

CRCJ 5309 Research Methods in Criminal Justice

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The University of Texas at Arlington

Instructor: Seokjin Jeong

Office: UH 305

Office Hour:

Tuesday 4:30 am – 6:00 pm

Thursday 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

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Summer Semester 2015

Classroom: UH 13

Class Hour:

Tuesday & Thursday

6:00 pm – 7:50 pm

Credit Hours: 3 Credit

Course Description:

The research methods and findings of social research influence us in so many ways that knowledge of social research is essential for making informed decisions about our daily lives. The study of research methods should sharpen your powers of critical thinking and evaluation and enable you to become a more intelligent gatherer of information. Insofar, one of the goals of this course is to help you understand the logic and limitations of social research so that you can evaluate it effectively.

The course is organized in several sections, including scientific and logical foundations of research, process of conducting research, basic terminology of research, planning or designing a study, measurement and sampling, data collection, and applying research methods to the evaluation of programs and interventions. The weekly readings, lectures, and discussions are drawn from current research articles by leading scholars from the fields of sociology, psychology, and criminal justice in the United States and other countries.

Course Prerequisites:

None.

Course Materials:

Maxfield, M. G., & Babbie, E. R. (2011). *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology*. Stamford, CT: Cengage.

Pope, C. E., Lovell, R., & Brandl, S. G. (2001). *Voices from the field: Readings in criminal justice research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Additional readings may be handed out in class when relevant.

Reading Assignments

Weekly reading assignments are indicated on the class schedule (See Below). For each class meeting, you are responsible for the readings listed next to that class topic. Participation in class discussion is expected of each student and full participation in group discussion requires that assigned reading is completed **prior** to each class meeting. Students should come to class prepared to answer questions and discuss the concepts covered in the readings. Notes taken on the readings will also be useful for class discussion and exams.

Grading:

Grades will be based on two exams, one writing assignment, and an in-class presentation. Each exam will count for 150 points. For the policy assignment, you will be asked to write a paper on a specific program, policy, or crime control strategy that reflects one of the theoretical perspectives covered in the class (worth 120 points). This assignment also has a presentation component that requires that you discuss the program and leads the class discussion on policy implications of that particular theoretical perspective (worth 20 points)

Writing Requirements:

All papers must represent the work of the individual student. Papers are due at the beginning of class; late papers will be penalized points each day past the due date (papers submitted after the 6:00 pm on due date will be penalized one full day). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All papers should be typed, spell checked, and clearly written. Poorly written papers and excessive spelling and grammatical errors will be penalized.

The paper must conform with the APA guidelines for citing references and for constructing reference lists. Examples of in-text citations and reference formatting will be provided in a handout in class. For more detailed guidelines, please refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th Edition.

Exams:

Both exams will be comprised of short answers and essay questions.

Additional Notes:

Consistently coming to class late, leaving in the middle of lecture, holding private conversations, or sleeping during class are very distracting and may result in the lowering of your final grade in this course. Please follow general rules of courtesy and respect for others during discussion. Cell phones and other electronic equipment must be turned off or stowed away during class, unless permission to use such devices has been granted by the instructor.

If you need to get a hold of me, the best way to reach me is through office hours.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is described as (i) turn in an exam, paper or project that is not your work; (ii) copy answers from another student's exam or quiz; (iii) have another person take a test or complete assignments for you; and (iv) submit the same paper for two or more classes.

Plagiarism is a particular form of cheating that involves representing someone else's work as your own, may include (i) copying sentences or phrases from the work of another without a citation; (ii) using someone else's original idea without citation; and (iii) failing to reference the source of data or facts.

Consequences of academic dishonesty and plagiarism can be severe. It may result in a zero grade in the course and removal from the program. If students are unclear about the Academic honesty policy, you are encouraged to consult the appropriate section in UTA resource.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Student Feedback Survey:

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Final Review Week:

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research

problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Grading Schema

The following scale will be used for your grading:

Total Points (%)	Grade Point
91 – 100	A
81 – 90	B
71 – 80	C
61 – 70	D
60 or less	F

Course Schedule:

Date	Subject	Reading(s)
6/9	Course Introduction & Outline	
6/11	Research Practice I	Assigned Readings
6/16	Purpose of Research & Research Process	MB: Chapters 1 & 2
6/18	Ethics in Research & Issues in Research Design	MB: Chapters 3 & 4 Assigned Reading
6/23	Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement & Measuring Crime - I	MB: Chapters 5 & 6 Assigned Reading
6/25	Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement & Measuring Crime - II	MB: Chapters 5 & 6 Assigned Reading
6/30	Experimental Design - I	MB: Chapter 7 Assigned Readings
7/2	Experimental Design - II	MB: Chapter 7 Assigned Readings
7/7	Exam 1	
7/9	Sampling	MB: Chapter 8 Assigned Readings
7/14	Survey, Interview, and Observations I	MB: Chapters 9, 10, 11 PLB: Parts 3 and 4
7/16	Survey, Interview, and Observations II	MB: Chapters 9, 10, 11 Assigned Readings
7/21	Evaluation Research & Secondary Data Analysis - I	MB: Chapter 12 & 13 PLB: Part 2 & 5
7/23	Evaluation Research & Secondary Data Analysis - II	MB: Chapter 12 & 13 PLB: Part 2 & 5
7/28	Secondary Data Analysis & Interpreting Data - I	MB: Chapter 14 PLB: Part 6
7/30	Library Research	
8/4	Secondary Data Analysis & Interpreting Data – II	MB: Chapter 14

8/6 Presentation (**Paper Due**)

8/11 Presentation

8/13 Exam 2

Course requirements are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. The class will be informed of any changes in scheduling, assigned readings, or grading policy by notice from the instructor.