**TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**CJ 3346.005 Research in Criminal Justice**

**Fall 2021 2:00pm-3:20pm, TR, Hines Academic Center 207**

Instructor: Angela M. Jones, Ph.D.

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Student Hours: via Microsoft Teams, please tag me to schedule

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to social science research methodology, with an emphasis in criminal justice. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the scientific method, to expose you to some of the research methods commonly used in the social sciences, and to teach you how to think critically and analytically about research methods and results.

The following courses must be completed **BEFORE** you take this course: CJ 1310, CS 1308 or CIS 1323, and Statistics (CJ 3347, PSY 3301, or SOCI 3307). **Please do not sign up for this course if you have not completed the proper prerequisites.**

**Writing Intensive Course**

Quality writing is a vital skill to have no matter your future career aspirations and a necessary one for you to pass this class. As this is a writing intensive course, you may need some additional help with the process. I would encourage you to use the university’s [Writing Center](http://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu), which is available for online appointments.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

* Differentiate between various methods of acquiring knowledge
* Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various research designs
* Understand the ethical concerns associated with conducting social science, particularly criminal justice research
* Differentiate between various sampling strategies
* Demonstrate strong written communication and collaboration skills

**Required Textbook**

Bachman, R.D. & Schutt, R.K. (2021). *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (5th Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Additional readings will be provided by the instructor via Canvas.

You have several options for purchasing or renting (physical and/or electronic versions of) this text, including the Texas State bookstore, directly through Sage, or Amazon. You do not have to get the newest edition. Any edition is acceptable for this course.

**Canvas**

Access to a computer with **reliable internet access is absolutely essential**. Students will need to familiarize themselves with the [CANVAS](https://canvas.txstate.edu/) site prior to the start of the semester.

**Contact**

**If you have any questions about the content or administration of the course, please post a message on the Q&A discussion forum through CANVAS so that other students can benefit from any resulting discussion.** I often make announcements through CANVAS. *It is your responsibility to ensure you regularly check announcements.* For personal inquiries, we can also have one-on-one chats, including video, on Microsoft Teams as well.You can download Teams on your computer (and/or phone) [here](https://doit.txstate.edu/services/office365). **Please make sure you have reviewed the syllabus and class materials before posting.**

I often make announcements through Canvas, which automatically get sent to your TX State email account. *It is your responsibility to ensure you regularly check your TX State email account.*

***Attendance:***  For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be taken every class. A check-in code will be provided each class and students will be expected to check in via Canvas with this code. Attendance is not worth any points but is vital for public health and safety purposes. Please do you part by only checking in when you attend class in person.

***Course Requirements and Grading***

Exams (3) 225 points

Assignments 195 points

Article critiques (2) 150 points

SONA/Research Experience 30 points

600 points total

***Grading Scale (Points):*** All grades will be posted in the gradebook on Canvas. Final grades will be out of 600 points: 540-600 points = A /// 480-539 points = B /// 420-479 points = C /// 360-419 points = D /// < 360 points = F.

***Exams:*** There will be four exams, each of which will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. All material covered after each exam will be fair game for the next. Exams are open for 24 hours and are due by **11:59pm** on the dates listed in the course schedule. The questions will be challenging so please make sure you study. Once you start an exam, you will have 45 minutes to complete the exam. Please plan accordingly. **The lowest exam grade will be dropped. Thus, if you miss an exam, do not ask to make it up. This will count as your dropped exam.** Your three best exam scores will each be worth 75 points of your final grade.

***Assignments:*** Most classes will involve an assignment, worth a total of 195 points of your final grade. In-class assignments must be completed and submitted in class. Homework assignments are due at the start of the next class period (2pm). For each assignment, I will specify whether they can be submitted online via CANVAS assignments or if they must be submitted in person. **I do not accept e-mailed assignments nor can any assignment be made up at a later date!** Assignments submitted online should follow APA formatting (typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font, page numbers). **You can miss one assignment without penalty. Thus, if you miss an assignment, do not ask to make it up. This will count as your dropped assignment.** More information will be provided during class.

