



CJ337.01W: Statistics for Criminal Justice

COURSE SYLLABUS: FA 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Andrew M. Garcia, J.D., Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 206

Office Hours:

Tuesday/Thursdays- 10:00AM-12:30PM (in-person and zoom)

***Additional availability by appointment

University Email Address: Andrew.Garcia@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail

Communication Response Time: 24 hours or sooner during normal business hours.

COURSE INFORMATION

Meeting Times

Asynchronous online course, see tentative course schedule for due dates.

Textbook(s) Required: (OER Textbook, free usage with no purchase)

Online Statistics Education: A Multimedia Course of Study (http://onlinestatbook.com/)
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Assigned readings (provided by instructor; accessible on D2L)

Software Required

Microsoft Office (or compatible) word processor, Microsoft Excel

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the vital role that research and statistics play in understanding social science and criminal justice issues.
2. Chart criminal justice datasets using appropriate descriptive statistics and visual graphs.
3. Appraise the limitations and potential biases in how criminal justice data is collected and analyzed.
4. Interpret statistical results to explain what the data means for real-world criminal justice practice and policy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%; B = 80%-89%; C = 70%-79%; D = 60%-69%; F = 59% or Below

Course Evaluation

Course Worksheets (4)	40%
Graphing Project	10%
NCVS Data Assignment	10%
Media and Stats Assignment	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Project (Video PP)	15%
	100%

Assessments

All course writing assignments will be submitted online through D2L using plagiarism software. Papers should be in Times New Roman, size 12 font, one-inch margins and double-spaced.

Course Worksheets (4) (40%, each worth 10% of final grade)

The Course Worksheets are 5-10 questions and combine quick conceptual checks with practical, small-scale problems to reinforce the material covered in each module. You can locate and download each worksheet under the **Content** tab on D2L. Completed worksheets must be submitted via the designated dropbox under the **Assignments** tab in a Word-compatible document. All worksheets are due by **11:59 PM on Sunday** of the week they are assigned.

NCVS Data Assignment:

For this assignment, you will utilize the Bureau of Justice Statistics' NCVS Data Dashboard (N-DASH) at <https://ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov> to explore national victimization trends. Using the N-DASH tool, you will select custom variables of interest to build a graph in N-DASH and export the underlying chart data. You will then write a two-page, double-spaced essay (approximately 500 words) explaining the statistics, discussing how this data could be applied in policy or practice, examining potential ways the numbers could be misleading, and identifying any remaining questions you have about the findings. Submit your completed essay to the designated Dropbox under the D2L Assignments tab by 11:59 PM on Sunday at the end of Week 4.

Graphing Project (15%):

For this assignment, you will take the exported data chart from your Week 4 NCVS assignment (or select a new dataset from N-DASH to reduce complexity) and construct your own original chart or graph using Microsoft Excel. You will format the visual for clarity, ensuring proper axis labels, titles, and legends. Submit your completed Excel file to the designated Dropbox under the D2L Assignments tab by 11:59 PM on Sunday at the end of Week 5.

Media and Stats Assignment (10%)

For this assignment, you will locate a mass media source, such as an online newspaper or news article, that reports on criminal justice statistics. You will track down the original data source behind those claims and critically analyze how the statistics are presented. In a short essay, you will evaluate whether the reporting includes any potentially misleading claims or how alternative arguments or interpretations could be made using the same underlying data. Submit your completed document to the designated Dropbox under the D2L

Midterm Exam (15%): One online exam will be administered (on Brightspace/D2L) in this course. The midterm will be graded on a 100-point scale and include 30-40 multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. The exam will cover the assigned readings, uploaded lecture videos, and assigned multimedia. As an online course, students will need access to reliable internet services and a quiet work

environment conducive to test taking. More detailed information on the procedure for taking online tests on this course can be found on D2L under ONLINE EXAMS in the CONTENT folder.

Final Project (Video PowerPoint):

For the final project, you will create a recorded video PowerPoint presentation on a topic related to criminal justice statistics. You may choose between two options: option one, produce original graphic data visualizations and present on a relevant criminal justice issue; or option two, select the provided academic journal article and analyze its empirical claims using the statistical concepts covered throughout the semester (e.g., descriptive statistics, confidence intervals, sample sizes, and measures of significance). Submit your final recorded PowerPoint file to the designated dropbox under the D2L Assignments tab by 11:59 PM on Friday, December 4.

****Makeup Exam Policy:** I totally understand that life happens. Students that experience exceptional circumstances which cause them to miss a scheduled exam should contact me ASAP. Students that have a university approved absence or otherwise produce written documentation regarding their absence will be scheduled for a make-up time. Students that have not reported their absence or spoken to me within 3 days of the exam will be considered unexcused and receive a "0" score for that exam.

