CJUS 4700-001: Research Methods in Criminal Justice
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Mark Saber
Term: Spring 2018
Class meeting: M/W/F 9:00am – 9:50am
Classroom: BLB 225

Instructor’s Contact Information

   Email (preferred)   Mark.Saber@unt.edu
   Office Phone        940-565-4593
   Office Location     Chilton 273G
   Office Hours        W 2:30pm – 3:30pm by appointment

Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 4700) in the subject line of the mail. Only emails sent through your Eagle Connect email account (username@unt.edu) will receive a response. You can expect to receive a response within 48 hours during the week and 72 hours on the weekend. If you have not received a response within that time, please email me back as it may have gotten lost.

Also, to ensure that you receive timely course related correspondence, make sure your official email address at UNT is forwarded to your preferred email address.

Required readings


Additional readings may be discussed/assigned during class and may require a visit to the university library.

Course Description

Research methods is designed to help students learn the various ways in which criminal justice questions can be answered. Many of these questions can be addressed in multiple ways, with multiple techniques, each having their own advantages and disadvantages. Discussing and evaluating these techniques for criminal justice related questions is the overall focus of this course. Major topics related to this overall focus include research ethics and human participant guidelines, the nature of causation versus correlation, experimental and survey research designs, sampling, qualitative research, the advantages and disadvantages of experimental, survey, and qualitative research designs, and reliability and validity among others.

This course is primarily designed as an introduction and evaluation of several “research methods” so that students become intelligent consumers of research. It is geared toward those who desire a basis for graduate school and/or a foundation of research methods for their chosen occupation.
This course covers a wide variety of topics to help illustrate the research process in the social sciences.

**Goals and Objectives**

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

- Describe the language of research.
- Differentiate probability and non-probability sampling methods.
- Distinguish between scientific and non-scientific research.
- Differentiate between correlation and causation in research.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a variety of research strategies.
- Describe various ways to gather data to answer different types of research questions.
- Describe the history of using human subjects in research and ethical guidelines.
- Discuss federal, state, and institutional requirements researchers must follow to protect human subjects involved in the research process.
- Construct a survey using skills in questionnaire construction, placement, wording, and face-to-face interview protocols.
- Discuss ways to reduce non-response associated with mail, telephone surveys, face-to-face interviews, and internet surveys.
- Describe the qualitative research process.
- Differentiate between the many types of “validity” and “reliability” checks involved in research.
- Critically evaluate research findings based on knowledge of the research process.

**Method of Evaluation**

**Exams:** There will be 3 exams worth, in total, 60% of your overall grade (Exam 1 = 20%, Exam 2 = 20%, and Exam 3 = 20%). All exams will be posted in Blackboard and are open book/notes and can cover any material in the book or discussed in class/posted in Blackboard. Exams will be available from 12:01am – 11:59pm the day listed in the syllabus, but you only have 80 minutes to complete the exam once started. While the exams are open book/notes, the expectation is that you treat them as an in-class exam. Students will not have enough time to look-up every answer.

**Note:** It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have a reliable Internet connection. It is highly recommended students take the exam on campus (in the library or in a computer lab). You are only allowed one exam reset during the entire semester due to Internet connectivity issues.**

**Online Assignments:** Students will complete 9 online assignments and are overall worth 20% of your overall grade. Assignment dates are posted in the course schedule. Assignments will open at 9:00am and close at 9:50am the day listed in the syllabus. You will have 15 - 30 minutes to complete the assignment. Assignments can be quizzes, essays, short answer questions, etc. **Online Assignments cannot be made-up.**
**IRB:** Students will complete the Institutional Review Board training and turn in their certificate. This assignment will be worth 10% of your overall course grade. Additional instructions on how to complete this assignment will be provided in class.

**Study Design Assignment:** Students will complete one written assignment that will focus on designing a research study. This assignment will be worth 10% of your grade. Additional instructions concerning this assignment will be discussed during class.

**Course total based on assignments**
9 Online Assignments  20%
3 exams               60%
IRB                   10%
Study Design Assignment 10%
Total                 100%

**Course grades will be calculated using the following scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or Below</td>
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*There is no individual extra credit offered in this course. If there is an extra credit opportunity it will be for the class as a whole.*

**Grade related questions or concerns must be addressed within 1 week of the grade being posted to Blackboard.**

*** Grades are not automatically rounded, this is based on student performance throughout the semester. Rounding will not occur in all cases.***

**Late Work**
Late work is not accepted. All late assignments will receive a zero. All due dates are listed in the syllabus and ample time is provided to complete the assignments.

**Makeup policy**
Make-ups are only considered with a documented University excused absence, if the student contacts the instructor one week prior to the due date of the assignment.

**Online assignments cannot be made-up.**

**Attendance Policy**
Students should attend class every day having completed and being prepared to discuss the readings for that week. If a student must miss a class, they should discuss the missed materials with a classmate, as the instructor will not repeat information covered in class due to absence.
Students that have fallen behind, are failing and/or choose to not complete the coursework for the semester are responsible for officially withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of "F". Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W” is February 23, 2018.

