

RESEARCH METHODS IN INTELLIGENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INSS 5300, CRN #11914
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
FALL, 2023
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 4:30 – 5:50
EDUCATION BUILDING, ROOM 112

- I. Misty Duke, PhD
Office phone: 915-747-8573
Office hours will be held on Tuesdays from 9:00 – 11:00, Education Building, Room 111-R
mcduke@utep.edu

II. **TEXTBOOK**

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

Remler, D. K., & Van Ryzin, Gregg, G. (2015). *Research methods in practice: Strategies for description and causation, 2nd edition*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

- A. Identify, construct, and critique qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research designs.
- B. Apply general scientific methodology to the study of intelligence, national security, and criminal justice.
- C. Recognize and describe basic statistical concepts, such as descriptive statistics and basic inferential statistical tests.
- D. Demonstrate skills for writing research reports and presenting research findings.
- E. Discuss ethical issues related to analytic research.

IV. **COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop 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.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Exams (20%)

There will be two online exams comprised of fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. The first exam will be on **October 5th** and the second exam will be on **December 12th**. Exams will be taken on Blackboard during the class period or designated final exam time period. You must complete the exam during these designated time periods (1 hour, 20 minutes for Exam 1 and 2 hours 45 minutes for Exam 2). The exams will be comprised of short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and essay questions. Information covered on the exam will be taken from the readings 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. The scores on the exam will be adjusted so that the average score is 80% of the maximum possible points.

B. Critiques (25%)

You will be required to read five 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 of 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. Critiques are due **October 1st, November 5th, November 12th, November 19th, and November 26th**. Failure to turn in the critique on time will result in a 2% deduction from your grade for every day that it is late. See grading rubrics and due dates for critiques under the "Critiques" links and on the Critiques handout at the end of this syllabus.

C. Research proposal (25%) and presentation (15%)

You will be required to write a **proposal** for a quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research study that uses open-source data on a topic related to intelligence, national security, or criminal justice. You will complete this project in teams. Your proposal must include all the elements of a research paper discussed in class materials. Additionally, you will be required to provide a multi-media presentation (for example, in Power Point or Presi) of your proposal the week of **December 5th**. All team members must carry out part of the presentation. You will receive feedback from the class and the instructor on your presentation, which you must incorporate into your final, written proposal, due by **December 12th**. Please see the grading rubric posted on the "Research Proposal" link on Blackboard and the Research Proposal handout (at the end of this syllabus), which specifies exactly what is expected from you regarding the written proposal and presentation. Failure to turn in the presentation or proposal on time will result in a 2% deduction from your grade for every day that it is late.

Additionally, you must inform me about your team membership by **September 17th** and submit

a completed Team Contract by **October 1st**. Furthermore, your team must complete a progress report by **November 19th**. Individual students must evaluate their team members' performance and participation by **December 12th**. This assessment will make up part of the Research Proposal Presentation and Research Proposal Paper grades. Failure to complete these tasks will result in a 1% deduction from your Research Proposal Presentation grade for each day that each task is late.

Your team must complete four milestones prior to submitting your research proposal. These are due **November 5th**, **November 12th**, **November 19th**, **November 26th**. Failure to turn these in on time will result in a 1% deduction from your Research Proposal Presentation grade for each day that they are late.

D. Class participation (10%)

You will be graded according to your level of participation in classroom activities (e.g., level and quality of discussion and responses to questions posed to the class, cooperation with classmates in small-group activities) and attendance. You will be allowed to have three class absences. Any absences beyond that will affect your class participation grade. This includes doctor's appointments, work obligations, sick days; all of these count towards the three-absence maximum. If you have an *extraordinary* situation that requires extensive class absences, please schedule a time to discuss this with me.

Please do not come to class if you are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If any of these events occur, you must inform me as soon as possible and I will allow you to make up missed classroom work; missing class for a documented case of COVID will not count towards your three-absence maximum.

Class materials will be available on Blackboard. If you must miss class, you are responsible for reviewing this information and for obtaining any further information about the missed class from your classmates.

E. Research participation (5%)

You are required to participate in three hours of research on the UTEP campus or to complete a three-hour online research ethics course. 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.

VI. GRADING SCALE AT THE END

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

F = below 60%

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

VII. TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS

For all technological, hardware, software problems, lost files, and/or questions with Blackboard, as well as difficulties you are having during an exam, contact Technology Support Help Desk 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tech support is set up to specifically address technical questions and problems about Blackboard.

Professors are not technical support staff.

Phone: 915.747.4357 or toll free: 1-877-382-0491

E-mail: helpdesk@utep.edu

Website: <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

In Person: UTEP Library, Room 300

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. Although I will try to provide you with reminders for exams, you are ultimately responsible for submitting all assignments and exams on time. Note that, as with any online program, Blackboard may experience unexpected technical difficulties from time to time. For this reason, I strongly suggest that you do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments. Technical difficulties are no excuse for late submissions.

