

**RESEARCH METHODS IN INTELLIGENCE
INSS 5300, CRN #14283
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
FALL, 2018**

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

II. TEXTBOOK

Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.

Prunckun, H. (2014). *Scientific Methods of Inquiry for Intelligence Analysis, 2nd Edition*. United Kingdom: Rowman and Littlefield.

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- A. Understand qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research design.
- B. Apply general scientific methodology to the practice of intelligence analysis.
- C. Understand basic statistical concepts, such as descriptive statistics and probability.
- D. Learn and practice acceptable skills for writing research reports and presenting research findings.
- E. Understand ethical issues related to analytic research.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Exams (40%)

There will be two exams comprised of fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. The first exam will be on **October 14th** and the second exam will be on **December 14th**. Exams will be available on Blackboard for a 24-hour period. Once you begin taking the exam, you will need to finish it within three hours. Information covered on the exam will be taken from the book and Power Point lectures. All the information in the book will not be covered in the lectures. You are responsible for reading and knowing the assigned book material. Additionally, all the information covered in lectures will not be in the book. You are responsible for accessing the slides and listening to the lecture. The scores on the exam will be adjusted so that the average

score is 80% of the maximum possible points.

B. Critiques (20%)

You will be required to read several research papers throughout the semester. These papers will illustrate various aspects of research methodology discussed in readings and lectures. You will be required to complete a critique for each paper, which will include questions about the content of the paper and your assessment of the content. You may be asked to critique a specific section of the paper, or the entire paper. Failure to turn in the critique on time will result in a 2% deduction from your grade for everyday that it is late. See grading rubrics and due dates for critiques under the “Critiques” link.

C. Research proposal (20%) and presentation (10%)

You will be required to write a proposal for a quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research study using open source data on a topic related to intelligence and/or national security. You will work in groups of 3 or 4 on this project. Your proposal will need to include all the elements of a research paper discussed in class materials. Additionally, you will be required to submit a multi-media presentation (for example, in Power Point or Presi) of your proposal by **December 2nd**. The presentation must include an audio component. The audio component should elaborate on information provided in the slides (not merely reproduce the words in the slides). You will receive feedback from the class and the instructor on your presentation and then you will be expected to incorporate this feedback into your final, written proposal, which will be due by **December 9th**. Please see the grading rubric posted on the “Research Proposal” link on Blackboard, which specifies exactly what is expected from you regarding the written proposal and presentation.

D. Discussion questions and small group exercises (10%)

Each week, you will be assigned a discussion question and/or small group exercise to complete. Your answers to discussion questions will be graded according to the following criteria: 1) did you answer all parts of the question, 2) was your answer insightful and correct, and 3) was your answer thorough? See the grading rubrics and due dates for discussion questions and small group exercises under their associated links.

IV. INSTRUCTOR 'S POLICIES

The critiques and exams are not collaborative assignments. If you are suspected of cheating or of collaborating with other students on the critiques, I will follow the University’s policy regarding student dishonesty, which may result in a grade of zero and referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If you are suspected of plagiarism, I will follow the University’s policy regarding student dishonesty, which may result in a grade of zero and referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Academic dishonesty or cheating is simply unethical and not acceptable under any circumstances. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that involves “stealing” the words and thoughts of others. It is a very serious academic violation and cannot be tolerated. The most common form of plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper or other assignment without giving credit to the source of that information or wording. Plagiarism also includes the direct copying of a source verbatim (word for word) and incorporating that copied material into the student’s paper or assignment without first paraphrasing with proper referencing or placing the copied text into a direct quotation, again with appropriate footnotes or citations. You must use their own words when not using direct quotes sparingly and appropriately to provide examples, evidence, or illustrate specific points. You cannot simply “cut and paste” wording or text from source material to artificially “construct” their papers, essays, and other assignments. This practice is also considered plagiarism, even if references are done properly.

Likewise, you must not submit work under your name that they did not do yourself. You also may not submit work for this course that you produced for another course. If you are found to be cheating in any capacity including plagiarism and collusion, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Cases of academic dishonesty will be sent to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for adjudication and possible sanctions. Possible penalties for academic dishonesty include a zero for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, suspension, and even expulsion from the university. You are responsible for understanding their specific obligations to maintain academic integrity at all times. Please refer to the following link for further information on UTEP’s policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty: <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, you 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. You are responsible for being up-to-date on all class information that is posted on Blackboard.