

**CRCJ 3350 Introduction to Research Methods in  
Criminology and Criminal Justice**

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The University of Texas at Arlington

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**Fall 2017**  
**Classroom:** Online  
**Class Hour:** Online  
**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.

Additional readings may be assigned in class when relevant.

**Course Requirements:**

Grades will be determined by; (i) 4 exams and (ii) Discussion Boards/Weekly Assignments.

There will be two exams during the semester (noted on the schedule of readings). These will be worth 100 points each, for a total of 400 points. In addition, there will be ten Discussions Boards/Weekly Assignments (10 points each). These should be completed weekly (See the Course Schedule) and these are due by every Sunday night by 11:59pm. **NO LATE SUBMISSION WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

### **Exams:**

Four exams will be given to evaluate students' progress in this course. The exams may include multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. All exams will cover material from lecture, discussion, and readings. More information will be given before each exam. All students are required to take exams on the dates listed in the course outline. Should an emergency arise that makes it impossible to make it to an exam, you will need to present a documented excuse, written by your academic advisor, indicating the reason for emergency. (400 points)

### **Discussion Boards/Weekly Assignments:**

There will be ten Discussions Boards/Weekly Assignments (10 points each). These should be completed weekly (See the Course Schedule) and these are due by every Sunday night by 11:59pm. **NO LATE SUBMISSION WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

A percentage of your grade is based on your posts on the Discussion Boards/Weekly Assignments. You must post at least three to each discussion board unless otherwise indicated in the assignment description. One post should be your response to the questions pose in the discussion board. At lease two posts should be thoughtful responses to another student's post. Your grade on the discussion board is based on participation. Each discussion board assignment is worth 10 points. However, in order to receive full credit for these posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements:

- i) Posts should be a minimum of 150 words. While it's nice give brief feedback like "thanks" and "good idea" to your classmates and such messages are not discouraged, they do not count toward your graded contributions. On the flip side, you are not expected to write mini-essays or monologues.
- ii) Each week you should be engaged in dialogue with others, not just replying to the initial discussion question. Indeed, it can get mighty redundant in some instances if everyone replies to the initial prompt and not one replies to each other. Posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed, but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion. Don't just repeat what others have said, but make a new point, or provide a new piece of evidence;
- iii) Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation and vocabulary appropriate for a university-level course. Misuse of the discussion boards will not be tolerated.

**Late Policy:**

Students are expected to complete all graded elements by the deadlines provided. Those deadlines will be enforced. Students may NOT submit a late exam, quiz, or assignment unless they contact me with proper documentation prior to the deadline, or within 24 hours in the event of a serious emergency. Examples include documented personal or immediate-family emergencies in regards to health and well-being, documented military deployment, documented emergency services work, and documented university activities. Keep in mind that simply missing class does not delay deadlines.

**Grade Grievances:**

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog.

**Drop Policy:**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**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.

Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Electronic Communication:**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Disability Accommodations:** UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).*

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

### **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.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

**The IDEAS Center** (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email [IDEAS@uta.edu](mailto:IDEAS@uta.edu) or call (817) 272-6593.

<p><b>Emergency Phone Numbers:</b> In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at <b>817-272-3003</b> (non-campus phone), <b>2-3003</b> (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381</p>
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**Grading Schema:**

The following scale will be used for your grading:

<b>Total Points (Sum)</b>	<b>Grade Point</b>
361 - 400	A
321 – 360	B
281 – 320	C
241 – 280	D
Less than 240	F

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>
Aug 24 ~ 27	Overview Course Syllabus Review <b>No Discussion Board</b>	
Aug 28 ~ Sep 3	Crime, CJ, and Scientific Inquiry <b>Discussion Ch1 and Introduction</b> <b>(Due by September 3 11:59pm)</b>	Ch1 Discussion #1
Sep 4 ~ 10	Foundations of CJ Research <b>Discussion Ch2</b> <b>(Due by September 10 11:59pm)</b>	Ch2 Discussion #2
Sep 11 ~ 17	Ethics and CJ Research <b>No Discussion Board</b>	Ch3 No Discussion
Sep 15 ~ 17	<b>Exam 1 (Due by September 17 11:59pm)</b> <b>September 15 12:01am ~ September 17 11:59pm</b>	
Sep 18 ~ 24	General Issues in Research Design <b>Discussion Ch4</b> <b>(Due by September 24 11:59pm)</b>	Ch4 Discussion #3
Sep 25 ~ Oct 1	Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement <b>Discussion Ch5</b> <b>(Due by October 1 11:59pm)</b>	Ch5 Discussion #4
Oct 2 ~ 8	Measuring Crime <b>Discussion Ch6</b> <b>(Due by October 8 11:59pm)</b>	Ch6 Discussion #5
Oct 9 ~ 15	Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Design <b>No Discussion Board</b>	Ch7 No Discussion
Oct 13 ~ 15	<b>Exam 2 (Due by October 15 11:59pm)</b> <b>October 13 12:01am ~ October 15 11:59pm</b>	
Oct 16 ~ 22	Sampling <b>Discussion Ch8</b> <b>(Due by October 22 11:59pm)</b>	Ch8 Discussion #6
Oct 23 ~ 29	Survey Research <b>Discussion Ch9</b> <b>(Due by October 29 11:59pm)</b>	Ch9 Discussion #7
Oct 30 ~ Nov 5	Qualitative Interviewing <b>No Discussion Board</b>	Ch10 No Discussion
Nov 3 ~ 5	<b>Exam 3 (Due by November 5 11:59pm)</b> <b>November 3 12:01am ~ November 5 11:59pm</b>	



Nov 6 ~ 12	Field Observation <b>No Discussion Board</b>	Ch11 No Discussion
Nov 13 ~ 19	Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data <b>Discussion Ch12</b> <b>(Due by November 19 11:59pm)</b>	Ch12 Discussion #8
Nov 20 ~ 26	Thanksgiving Week <b>No Discussion Board</b>	No Discussion
Nov 27 ~ Dec 3	Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis & Interpreting Data <b>Discussion Ch13 &amp; Ch14</b> <b>(Due by December 3 11:59pm)</b>	Ch13 & Ch14 Discussions #9 & #10
Dec 9 ~ 10	<b>Exam 4 (Due by December 10 11:59pm)</b>	