

COURSE SYLLABUS Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce COVID19 Information,

https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/

CJ 337-01W: Statistics For Criminal Justice—Online

Fall (2022)/ 3 Credit Course

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

Texas A&M-Commerce

Instructor: Dr. Erik Cruz

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* (The content of this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor, revised as of 7/31/2022)

Office Hours: By appointment (schedule via email)

Why should you care about criminal justice planning and administration?

"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."

- Zara Neale Hurston

Why you are here

A primary goal of this course is to make you an educated consumer of research in a world that is ever-changing and evolving. Being exposed to various types of scientific research will help you understand the role data analysis plays in the field of social sciences. If you do not plan to enter a career as a researcher or social scientist, the work presented throughout this course will help you build a critical foundation for approaching and solving complex problems.

Course Description

This online course is designed to provide students with a practical, applied approach to understanding the introductory fundamentals of descriptive and inferential statistics and the vital role that research and statistics play in the study of criminology and criminal justice. Students will explore various types of data used within criminal justice and the fundamentals of elementary statistical analysis including the appropriate use of data, limits of various data methods, how data is collected and how to interpret findings. Students will be introduced to statistical analysis and interpretation of SPSS with real data, including subsets of data from the National Crime Victimization Survey, Monitoring the Future, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, state-level crime data from the UCR, and opinion data from the General Social Survey. Additionally, students will be challenged to analyze and critique case studies and published research via methodological and statistical lenses that focus on contemporary issues related to crime, corrections, police, and the judicial system. In this course, students will not only learn, explore and practice the "how" in statistics, they will also learn to critically question the "why's" of the data and its importance in today's criminal justice system.

Course Objectives

After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Students will explore various types of data used within criminal justice and the fundamentals of elementary statistical analysis including the appropriate use of data, limits of various data methods including how data is collected and how to interpret findings via coursework, labs, quizzes and assignments.
- Students will analyze and critique case studies and published research via methodological and statistical lenses that focus on contemporary issues related to crime, corrections, police, and the judicial system via coursework and course assignments.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to critically examine the role data and statistical analysis play in the success of governments implementing effective anti-crime programs, protecting the well being of the populations and assessing the social impact of public policies as evidenced by as evidenced by the successful completion of course assignments
- At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to articulate and demonstrate the relevancy of data and statistical analysis on crime and criminal justice as evidenced by the "overall" successful completion of course assignments.

Course Requirements

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should be familiar with the D2L software and knowledgeable with the basics of Microsoft Office.

Instructional Methods

Course delivery is completely online. Therefore, students should check their email and the course announcements regularly. All materials will be posted to the course website. It is the responsibility of the students to learn how to access these, and to reach out for help if they experience difficulties.

Expectations of this Course

My expectations of you:

- Read the assigned material.
- Turn-in assignments on time.
- Respect your instructor and fellow learning partners.

What you can expect from me:

- Respond to your emails within 12-24 hours (business hours Monday-Saturday).
- Grade your work as soon as possible.
- Provide useful and practical feedback on your assignments to enhance your future work.

Textbook:

Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology. Cengage Learning; 8th edition.

ISBN: 978-1337091824.

By: Michael G. Maxfield & Earl R. Babbie (2018)

This course makes use of the following online tools:

- myleoonline.tamuc.edu
- go.playposit.com/

Course Assignments:

Introductory Post (on Brightspace -1 discussion post -3% of grade)

Due to the nature of online learning, maintaining traditional class comradery is essential. You will be assigned one discussion post the first week of class. This discussion board is meant for students to become acquainted, and hopefully acknowledge similar goals and interests. To receive full credit, you must post your initial introductory post and comment on at least <u>two</u> classmate's post. The comment should be at least three sentences. Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

• Due 9/4/22 at 11:59 PM CST

Web Lectures (on Brightspace -15 lectures -12% of grade)

To bolster the course's interactive element and provide supplemental course material, the course contains an interactive component to supplement the student's learning experience. Embedded within each web lecture, there will be short answers, multiple-choice questions, and opportunities to reflect on the course material. When assigned, students must watch the entire video lecture and complete the embedded activities. This portion of the student's grade counts as online attendance/participation. No lecture will surpass 35 minutes in length.

To complete the web lectures, students must make a free account with https://go.playposit.com, registering with their complete name and student email. At the commencement of their assigned week, a link will be provided for each web lecture on Brightspace. Students must be logged in to complete each lecture. Please do not attempt to view a web lecture more than once. After a web lecture due date has passed, the lecture's corresponding YouTube link will be provided on Brightspace, removing the need to view it in playpostit. If you have a pre-existing account on playposit, you may use it for this course if the name registered with the account matches your name in the course.