**Acceptable Student Behavior in the Classroom**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu)

The use of cell phones during class, whether texting or otherwise, is distracting to both me as an instructor and the other members of the class. If I see one in use and we are not engaged in an activity where the use of such a device is necessary, I will assume it is being used to fact check something we are discussing and I will most certainly involve the user in the discussion. If you are contacted regarding an emergency during class, quietly excuse yourself and attend to the call then. **Please be respectful of others and refrain from cell phone use during class.**

**Additional Classroom Policies:**
Recording devices are not allowed in the classroom unless specifically approved by the instructor. Tobacco products of any kind (including e-cigs) are not allowed in the classroom. Cell phones, pagers, or any other electronic device that makes noise should be turned off before class. Due to liability concerns and the content of course discussions, children are not permitted in the classroom at any time. Laptops and similar devices can be used during class as long as they are used for taking notes and/or other related classroom functions. If used for surfing the web, instant messaging, sending emails or otherwise, they will not be allowed in the classroom.

Also, to ensure that you receive timely course related correspondence, make sure your official email address at UNT is forwarded to your preferred email address.

**Academic integrity**
Standards of academic integrity are expected with regard to any course related work or submission. Students should consult the UNT website for questions, guidelines, appeals, and other information related to these policies: [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf)

Academic violation of UNT policy consists of the following:

A. Cheating. The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
   1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
2. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
3. acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
4. dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

B. Plagiarism. Use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to:
1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

C. Forgery. Altering a score, grade or official academic university record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student.

D. Fabrication. Falsifying or inventing any information, data or research as part of an academic exercise.

E. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty. Helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.

F. Sabotage. Acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

Any violation of academic integrity will be handled on a case-by-case basis. At a minimum, the student will receive a zero on the assignment in question, but more serious academic violations may be subject to the assignment of a failing grade for the course. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor with questions related to citations or other academic integrity concerns.

**Student Evaluation of Instruction (SPOT)**
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Student feedback is very important to UNT, please complete your SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching) survey during the open evaluation time.

**ADA Statement and Disabled Student Policy**
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [http://www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.
Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

Course Calendar and Topics
Dates, topics, and exams are listed below. Students are responsible for keeping up with the schedule, any schedule changes as well as the assigned readings as we progress through the course. This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to modify any part of the schedule at any time throughout the semester.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course WK</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>MLK Day – University Closed – No Class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Introduction and Syllabus</td>
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<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Syllabus Quiz via Blackboard</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Chapter 1: The importance of Research Methods and Becoming an Informed Consumer of Research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Chapter 1: The importance of Research Methods and Becoming an Informed Consumer of Research</td>
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<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Online Assignment 1</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Getting Started: The Beginning and Pitfalls of Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Getting Started: The Beginning and Pitfalls of Research</td>
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<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Online Assignment 2</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Stanford Prison Experiment</td>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>IRB Training Assignment Instructions</td>
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<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>IRB – Human Subjects Training</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>IRB Certificate Due via Blackboard</td>
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<td>Chapter 3: Sampling Methods</td>
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Feb 14  Chapter 3: Sampling Methods
Feb 16  Online Assignment 3

Week 6  Feb 19  Exam Review
        Feb 21  Library Day – Study for Exam 1
        Feb 23  Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 3, IRB, and Blackboard Postings

Week 7  Feb 26  Chapter 4: Survey Research
        Feb 28  Chapter 4: Survey Research
        Mar 2  Online Assignment 4

Week 8  Mar 5  Chapter 5: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs
        Mar 7  Chapter 5: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs
        Mar 9  Online Assignment 5

Week 9  Mar 12 – 16  Spring Break – No Class

Week 10  Mar 19  Exam 2 Review
        Mar 21  Library Day – Study for Exam 2
        Mar 23  Exam 2: Chapters 4 – 5 and Blackboard Postings

Week 11  Mar 26  Chapter 6: Qualitative Research
        Mar 28  Chapter 6: Qualitative Research
        Mar 30  Online Assignment 6

Week 12  Apr 2  How to look up a scholarly article
        Apr 4  Study Design Assignment Handout/Instructions
        Apr 6  Library Day – Work on Study Design Assignment

Week 13  Apr 9  Study Design Assignment Due – Hardcopy Only
        Apr 11  Chapter 7: Unobtrusive Methods
        Apr 13  Online Assignment 7

Week 14  Apr 16  Chapter 8: Putting it all Together
        Apr 18  Chapter 8: Putting it all Together
        Apr 20  Online Assignment 8

Week 15  Apr 23  Chapter 9: Basic Statistics for the Consumers
        Apr 25  Chapter 9: Basic Statistics for the Consumers
        Apr 27  Library Day – Study for Exam 3

Week 16  Apr 30  Exam 3: Chapters 6 – 9, Scholarly Articles, and Blackboard Postings
May 2       Library Day – Last Day of Class

Week 17       May 5 – 11       Finals Week

** These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.**