I. Misty Duke, PhD  
Office phone: 915-747-8573  
Office hours by appointment, Kelly Hall, Room 213A  
mcduke@utep.edu

II. Textbook


III. Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Describe the methodology of basic social scientific research.
B. Critically evaluate basic social scientific research.
C. Understand how data is analyzed and interpret research results.
D. Design a simple research study.
E. Understand basic statistical concepts.
G. Understand the utility of scientific research for the field of criminal justice.

III. Course Requirements

A. Exams (80%)

There will be three exams throughout the semester, two mid-terms and a final exam. The exams will include multiple-choice questions. The final exam will be cumulative for the entire semester. Only one of the mid-terms plus the final exam will count towards your final grade. The lowest exam grade will be dropped when calculating final grades. If you must miss an exam for any reason, the missed exam will automatically be dropped from your final grade. Arriving late for an exam may result in forfeiture of the opportunity to take the exam and a grade of zero. Information covered on the exams will be taken from the book and class discussions. All of the information in the book will not be covered in the class. You are responsible for reading and knowing the book material. Additionally, all of the information covered in class will not be
in the book. You are responsible for coming to class regularly. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate. The scores on all exams will be adjusted so that the average score is 75% of the maximum possible points. Exams must be completed on scantron forms using a #2 pencil. You are responsible for bringing a scantron form to class on the day of the exam. If you do not put your name on the exam, you may receive a grade of zero. If you leave the room while taking the exam, you may forfeit your right to finish the exam.

B. Chapter 14 Quiz (20%)

Because Chapter 14 introduces you to some basic statistical concepts which may be a bit challenging for the class, there will be a quiz covering only Chapter 14. This quiz will be multiple choice and may involve very simple calculations. However, the purpose of the quiz is to ensure that you understand the principles behind the statistical analyses that are utilized in social science research. The scores on the quiz will be adjusted so that the average score is 75% of the maximum possible points. The quiz must be completed on scantron forms using a #2 pencil. You are responsible for bringing a scantron form to class on the day of the quiz. If you do not put your name on the quiz, you may receive a grade of zero. If you leave the room while taking the quiz, you may forfeit your right to finish the quiz. Makeup quizzes will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, such as a medical or family emergency and documentation of such emergency will be required. The student must notify the instructor immediately. The makeup quiz must be scheduled by the student with a teaching assistant.

C. Research Participation (Extra credit)

You may receive up 30 extra credit points by participating in scientific research being conducted at UTEP. This will enable you to learn about the process of social science research. You must participate in three hours of research in order to receive all 30 extra credit points; each hour will be worth 10 points. You can sign up to participate at http://utep.sona-systems.com. If you choose to participate in this research, you should begin signing up early in the semester, as the sign up times are usually full at the end of the semester. You must submit to me a screen shot of the Sona credit page with your name on it on or before the date of the final exam. Do not turn in this screenshot until you have completed all of your extra credit hours.

If you choose not to participate in the research project, and would still like to receive extra credit, you can write a term paper for a possible 30 extra credit points. You must let the instructor know by March 17th if you will choose to write the paper and discuss the topic of your paper with the instructor. This paper will be due before the final exam.
Grading rubric:

1 mid-term exam @ 150 points each=150 points
1 final exam @ 250 points=250 points
Chapter 14 quiz @ 100 points=100 points
Extra credit @ up to 30 points=30 points

Total=530 points

500-450 points=A (90%)
449-400 points=B (80%)
399-350 points=C (70%)
349-300 points=D (60%)
299 points or below=F (below 60%)

IV. INSTRUCTOR’S POLICIES

Cell phones or tablets must only be used when responding to class pages. Talking amongst students, sleeping, repeatedly leaving the room, or any other disruptive or rude behavior during class will be cause for dismissal from the classroom.

If a student is suspected of cheating on exams or quizzes, the instructor will follow the University’s policy regarding student dishonesty, which may result in a grade of zero and referral of the student to the Office of Student Life. In order to reduce the likelihood that you are suspected of such behavior, keep your eyes on your own paper during exams, do not talk with other students once exams are distributed, and keep all belongings under your desk during exams. If a student is suspected of plagiarism on papers, the instructor will follow the University’s policy regarding student dishonesty, which may result in a grade of zero and referral of the student to the Office of Student Life.

If students have a disability that requires an accommodation, they may contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 747-5148.

Please speak to me before you consider withdrawing from the class. Under Texas law, you may be penalized academically and financially for excessive class withdrawals. If you choose to discontinue attending the class and do not apply for a withdrawal from the class with the college, you are at risk of receiving an F. I will not drop you.

Please regularly refer to Blackboard for links, documents, announcements, and calendar changes. Any announcements about the class will be posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for making sure that you are aware of this information.
V. Calendar

1/20  Introduction to class, Chapter 1
1/22  Chapters 1 and 2
1/27  Chapter 2
1/29  Chapter 3
2/3-2/5 Chapter 4
2/10  Exam 1
2/12-2/17 Chapter 5
2/19  Chapter 6
2/24-3/3 Chapter 7
3/5   Chapter 8
3/9-3/13 Spring Break-No Class
3/17  Deadline to speak to me about extra credit paper topic
3/17  Chapter 8
3/19  Exam 2
3/24-3/26 Chapters 9 and 10
3/31  Cesar Chavez Day-No class
4/2-4/7 Chapters 11 and 12
4/6   Course drop deadline
4/9   Chapter 12
4/14-4/16 Chapter 13
4/21-4/28 Chapter 14
4/30  Chapter 14 Quiz
5/5   Review for final exam

Final exam: 5/12 10:00 am-12:45 pm

* This calendar is subject to change.