Research Critiques (on Blackboard – 2 critiques – 20% of grade)

You will be provided with two sources of information to critique. These pieces will not always be dense academic articles; but rather, they will also take the form of infographics, short news articles, applied research findings, tables, charts, maps, podcasts, or even interactive web pages. When an academic article is assigned, it will be significantly narrowed down to the methodology section and the subsequent pages I want you to review. Every research critique must be completed using the form posted on Blackboard. In brief, the form is composed of several questions that require you to analyze the research item assigned for the week critically.

Research Critique Schedule

Research Critique 1

• Due on 10/16/22 at 11:59 PM

Research Critique 2

• Due on 11/13/22 at 11:59 PM

Tests (on Brightspace – 10 exams – 65% of grade)

You will be assigned ten tests throughout the semester that correspond to that week's assigned chapter. Each test will be brief and low stakes. Tests will consist of 15 questions (combination of multiple choice and T/F questions).

Instructions:

- You will be shown one question at a time
- You will not be able to go back (backtrack)

Policies

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.ht m

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <u>https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements</u>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or <u>helpdesk@tamuc.edu</u>.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<u>https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport</u> Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the <u>Student Guidebook</u>.

http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook. aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <u>https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette</u>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the <u>Attendance</u> webpage and <u>Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01</u>.

http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13st udents/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/docu ments/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonest yFormold.pdf <u>http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13st</u> udents/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 Email: <u>studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu</u> Website: <u>Office of Student Disability Resources and Services</u> <u>http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/</u>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are

also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the <u>Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus</u> document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34Sa fetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit <u>www.tamuc.edu/counsel</u>

Incomplete Grade:

An incomplete grade (IN) is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the instructor for work not completed due to serious interruption, not caused by the student's own negligence. Students receiving an incomplete grade must complete the appropriate coursework within two semesters (including summer). If coursework is not completed in this time frame, the incomplete grade (IN) will automatically default to a failing grade (F). Students should not re-enroll in the same course to make up the incomplete grade. To change an incomplete grade, the student should speak directly to the course instructor to have the appropriate documentation submitted.

- Written documentation must be provided.
- The student must have successfully completed half of the coursework with a passing grade.

How will you and I evaluate your progress?

Course Requirements	Frequencies	Total Weight
Introduction Post	1	3%
Web Lectures	15	12%
Research Critiques	2	20%
Tests	10	65%
Total		100%

Grade	Range
А	100-90
В	89-80
С	79-70
D	69-60
F	<60

Course Calendar

*Weekly Tentative Schedule

Date	Topics Covered in Class	Readings & Assignments
Week 1	Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific	Online:
8/29-9/4	 Inquiry Topics covered in assigned video: The Role of Science. Errors Personal Human Inquiry. Purposes of Research. How to Design a Research Project. Reviewing Literature. The Research Proposal. 	 Familiarize yourself with the Brightspace platform and the syllabus Discussion Board: Introduce yourself (due 9/4/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Watch web Lecture 1 (due 9/4/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Read Chapter 1 "Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry"
Week 2	Foundations of Criminal Justice	Online:
9/5-9/11	Research	

	 Topics covered in web lecture: Foundations of Social Science Opensystems models. Differing Avenues for Inquiry Theory 101 The Traditional Model of Science Inductive Research Theory, Research, and Public Policy 	 Watch web Lecture 2 (due 9/11/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Read Chapter 2 "Foundations of Criminal Justice Research" Complete test 1 (due 9/11/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
Week 3 9/12-18	 Ethics and Criminal Justice Research Topics covered in web lecture: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice Research Promoting Compliance with Ethical Principles Ethical Controversies 	 Online: Watch web Lecture 3 (due on 9/18/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Read Chapter 3 "Ethics and Criminal Justice Research" Complete test 2 (due 9/18/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Important date: Last day to drop with 100% refund – 9/14/22
Mook 4	Conoral Issues in Possarch Dosign	Online:
9/19-25	 Topics covered in web lecture: Causation in the Social Sciences Validity and Causal Inference Units of Analysis The Time Dimension 	 Watch web Lecture 4 (due 9/25/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Read Chapter 4 "General Issues in Research Design" Complete test 3 (due 9/25/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
Week 5	Concepts, Operationalization, and	Online:
9/26-10/2	Measurement	 Watch web Lecture 5 (due 10/2/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
	Topics covered in web lecture:	
	 Conceptions and Concepts 	

