitions 4. Snowball sampling: a cautionary tale involving a study of older drug users
Week 8	Qualitative Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 111 – 131 2. Qualitative Research Interviews and the Study of National Security Intelligence
Week 9	Quantitative Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 133 – 141 2. An Overview of Social Network Analysis
Week 10	Mixed Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 142 – 157 2. Social Ties and Jihadist Participation: A Mixed-Methods Approach to the Differential Recruitment of Radicalized Youth in Spain 3. Criminologists' perceptions of qualitative and quantitative methods in criminology and criminal justice

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Week 11	Causality & Experiments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 184 – 193 2. The lack of experimental research in criminology—evidence from Criminology and Justice Quarterly
Week 12	OSINT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open-Source Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice 2. Open-source intelligence and research on online terrorist communication: Identifying ethical and security dilemmas
Week 13	Interpreting Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textbook: pgs. 195 – 208
Week 14	Communicating Your Findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Translational Criminology: Toward Best Practice 2. Terrorism research and the diffusion of ideas