CHECK YOUR TECHNOLOGY

- A. Computer with a reliable internet connection. Mobile devices are not reliable to access exams and use the discussion board.
- B. Blackboard (BB) Learning Management System. The entire course is run through UTEP's BB system, so students must activate and use their BB accounts regularly. Always log in using your UTEP name and password, and never as a "guest" (the guest option will kick you out after 15-20 minutes, which is problematic when taking a test because you will not be able to finish your test). All students are responsible for regularly logging in and checking for posted announcements, submitting assignments, participating in discussion boards, and taking tests through BB. Contact UTEP tech support for any questions or concerns regarding navigating in BB or learning how to do something in BB.
- C. Browser Information (See the left side of the menu on the main BB page for hardware, software, and browser checks) Firefox seems to consistently work the

best, but other supported Browsers include Chrome, Safari, and Internet Explorer. Be sure to “Allow pop-ups” for Blackboard Clear your browser cache

- D. Verify that you have the most updated version of “Java” <http://java.com>.
- E. All word documents should be saved with a “docx” extension identifying it as a Microsoft Word file or compatible with MS Word, Windows Media Player, Quick Time, Adobe Reader, Adobe Flash Player

VIII. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The critiques, individual assignments, and exams are not collaborative assignments. If you are suspected of cheating or of collaborating with other students on these assignments, 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. Direct quotes should be used sparingly and only when appropriate 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/>.

IX. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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

X. UTEP COURSE DROP POLICY

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, you are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is your responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect financial aid. **You are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over your entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.**

- A. If a course is dropped before the “official census date,” the course will not appear on the transcript, and doesn’t count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- B. Dropping a course after the official census date, but before the “course drop date” will generate a “W” in the course—although the drop shows on your transcript, a “W” does not lower your GPA. However, a “W” counts against your 6-drop limit.
- C. If the course is dropped after the “course drop date” or if you just stops participating, taking tests, etc., UTEP requires the instructor to issue an “F” in the course that permanently remains on the transcript.
- D. UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of too many times the student fails to submit assignments, discussion questions, or because of disciplinary reasons. In this case, you will be notified of the course drop through your UTEP student email account. A “W” or an “F” will be issued. A “W” for these reasons counts against the 6-drop limit.

XI. STUDENT CONDUCT

You must be respectful of other students and of all opinions. All communication should be free of vulgar, offensive, and/or discriminatory language. While it is appropriate to share your opinion on particular issues, your opinion should be presented as such (not as a fact) and should be supported by valid, factual arguments. You may also provide constructive criticism of other opinions. Constructive criticism is provided respectfully and professionally, criticizing the merit of the arguments or the veracity of the facts not the person.

Cell phones should not be used in class without the permission of the instructor. You should attend to the instructor during class lectures. If you are disruptive to the class, you will be asked to leave. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to record lectures. Laptops are allowed during class for taking notes or to aid in classroom exercises. If you use a laptop for other purposes, you will be asked to put it away.

According to University policy, “The Texas Department of Public Safety defines a concealed handgun as a handgun, the presence of which is not openly discernible to the ordinary

observation of a reasonable person. This same definition is utilized at UTEP. At all times, the handgun must be on or about the license holder's body or secured and concealed safely." This means that handguns may not be openly displayed on campus.

You should ensure that all emailed communication is written using appropriate etiquette. Please use a salutation (for example, "Dear Dr. Duke", or "Hello Dr. Duke"), a clear and thorough communication of your question or concern, and a closing (for example, "Thanks, Bill Martinez" or "Sincerely, Angel Gomez"). Make sure to proofread your emails for grammar, spelling, and clear meaning. Also, please be sure to indicate the course title or number in your email.

XII. COVID-19 SAFETY POLICY

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, or test positive for, or know that you have COVID-19, please let the instructor know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive or know that you have COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to please get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is free and widely available in the El Paso area and will also 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.

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 teams 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. Your instructor will wear a mask when interacting with students directly but will remove the mask when speaking to the large team; your instructor has been fully vaccinated.

Please contact the instructor if you have any questions concerns related to your safety on campus.

XIII. TEAMWORK POLICY

Your Research Proposal assignments will require teamwork. Effective teamwork requires cohesion and team norms about work ethics. In other words, the members of your team should work well as a unit and equally share in the effort related to team tasks. Unfortunately, sometimes there is a tendency for at least one team member to be a *social loafer*, to allow others to do the work and then take an equal part of the credit. This interferes with team cohesion and violates team norms. Therefore, all members of the team will sign a team

contract early in the semester that defines roles, agreed channels for communication, respectful behavior, etc. The contract will also provide a procedure for action if one or more team members violates the terms of the contract. After both team assignments, team members will assess and provide feedback regarding each other's performance during the assignment. This assessment will form part of Research Proposal Presentation and Research Proposal Paper grades.