***Article critiques:*** You will read and critique three peer reviewed, empirical articles in this course for credit. For each article, you will provide answers to a series of questions that will assess your knowledge of the material covered in the course and your ability to apply that knowledge to critique each article. Critiques can be submitted within a 48 hour window and are due by **11:59pm** on the dates listed in the course schedule. Once you start a critique, you will only have one hour to complete the exam. Please plan accordingly. **The lowest article critique grade will be dropped. Thus, if you miss a critique, do not ask to make it up. This will count as your dropped critique.** Each critique will be worth 75 points. If you decide to complete all three critiques (and I strongly suggest that you do), your two best critiques will count toward your final grade. Information for critiques will be posted the week prior to the deadline listed on the course schedule.

***SONA/Research Experience:*** Every student is required to participate in research experience for a total of 4 credits. You may do this in one of two ways:

1) As a research participant in **two**hours’ worth of research studies being conducted by Texas State faculty or graduate students.

2) Summarizing research articles published in Volume 59 (any issue) of the journal *Criminology* or Volume 17 (any issue) of *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. Each 500-word written summary is worth 2 credits.

You may also participate in one hour's worth of research studies **and**summarize one research article for full credit. **Please refer to the SONA handout listed under the Intro Module in CANVAS for additional information.** All credits must be earned by **Friday,** **December 3rd by 5pm**.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Health, Wellness, and Safety**

**Dr. Jones is fully vaccinated and will be strictly following all CDC guidelines, which currently includes wearing a mask indoors.** Throughout the semester, I strongly encourage you to refer to the [Texas State Roadmap](https://www.txstate.edu/coronavirus/road-map.html). Considering rising infection rates and recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Findex.html&data=04%7C01%7Cangela.jones%40txstate.edu%7Cf02a8da47a034bc7b78f08d95cea2f23%7Cb19c134a14c94d4caf65c420f94c8cbb%7C0%7C0%7C637642983275693202%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nq%2B739gMYPi5X2i9oIC7qP7xvfn0Ye9h8UfU21qJ%2Fvo%3D&reserved=0), Texas State is requesting all members of the university community to take these five steps:

* **Get vaccinated and wear a face mask:** While Texas State cannot currently require you to be vaccinated or to wear a face mask, we strongly urge you **get vaccinated** and **wear a mask indoors**, regardless of vaccination status. These prevention measures significantly reduce the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19. Please schedule a vaccine appointment today.
* **Get tested.** Regardless of vaccination status, get tested before the start of the fall semester and \***every two weeks**\* during the semester. Testing information can be found on the Texas State’s COVID-19 Testing, Reporting, and Response Steps webpage.
* **Stay home and get tested if you develop cold-like or other COVID-19 symptoms**, regardless of vaccination status.
* **Promptly Report to Bobcat Trace** if you test positive for COVID-19 or have had close contact with someone who received a positive test result. Reporting information can be found on the Texas State’s COVID-19 Testing, Reporting, and Response Steps webpage.
* **Isolate if you test positive for COVID-19**. Stay home and away from others for 10 days from the start of symptoms or the positive test if no symptoms.
* **Quarantine if you have been identified as a close contact** and stay home for the prescribed time period.

**Notice of Copyright/Intellectual Property**

Students are not to post any course materials on commercial or public websites, including any course related lectures or discussions with the professor or fellow students. Posting any materials without my permission violates the academic honor code and university policies regarding intellectual property. Any infringement will result in the final grade being reduced by one full letter grade. In addition, university sanctions allowed by the relevant university policies and procedures will be pursued.

**Student with learning disabilities and differences**

The professor is committed to creating an environment wherein all students can be successful. Students with learning disabilities and differences are encouraged to informally seek advice from the professor on potential accommodations. More formally, in accordance with university policy and federal law, reasonable and appropriate accommodations will be made for qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are asked to contact the Office of Disabilities Services who will then coordinate any necessary accommodations.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this course. *All written assignments will be subjected to a plagiarism check using Turnitin.* **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism** (please refer to the [APA manual](https://apastyle.apa.org/)). Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse. Assignments that are indicative of plagiarism, collusion, or any other form of violation of the Honor Code will be investigated as per procedure, and penalties applied if appropriate.

