

UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD
Division of Extended Academic Programs
Department of Criminal Justice
CRIJ 3370: Criminal Justice Research Methods

Syllabus/Outline

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Introduction and General Information

Criminal Justice Research Methods (CRIJ 3370) is designed to be an introductory course that is structured to get students conversant with the language of research, important concepts and processes of social science research. This course will expose students to both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The course will range from methods of data collection to data analysis. By the end, students will design a research project.

Students are expected to read the ANNOUNCEMENTS area several times a week. Each week may have a general announcement to start. I may post specific announcements for the week at any time there is need

Reading the Course Outline is mandatory. This will answer most of the questions you may have. Also have a handy copy of the outline. It contains due dates for weekly assignments, quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to have this information.

The required software for this course is Microsoft Office Professional 2003, 2007 or 2010. If you do not have this loaded on your computer you can purchase an education-discounted copy from UIW. **The software can also be purchased at the UIW Business Office for \$10 per copy.** Call 210-829-6099 or eapbo@uiwtx.edu.

You must be a member of an academic institution to qualify for purchase. The products offered on this storefront are not for the general public. You will be requested to provide proof of academic affiliation prior to your product shipping in order to take advantage of these special offers. Delivery of this software takes several weeks. Ordering after the course starts will place you behind in your assignments.

To submit your weekly assignments, you will go into the ASSIGNMENT area and use the Drop Box to send your attachments for that week's work. The work will be graded and grades will automatically be posted in the GRADEBOOK area. If there is need, I will send you a feedback in the feedback area of the assignments area. Please, make sure you go through the feedbacks.

Do well to check the Weekly Lessons link for small weekly lectures. All assignments are due by Midnight CST on Sundays of the week indicated on the course outline.

Required Course Materials:

- ❖ Kraska, Peter & Lawrence, Neuman (2012). Criminal Justice and Criminology Research Methods, 2nd Edition. Pearson Publishing.

- ❖ MS Office Professional 2010 (or earlier version)
- ❖ Computer with basic system requirements (Pentium or higher system and 28.8 or higher speed modem connection.)
- ❖ Microsoft Office XP or higher on a Windows operating system or comparable Mac system, and
- ❖ an Internet Service Provider (ISP)

Supplementary Material:

You will need the information from the links below for your final paper and subsequent writing exercises.

Access the OWL APA Guide (free) online at

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

UIW Online Writing Center can be accessed at:

<http://www.uiw.edu/owc/>

Catalog Description:

Criminal Justice Research Methods (CRIJ 3370) is designed to be an introductory course that is structured to get students conversant with the language of research, important concepts and processes of social science research. This course will exposed students to both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The course will range from methods of data collection to data analysis. By the end, students will design a research project.

How Course Fits Within Curriculum

While this course satisfies the requirements for graduation, it also equips students with the required basic knowledge needed for research in the Criminal Justice System.

Assessments:

- ❖ Weekly homework assignments
- ❖ Web Discussions
- ❖ Research Paper
- ❖ Examination

Objectives of the Course:

By the end of the term students will be able to do the following:

- ❖ Use a crime theory to design research methods in a scientific study
- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of methods of data collection
- ❖ Outline and explain potential ethical issues in scientific research
- ❖ Establish the ability to design a research methodology that relates to Criminal Justice procedures and policy.
- ❖ Write a research paper.

Assessment of Each Outcome:

- ❖ Weekly homework assignments to demonstrate knowledge of each unit we cover.
- ❖ Midterm and Final examinations (research paper) that demonstrates competency of the course material.
- ❖ Discussion that demonstrates the ability to apply the concepts.

Academic Dishonesty:

University of the Incarnate Word is strongly committed to the nurturing of academic excellence. The University expects its students to pursue and maintain truth, honesty, and personal integrity

in their academic work. Academic dishonesty, in any form, constitutes a serious threat to the freedoms, which define an academic community. For details on what constitutes academic dishonesty and its consequences, go to the following web address: <http://www.uiw.edu/ugcat01-03/05.html#grades>.

Study Objectives/Expectations:

This online course is not self-paced, nor is it open-ended. There is a beginning and ending date for each course, and assigned deadlines for homework, reading, quizzes, and on-line discussion. Our online class will be taught in a somewhat informal lecture and discussion format. Open-ended discussion is highly encouraged and students are invited to ask questions or raise points for discussion at any time. All of our discussion and person-to-person contact will be done through the website to maintain the integrity of the learning process. Questions or comments regarding grades or other personal matters should be sent directly to me.

This course is eight weeks long. We cannot possibly cover all aspects of this course in that short period of time. You will do most of your work off-line, but you will be expected to access the website area at least five out of the seven days per week to submit work, retrieve assignments, read, and participate in posted group discussion. Participation is critical to your successful completion of this class and will have a major bearing on your final grade. Let me be clear that this does not mean you will not pass the course if you are on less than five days.

Finally, note that research is practice. You cannot do well in the course if you do not participate fully. There will be weekly homework assignments. Discussions will also be based around the concepts in order for all of the students in the class to support each other in learning the course material. You are expected to respond to the question I post each week and also respond to at least one classmate's post.

Professionalism:

Because this is a research course, your assignments should reflect your abilities to articulate your thoughts in writing. Spelling, presentation and organizational skills are things you should be mindful of when writing in discussions and completing your assignments.

Lectures:

There will either be a lecture link or lecture notes posted on the blackboard at the beginning of each week (Monday). You will be directed as necessary to some video resources that will aid you in the lesson being treated at the time.