Week 6 10/3-9	 Operationalization Choices Criteria for Measurement Quality Composite Measures Measuring Crime Topics covered in web lecture: General Issues in Measuring Crime. Crimes Known to Police Measuring Crime Through Victim Surveys Surveys of Offending. Drug Surveillance Systems Measuring Crime for Specific Purposes Measuring Crime Summary 	 Read Chapter 5 "Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement" Complete test 4 (due 10/2/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Online: Watch web Lecture 6 (due 10/9/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Read Chapter 6 "Measuring Crime" Complete test 5 (due 10/9/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
Week 7 10/10-16	 Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs Topics covered in web lecture: The Classical Experiment. Experiment and Causal Inference. Variations in the Classical Experimental Design. Quasi-Experimental Designs. 	 Online: Watch web Lecture 7 (due on 10/16/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Read Chapter 7 "Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs" Complete Research Critique 1 (due 10/16/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
Week 8 10/17-23	 Sampling Topics covered in web lecture: The Logic of Probability Sampling Probability Theory and Sampling Distribution 	 Online: Watch web Lecture 8 (due 10/23/22 11:59 PM CST) Read Chapter 8 "Sampling" Complete test 6 (due 10/23/22 at 11:59 PM CST)

Week 9 10/24-30	 Probability Sampling Illustration: Two National Crime Surveys. Nonprobability Sampling Survey Research Topics covered in web lecture: 	Online: • Watch web Lecture 9 (due 10/30/22 11:59 PM CST)
	 Topics Appropriate to Survey Research Guidelines for Asking Questions Questionnaire Construction Self-Administered Questionnaires In-Person Interview Surveys Telephone Surveys Comparison of the Three Methods Strengths and Weaknesses of Survey Research 	 Read Chapter 9 "Survey Research" Complete test 7 (due 10/30/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
Week 10 10/31-11/6	 Qualitative Interviewing Topics covered in web lecture: Topics Appropriate for Qualitative Interviewing Different Kinds of Qualitative Interviews Designing Qualitative Interview Questions. Gaining Access to Participants. Conducting Qualitative Interviews Recording Data Data Analysis and Making Claims 	 Online: Watch web Lecture 10 (due 11/6/22 11:59 PM CST) Read Chapter 10 "Qualitative Interviewing" Complete test 8 (due 11/6/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
Week 11	Field Observation	Online:

11/7-13	 Topics covered in web lecture: Topics Appropriate to Field Research The Various Roles of the Observer Selecting Cases and Places for Observation Recording Observations Linking Field Observations and Other Data Illustrations of Field Research Strengths and Weaknesses of Field Research 	 Watch web Lecture 11 (due 11/13/22 at 11:59PM CST) Read Chapter 11 "Field Observation" Complete Research Critique 2 (due 11/13/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
Week 12 11/14-20	 Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data Topics covered in web lecture: Topics Appropriate for Agency Records and Content Analysis. Types of Agency Records Units of Analysis and Sampling Reliability and Validity Content Analysis Secondary Analysis 	 Online: Watch web Lecture 12 (due 11/20/22 at 11:59PM CST) Read Chapter 12 "Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data" Complete test 9 (due 11/20/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
Week 13 11/21-27 Happy Thanksgiving	 Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis Topics covered in web lecture: Topics Appropriate for Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis Designs for Program Evaluation Problem Analysis and Scientific Realism 	 Online: Watch web Lecture 13 (due 11/27/22 at 11:59PM CST) Read Chapter 13 "Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis"

	The Political Context of Applied	
	Research	
Week 14	Interpreting Data	Online:
11/28-12/4	 Topics covered in web lecture: Univariate Description Describing Two or More Variables Inferential Statistics 	 Read Chapter 14 "Interpreting Data" Watch web Lecture 14 (due 12/4/22 at 11:59 PM CST) Complete test 10 (due 12/4/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
		Important date: Last day to
		withdraw–12/2/22.
Week 15	Microsoft PowerPoint, Library	Online:
12/5-9	Database, and APA Format Workshop.	• Watch web Lecture 15 (due
		12/9/22 at 11:59 PM CST)
	Topics covered in web lecture:	
	How to utilize Microsoft PowerPoint,	
	Texas A&M-Commerce's library	
	database, and APA citations.	