**Texas State University Honor Code**

All students taking classes in Criminal Justice must subscribe to the Texas State University [Honor Code](http://www.txstate.edu/honorcodecouncil/Academic-Integrity.html) (UPPS 07.10.01). Failure to adhere to any component of the honor code entails consequences ranging from serious (e.g., 0 points for assignments) to severe (a course grade of “F” or even dismissal from the university).

**Sexual Misconduct Reporting (SB 212)**

Effective January 2, 2020, state law (SB 212) requires all university employees, acting in the course and scope of employment, who witness or receive information concerning an incident of sexual misconduct involving an enrolled student or employee to report all relevant information known about the incident to the university's Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX coordinator. According to SB 212, employees who knowingly fail to report or knowingly file a false report shall be terminated in accordance with university policy and The Texas State University System Rules and Regulations.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WK | DAY | DATE | TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS | ITEMS DUE |
| 1 | T | 8/24 | Syllabus day |  |
| R | 8/26 | Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Research |  |
| 2 | T | 8/31 | Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Research |  |
| R | 9/2 | Chapter 2: The Process and Problems |  |
| 3 | T | 9/7 | Chapter 2: The Process and Problems |  |
| R | 9/9 | Chapter 3: Ethics **(Guest speaker via Zoom/mandatory attendance)** |  |
| 4 | T | 9/14 | **Exam #1 (administered online)** |  |
| R | 9/16 | Chapter 4: Measurement |  |
| 5 | T | 9/21 | Chapter 4: Measurement  \*Assigned reading\* |  |
| R | 9/23 | Chapter 5: Sampling |  |
| 6 | T | 9/28 | Chapter 12: Journal Articles and Plagiarism sections only, Appendix A **(Guest speaker via Zoom/mandatory attendance)** |  |
| R | 9/30 | Chapter 5: Sampling |  |
| 7 | T | 10/5 | **Exam #2 (administered online)** |  |
| R | 10/7 | Descriptive and Correlational Research  \*Assigned reading\* |  |
| 8 | T | 10/12 | Chapter 6: Experiments and Quasi-Experiments | Article critique #1 |
| R | 10/14 | Chapter 6: Experiments and Quasi-Experiments |  |
| 9 | T | 10/19 | Chapter 6: Experiments and Quasi-Experiments  \*Assigned reading\* |  |
| R | 10/21 | Chapter 7: Surveys  \*\*\*last day to drop is 10/25\*\*\* |  |
| 10 | T | 10/26 | Chapter 7: Surveys  \*Assigned reading\* |  |
| R | 10/28 | **Exam #3 (administered online)** |  |
| 11 | T | 11/2 | Chapter 8: Interviews  \*Assigned reading\* |  |
| R | 11/4 | Chapter 8: Field Observation |  |
| 12 | T | 11/9 | Chapter 8: Field Observation  \*Assigned reading\* | Article critique #2 |
| R | 11/11 | Chapter 9: Secondary Data and Content Analysis Only (skip other sections) |  |
| 13 | T | 11/16 | NO CLASS: PROFESSOR IS AT CONFERENCE |  |
| R | 11/18 | NO CLASS: PROFESSOR IS AT CONFERENCE |  |
| 14 | T | 11/23 | Chapter 9: Secondary Data and Content Analysis Only (skip other sections) |  |
| R | 11/25 | NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING |  |
| 15 | T | 11/30 | Exam #4 Review |  |
| R | 12/2 | **Exam #4 (administered online)** |  |
|  | Friday | 12/3 | (no class) | Article critique #3 (11:59pm)  SONA/research summaries (5pm) |

Note: \* Topics are subject to change/additional topics may be discussed. Due dates may also be subject to change. \*\*\* YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING ALL DUE DATES \*\*\*