Homework (30% of Final Grade):

All homework assignments will be turned in using the student drop box in the ASSIGNMENT area.

As indicated earlier, due date for all homework is Sunday of the week by midnight Central Time. All homework turned in after designated time will receive a zero score. If you foresee a problem, or have trouble with the software, need help, etc., notify me as soon as possible before the deadline. If you encounter any other problems with meeting a given deadline, contact me and I will evaluate your situation on an individual basis. I am mindful of our hectic lives and late homework assignments may happen. However, you also need to remember, this is an eight-week course, so we move through the material rapidly.

Discussion Exercises (20% of Final Grade):

You are expected to respond to the initial discussion question and respond to the response of your classmates.

Initial post on discussion question should be posted no later than midnight on Wednesday of that week. This will allow your classmates to respond to your post.

Midterm Quiz and Final Examination (Worth a combined total of 50% of Final Grade):

In Week #4 of the course you will be taking a quiz covering material from the first half of the course.

In Week #8 of the course you will be submitting a final paper based on the research work that you have been doing for the term. This will demonstrate and understanding of all major concepts treated.

Grading Evaluations:

Assessment	Description	Weight
Homework	Instructions correctly followed and all work completed and successfully submitted by the designated due date.	25%
Rough Draft of Research Paper	Students are expected to submit a rough draft of the research paper by week 7. Details will be provided.	5%
General Discussion	Each week students will be expected to do one original post on an assigned topic each week and one reply to a classmate	20%
Midterm Exam	Instructions correctly followed and all work completed and successfully submitted by the designated due date. Possible	20%
Research Paper	Your final Exam will be a research paper. This will be done following APA style. Any topic in Criminal Justice will be accepted. Details will be provided 2 nd week of class.	30%
Total Grade		100%

Grading Scale:

A	93 – 100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90 – 92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87 – 89	C	70-76	D-	60-62
B	83 – 86	There is no C-		F	< 60

A+ and A- indicate a superior grasp of the subject matter of the course, initiative and originality in attacking problems, and ability to relate knowledge to new situations.

B+, B, and B- indicates better than average grasp of the subject matter of the course and ability to apply principles with intelligence.

C+ and C indicates an acceptable grasp of the essentials of the course.

D+, D, and D- indicates less than average performance in the course.

F indicates failure to master the minimum essentials of the course. The course must be repeated.

This course begins with everybody deserving an ‘A’ grade.

Week	Alternative Instructional Equivalent (AIE) for Activity	Expected Study Time
Week 1	Self-Introduction Chapter 1; Criminal Justice Research (2) Chapter 2; The nature of science and research (2) Answer the discussion questions (1) Post responses to classmates’ post (1) Assignment 1	6 hours
Week 2	Chapter 3; Theoretical Foundations (2) Chapter 4; Ethics (2) Conceive and submit research topics for review Answer the discussion questions (1) Post responses to classmates’ posts(1) Assignment 2	6 hours
Week 3	Chapter 5; Research Design and Measurements Chapter 6; Sampling (2) Work on introduction of your research paper as directed (1) Draft and submit an overview of the research paper (abstract) (1) Answer the discussion questions (1) Post responses to classmates’ posts (1) Assignment 3	6 hours
Week 4	Midterm Exam Chapter 11; Nature of Qualitative Research(2) Chapter 12; Field Research (2) Answer the discussion questions (1) Post responses to classmates’ post (1)	6 hours
Week 5	Chapter 13; Historical and Legal Research(2) Chapter 7; Experimental Research(2) Work on Literature review of research paper Answer the discussion questions (1) Post responses to classmates’ post(1) Assignment 4	6 hours
Week 6	Chapter 8; Survey Research (2) Chapter 9; Non-Reactive Research (2) Work on methodology of research paper Answer the discussion questions (1) Post responses to classmates’ post(1) Assignment 5	6 hours
Week 7	Chapter 10; Analysis of Quantitative Data (2) Chapter 14; Presenting Crime and Justice Research (2) Do analysis and submit rough draft of research paper Answer the discussion questions (1) Post responses to classmates’ post (1) Assignment 6	6 hours
Week 8	Final Touches and addressing Concerns on Final Paper (2) Post concerns on research paper writing (1)	

	Respond to at least one classmate's post (1) Review responses to your post (1) Complete Final Paper and Submit before midnight on the Wednesday of week eight Final Paper Due	5 hours
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Academic Honesty Statement

The highest standards of academic honesty are expected in the course. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, counterfeit work, falsification of academic record, unauthorized reuse of work, theft, and collusion. See the student handbook for definitions and procedures for investigation of claims of academic dishonesty.

Disability Accommodations

The University of the Incarnate Word is committed to providing a supportive, challenging, diverse and integrated environment for all students. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – Subpart E and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the University ensures accessibility to its programs, services and activities for qualified students with documented disabilities.

For more information, contact:

Student Disability Services

Administration Building, Suite 105

Ph. (210) 829-3997

Fax (210) 829-6078

Website: <http://www.uiw.edu/ada/>

IMPORTANT “DROP COURSE” INFORMATION:

It is the student's responsibility to drop their course within the 100% refund period to avoid assessment of tuition and fees. There will not be a university-initiated drop for non-participation. If you do not plan to attend, you must drop your courses by Friday at 5pm of the first week of the term to be within the 100% refund period. You may do so by emailing your request to virtual@uiwtx.edu. **A \$50 administrative fee is applied for all drops from courses offered through the Virtual University.**

ARMY Students must drop their course(s) through **GoArmyEd** and the drop fee will be waived.