Classroom Guidelines

Electronic Device Policy: Please refrain from the use of electronic devices during class, as it is distracting not only to you, but also to your instructor and peers. Laptops should only be used for note taking unless it is part of the instructor assignment and discussion for the class day.

Classroom Civility, Respect and Tolerance: University study is largely about exposure to a diverse range of worldviews and lived experiences. Students should engage in discourse with other students and the instructor respectfully. **My classroom is predicated on principles of mutual respect** and students are expected to exhibit this same respect for the diversity of ideas. **Forms of incivility towards other students or the instructor will not be tolerated.**

Instructor Error: Because instructor errors can and do occur, students should keep an extra copy of any work they submit. In addition, make sure to keep and safeguard graded assignments and tests until final course grades have been posted.

Course Policies

Access to Grades: All grades will be available in D2L. Please note that I am unable to furnish any information about grades or student status via e-mail or telephone. This is considered a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

(FERPA), even with student permission or at student request. Verify your D2L grades often. Discuss grade posting errors/omissions with me immediately.

Borderline Grades: Students will not be awarded extra points at the discretion of the instructor. Be aware at the outset that this course has a firm policy against grade “bumping”. However, students will be automatically rounded to a higher letter grade at the .5 threshold (i.e., 89.5% is an A).

Incompletes: Grades of “incomplete” are given only under rare circumstances when students provide detailed documentation of a significant crisis (e.g., serious illness of the student or death in the immediate family) near the end of the semester and which render them unable to finish the course. Incomplete grades will not be given under any other circumstances. Students with circumstances negatively affecting their class performance should discuss the situation with me immediately so that we can identify and implement strategies for managing the problem(s).

PowerPoint: Students with approved documentation from Student Disability Services may receive hard copies of the PowerPoint presentations used to develop the online videos. Email the instructor for more information.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

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

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 helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

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, an ETAMU 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:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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 [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<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:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at ETAMU 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 www.tamuc.edu/counsel

ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center ETAMU, 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 www.tamuc.edu/counsel

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

ETAMU acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

CJ337 Tentative Course Calendar

Week (Dates)	Topics	Videos/Readings	Assignments (Due Sundays at 11:59P)
1 AUG20-21	Course Intro: Syllabus and course structure	<i>Intro to CJ337 Video</i>	Discussion Board Intros due AUG23@11:59PM
2 AUG24-28	Intro to Stats	<i>Video 1</i> OSE, Introduction, pp. 10-19 Online Statistics Education (OSE) textbook http://onlinestatbook.com/	
3 AUG31- SEP4	Research Design	<i>Video 2</i> OSE, Introduction, pp. 20-28 (Inferential Statistics & Variables) OSE, Introduction, pp. 34-39 (Levels of Measurement)	Worksheet 1
4 SEP7-11	Frequency Distributions and Data Cleaning	<i>Video 3, Special Video 1 (NCVS)</i> OSE, Introduction, pp. 40-51 (Distributions)	NCVS Data Assignment
5 SEP14-18	Visualizing CJ Data (Graphing)	OSE, CH. 2 Graphing Distributions, pp. 75-112	Graphing Assignment
6 SEP21-25	Measures of Central Tendency	<i>Video 4</i> OSE, CH. 3, pp. 131-143 (Measures of Central Tendency)	Worksheet 2
7 SEP28-OCT2	Measures of Dispersion	<i>Video 5</i> OSE, Ch. 3, pp. 144-153 (Measures of Variability)	
8 OCT5-9	Midterm Review and Exam	Midterm Review Guide	Online Midterm opens OCT8 on D2L at 9AM and closes at 11:59PM***
9 OCT12-16	Normal Distribution & Z-Scores	<i>Video 6</i> Probability Theory and the Normal Curve (D2L Upload/Handout)	

10 OCT19-23	Probability and Sampling Errors	<i>Video 7</i> Probability and Sampling Errors (D2L Upload/Handout)	Worksheet 3
11 OCT26-30	Hypothesis Testing & Significance	<i>Video 8</i> OSE, Ch. 11, Logic of Hypo Testing, pp. 370-383	
12 NOV2-6	Hypothesis Testing & Significance	<i>Video 8</i> OSE, Ch. 11, Logic of Hypo Testing, pp. 370-383	Media and Stats
13 NOV9-13	Single-Sample and Independent Samples t-tests	<i>Video 9</i>	Worksheet 4
14 NOV16-20	ANOVA	TBD	
15 NOV23-27	SCHOOL HOLIDAY	SCHOOL HOLIDAY	
16 NOV30-DEC4	Final Projects (Video PP)		Final Video Projects Due Friday, December 4th at 11:59PM

*****All course readings besides the text will be found under the Content tab on D2L****