

# CRIJ 3300- Applied Research Methods Fall 2018 (CRN# 18303)

**Professor:** **Dr. Stacie Ordoñez**  
Department of Criminal Justice  
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**Class Dates:** August 27-October 12, 2018

**Office Hours:** Virtual Office Hours are by appointment. I am able to meet with students via phone, and Skype. I can be reached by course email, UTEP email. Please allow 24 hours to respond on weekdays and 48 hours over the weekend.

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## CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

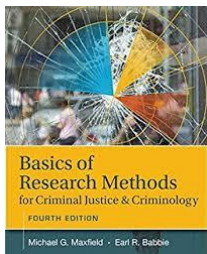
This course introduces students to research with a focus on the importance of suitability of the sample for research question, as well as the correctness of the concepts, methods of data collection and analysis used. Students should develop the skills required to become educated users of research findings and reports.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course prepares students to:

1. Analyze reasons for why people commit crime and/or engage in deviance
2. Understand the concepts, terms, and propositions of each criminological theory, including deterrence, rational choice, biosocial, psychological, social learning, social bonding/control, strain, labeling, conflict, Marxist, feminist, and radical/critical theory.
3. Become familiar with key criminologists who developed each major criminological theory and the historical context leading up to each theory's development.
4. Appreciate the practical application of each criminological theory in daily life and in the professional field.

## REQUIRED TEXT:



### Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice & Criminology

Michael G. Maxfield; Earl R. Babbie  
ISBN-978-1-305-26110-5

## SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Weekly Discussions	(25 pts X 10)	250 Points
Exams	(100 pts X 2)	200 points
Proposal Components	(50 pts X 5)	250 Points
Final Research Proposal		100 points

## GRADING SCALE:

**800 points possible**

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Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
720-800	90-100	A
640-719	80-89	B
560-539	70-79	C
480-559	60-69	D
0-479	0-59	F

**NOTE: Grades are assigned according to the total points earned. I do not curve grades or round up. If you end the class with 719 points which is an 89.8, you will receive a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.**

### DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### **I. Final PAPER: Final Research Proposal**

Using the template provided, you will complete a Research Proposal throughout this semester. Each week you will be working on a component of the proposal, essentially building your final proposal. **Refer to Blackboard for more information regarding your Final Paper.**

#### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Due dates are posted. Plan accordingly. I do not accept late assignments. I understand that life happens and sometimes things come up that we don't expect, don't wait until the last minute to submit assignments. Exceptions can be made at my discretion.

#### **II. Research Proposal Components**

Each week, you will be submitting completed sections of the template provided in Blackboard. **YOU MUST USE THE TEMPLATE/FORM. Refer to Blackboard for more information regarding these assessments**

#### **III. Discussion Participation**

Each week there will be one or two discussion question that must be answered thoroughly and completely. Your response to the discussion question should be scholarly and thorough. In your response, you must demonstrate your understanding of Textbook readings and the application of the covered materials. Initial posts are due by Tuesday, response to peers are due by Friday at midnight.

You are required to respond to two students/peers that provokes thought. You must respond with more than "Good job," or "I agree." Your response to your peers during discussion posts should provide your understanding or an alternative to their opinion and the application of concepts.

**Netiquette:** You must maintain an academic attitude and uphold UTEP policies. Being disrespectful, using profanity or unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated. All of your online communications must be composed with fairness, honesty and tact.

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IV. **EXAMS:** There is a midterm and a Final exam, worth 100 points each (**SEE schedule for exam dates**)

- A. **The exact format of exams is to be determined.** However, the exams will likely be structured with some combination of Multiple choice, True/False, and/or Essay questions.
- B. **Exams must be submitted in Blackboard by the due date. Missed Exams CANNOT be made up.**

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty includes cheating on an exam, turning in someone else's assignment from a previous class, or plagiarism: "(1) use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without fully and properly crediting the author with citations or biographical reference; (2) unacknowledged use of work/materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials; (3) unacknowledged use of original work/material that has been produced through collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators."

I take cases of alleged academic dishonesty seriously. For students who are found to have allegedly engaged in any form of academic dishonesty, the case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). While the case is being investigated by OSCCR, an "I" (Incomplete) will be assigned until the case is resolved. If the student is found by OSCCR to have engaged in misconduct, sanctions may include a failing grade on the assignment or exam in question, a failing grade in the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University. See <http://www.utep.edu/dos>

### UTEP Drop Policy

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, *students* are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect 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) Students who drop a course within the first 2 weeks *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, this type of drop counts against your 6 drop limit.
- c) If the course is dropped *after the "course drop date"* or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc., UTEP requires the instructor to issue an "F" in the course that permanently remains on the transcript. This type of drop counts against the 6 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 Dr. Ordonez at [saordonez@utep.edu](mailto:saordonez@utep.edu). Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

### FIGURING YOUR GRADE AT THE SEMESTER'S END:

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Remember that the letter grade for the class is determined by the number of points you accumulate during the semester, so every point counts. You simply ADD up the number of points *you earn* for every test, assignment, and attendance and then refer to the grading scale.

There are no percentages, no rounding, or dividing of numbers—simply record points as you go.

**\*I reserve the right to add assignments if necessary and amend the schedule to suit the needs of the class.\***

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC COVERAGE*</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
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Week 1	Criminal Justice and Scientific Inquiry General Issues in Research Design	Read Ch 1 Read Ch. 3
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**Complete Sections 1 & 2 of the Research Proposal Template Selecting a Topic**

Week 2	Ethics and Criminal Justice Research	Read Ch. 2
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**Complete Sections 3, 4 & 5 of the Research Proposal Template-Defining your Topic and Problem Statement**

Week 3	Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement	Read Ch. 4
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**Complete Section 6 & 7 of the Research Proposal Template-Operationalizing Variables and Literature Review**

Week 4	Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs Sampling	Read Ch. 5 Read Ch. 6
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**Midterm Due Wednesday at Midnight 9/26/18**

Week 5	Survey Research Qualitative Interviewing Field Observations	Read Ch. 7 Read Ch. 8 Read Ch. 9
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**Complete Sections 8 & 9 of the Research Proposal Template- Methodology and Sampling Procedures**

Week 6	Content Analysis	Read Ch. 10
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**Complete Section 10 of Research Proposal Template- Identifying Stakeholders**

Week 7	Application and Analysis	Read Ch. 11
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**Final Exam Due Friday by 5pm 10/12/18**

**Complete Sections 11 & 12 of the Research Proposal Template- Expected Outcome and Finalizing your references**

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