XIV. UTEP EDGE STATEMENT

The UTEP Edge is our philosophy that acknowledges the many assets our students bring to the University. We provide a variety of high-impact experiences both in and out of the classroom through work of our faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners that build on these assets and talents. Many of the assignments and discussions in this class will further develop the talents you bring to this class such as developing your communication skills, teamwork, critical thinking, research, and problem solving. These skills will be developed through consumption of class content, completing critiques of research studies, and milestones towards your research proposal.

Mastery of these skills will be demonstrated through exams and the presentation and written report of your research proposal. Some of these assignments, such as understanding and critiquing research studies, are related to more general intelligence analysis skills that you will gain in INSS 5305 Introduction to Intelligence Analysis. Some of the skills involved in completing your research proposal, such as finding sources to support your literature review, are related to skills you will obtain related to open-source data collection in INSS 5307 Open Source Intelligence. Finally, research skills will be necessary to complete either INSS 5390 Capstone or INSS 5398/5399 Thesis.

XV. CLASS CALENDAR*

PART I: WHAT IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF RESEARCH AND HOW DOES THIS INFORM THE THEORIES WHICH GUIDE RESEARCH?

Week 1: 8/29 – 8/31

Introduction to Research Methods and Epistemology

Remler, Chapter 1

Creswell, Chapter 1

Week 2: 9/5 – 9/7

Theory, Research Questions, and Hypothesis Testing

Remler, Chapter 2

Creswell, Chapters 3 and 7

Week 3: 9/12 – 9/14

Qualitative Research

Remler, Chapter 3

Anderson, C. (2010). Presenting and evaluating qualitative research. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, 74*, 1-7.

Sandelowski, M. (1998). Writing a good read: Strategies for re-presenting qualitative data. *Research in Nursing and Health, 21*, 375-382.

Due 9/17: Team membership post

PART II: WHAT ARE THE TOOLS AND PROCEDURES USED TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH?

Week 4: 9/19 – 9/21

Measurement and Sampling

Remler, Chapters 4 and 5

Week 5: 9/26 – 9/28

Secondary Data and Data Collection

Remler, Chapters 6 and 7

Due 10/1: Critique #1

Due 10/1: Team contract

Week 6: 10/3 – 10/5

Exam 1 (10/5)

Due 10/8: Personal evaluation of Critique #1

Week 7: 10/10 – 10/12

Interpreting Quantitative Data

Remler, Chapters 8 and 9

Week 8: 10/17 – 10/19

Understanding Causation

Remler, Chapter 11

PART III: WHAT ARE SOME COMMON RESEARCH DESIGNS?

Week 9: 10/24 – 10/26

Observational Studies

Remler, Chapter 12

Sun, I. Y. (2007). Policing domestic violence. Does officer gender matter? *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 35, 581-595.

Week 10: 10/31 – 11/2

Randomized Experiments/Natural and Quasi Experiments

Remler, Chapters 14 and 15

McDermott, R. (2011). Experimental intelligence. *Intelligence and National Security*, 26, 82-98.

11/3 Course Drop Deadline

Due 11/5: Research question for Research Proposal

Due 11/5: Critique #2

Week 11: 11/7 – 11/9

Mixed-Methods Research

Cresswell, Chapter 10

Due 11/12: Critique #3

Due 11/12: Research design for Research Proposal

PART IV: HOW DOES RESEARCH FIT INTO, AND AFFECT, ISSUES IN THE REAL WORLD?

Week 12: 11/14 – 11/16

The Policy, Production, and Ethics of Research

Remler, Chapter 16

Due 11/19: Critique #4
Due 11/19: Data analysis plan for Research Proposal
Due 11/19: Team progress report

PART V: HOW IS RESEARCH COMMUNICATED TO STAKEHOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC?

Week 13: 11/21 (No class on 11/23-Thanksgiving Holiday)

Presenting Research Findings: Literature Review, Writing an Introduction, and Writing about Research Methods

Remler, Chapter 17

Cresswell, Chapters 5 and 6

Due 11/26: Critique #5
Due 11/26: Outline of literature review for Research Proposal

Week 14: 11/28-11/30

Presenting Research Findings: Writing about Conclusions and Oral Presentations

Cresswell, Chapter 4

Bem, D.J. (2003). Writing an empirical journal article. In J.M Darley, M.P. Zanna, & H.L. Roediger III (Eds) *The Complete Academic: A Practical Guide for the Beginning Social Scientist, 2nd Edition*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

INSS Writing Guide

Week 15: 12/5 – 12/7

Research Proposal Presentations

Presentations in class December 5th and 7th

Due 12/3: Research Proposal Presentation (upload slides to Blackboard)
Complete research participation by December 8th

Week 16: 12/12

Due 12/12: Research Proposal Paper
Due 12/12: Team member evaluations
Exam 2 (12/12)
Due 12/12 (If you choose the ethics course option) Ethics participation certificate

*Calendar subject to change

GRAPHIC SYLLABUS

THE PROCESS OF RESEARCH

