

CRIJ 3300- Applied Research Methods Spring 2018 (CRN# 28010)

Professor: **Dr. Stacie Ordoñez**
Department of Criminal Justice
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Class Dates: **January 16, 2018 – March 2, 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.

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:



**Research Methods for Criminal Justice and
Criminology, 8th Edition**

Michael G. Maxfield; Earl R. Babbie
ISBN-10: 1-337-09182-0

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Weekly Discussions	(25 pts X 8)	200 Points
Exams	(100 pts X 2)	200 points
Proposal Components	(50 pts X 5)	250 Points
Final Research Proposal		100 points

GRADING SCALE:

750 points possible

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Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
675-750	90-100	A
600-674	80-89	B
525-599	70-79	C
450-524	60-69	D
0-449	0-59	F

NOTE: Grades are assigned according to the total points earned.

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. You can submit all assignments early. Late assignments will be deducted 10% for each day the assignment is late. Assignments submitted more than 2 days late, will not be accepted.

II. Research Proposal Components

Each week, you will be submitting completed sections of the template provided in Blackboard. **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 is 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.**

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY:

1. Each student is expected to take the exams as scheduled.
2. **To make-up an exam, students MUST email Dr. Ordonez prior to the exam to make arrangements to take the exam. Student must have a verifiable excuse and it is the instructor's discretion as to what is a valid excuse.**
3. Students are allowed only one make-up exam for the entire semester.

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

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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. 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:

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.**

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<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC COVERAGE*</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Week 1	Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Theory Foundations of Criminal Justice Research	Read Ch 1 Read Ch. 2
Complete Sections 1 & 2 of the Research Proposal Template Selecting a Topic		
Week 2	Ethics and Criminal Justice Research General Issues in Research Design	Read Ch. 3 Read Ch. 4
Complete Sections 3, 4, & 5 of the Research Proposal Template-Defining your Topic and Problem Statement		
Week 3	Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement Measuring Crime	Read Ch. 5 Read Ch. 6
Complete Section 6 of the Research Proposal Template-Identify Theory to support your topic		
Week 4	Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs Sampling	Read Ch. 7 Read Ch. 8
Midterm Due Friday at Midnight 2/9/18		
Week 5	Survey Research Qualitative Interviewing	Read Ch. 9 Read Ch. 10
Complete Sections 7 & 8 of the Research Proposal Template-Choosing a Methodology and Defining your Population		
Week 6	Field Observations Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data	Read Ch. 11 Read Ch. 12
Complete Section 9 of Research Proposal Template-Operationalizing your Variables		
Week 7	Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis Interpreting Data	Read Ch. 13 Read Ch. 14
Final Exam Due Friday by 5pm 3/2/18		
Complete Sections 10, 11 & 12 of the Research Proposal Template-Interpreting your data, Expected Outcome and Finalizing your references		
*I reserve the right to add assignments if necessary and amend the schedule to suit the needs of the class.		

