Research Methods in Criminal Justice (CJUS 4700.900/950) Syllabus
Spring Semester 2019

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Office: Chilton Hall 263G
Office Hours: R 1:30pm – 2:30pm, by appointment

Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 5750) 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.

Email me directly do not use Canvas Inbox.

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.

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.

Student Learning Objectives/ Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of the course, students will become
1. Identify and examine the purposes of conducting scientific research and address methodological issues necessary for conducting and critically analyzing criminal justice research.
2. Evaluate the various forms of data collection and sampling techniques used in criminal justice research.
3. Explain issues in research design, including criteria for causality, types of validity, units of analysis, different types of research design, and stages in the research process.
4. Find and use resources for answering real world research questions.
5. Critically evaluate research based on knowledge of the research process.
**Required Materials:**

**Textbook:**

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

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**Method of Evaluation**

**Exams (300 Points Total)**
Each student will be required to take three exams in this course for a total of 300 points (each worth 100 points). Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Each exam will cover all module note material, assigned material in the classroom text, and other assigned reading material. By its nature, the material in this class builds off of prior material. As such, the tests may have material from prior sections on it.

Each test will be available for one course week. However, once you start the exam you will have only 80 minutes to take it. Exam dates are listed in the Course Calendar section of this syllabus.

*Students are only allocated one exam reset due to Internet connectivity issues (see Additional Classroom Policies below).*

**Human Participant Protections Education for Research Teams (100 points total)**
Each student will be required to complete an Internet-based Human Participant Protections Education for Research Teams through the University of North Texas. The training can be accessed at: [http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php](http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php). You will need to register to access the training.

If this website does not work, try a general search (in Google or Yahoo) for “Human Participant Protections Education” which should direct you the National Institute of Health Extramural Research website. **Please contact me as soon as possible if you experience problems and I will get you to the correct site.** Failure to contact me if you have problems is not a defense against missing the due date.

Once at the website, you will have to register and create a password to get access. Write this down in case you need to access it at a later date. Once you have registered, access Module 1 on History and progress through the various additional modules and complete the test after each one. Depending on the time, the website may be busy—so please do not wait until the last minute.

To earn full credit for this assignment, **you must submit the certificate that you will receive at the conclusion of successful training** by the date indicated in the syllabus. This certificate must have your registered name on it for proper credit to be given. This training should take approximately 1-5 hours. I would advise you to take a few notes during the tutorials so that you may pass the various tests, which are sometimes difficult. If you do not to turn in your certification, you will not receive any points for this assignment.

If you have already completed this training and have an IRB Certificate (from the link above), you can turn that one in for credit. Once you receive your IRB Certificate it is good for life.

**Discussion Posts (100 points total)**
Each student will be required to respond to 4 Canvas discussions throughout the course of the semester. Each Canvas discussion is worth 25 points, for a total of 100 points towards your final grade. Written portions of the Canvas discussions should be a minimum of 300 words. Students must reply to at least one other student’s posts or you will receive a zero for the assignment. Your reply must be a minimum of 200 words. To receive credit for this assignment you must complete the original post and the reply. The discussion assignments will be posted on Canvas and available a few days before they are noted on the syllabus schedule.
Your discussions will be graded on depth of explanation, utilization of outside sources, specific efforts to back up your arguments with logical points and sources, grammar and spelling, and adhering to the assignment.

Course total based on assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams (100 Points Each)</td>
<td>300 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 IRB Training</td>
<td>100 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Discussion Posts (25 Points Each)</td>
<td>100 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500 Points</strong></td>
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Course grades will be calculated using the following scale: *Grades are based on a points total and not a percentage.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>450-500 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>400-449 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>350-399 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>300-349 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>299 Points or Below</td>
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*There is no extra credit offered in this course*

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

***Grades are rounded to the nearest whole number, no additional rounding will occur.***

**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**

There are no make-up tests/quizzes/assignments in this class with the exception of authorized absences according to University policies prescribing authorized absences in certain situations. I reserve the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule. Those in athletics, those who are absent for religious holidays, and/or those involved in other school supported activities that require being absent from class will be allowed make up if proper procedures are followed in requesting an excused absence. I must have written documentation in advance that you will be away from class for the absence to be excused (e.g., traveling for a basketball game). If you were critically ill in such a way that you could not complete any required assignment or exam, you must submit a doctor’s note to me within 3 days.

There is absolutely no make-up for assignments turned in late unless authorized as a result of university related absence or through prior consultation and approval by myself. Make-up assignments as a result of authorized absences must be turned in within 3 days of returning from the authorized absence. To be excused, any authorized absence must take place over the entire submission window. That is, if a student has an authorized absence for 1 day of a 3-day submission window for an exam or any other assignment, then they will not be excused and will not be able to take a make-up. I strongly recommend not waiting until the last day to complete an assessment in case this occurs.
Attendance Policy

As this is an online course, it is the course expectations that you are logging in once a day, check announcements, and are aware of all due dates listed in this syllabus.

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 22, 2019.

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

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

It is your responsibility to utilize a computer system that works and is compatible with the UNT online system/Canvas. This is especially critical during examination times. I would recommend that you take your exams on the UNT campus if possible. If this is not possible, I would recommend you avoid waiting until the last minute to take your exam in case problems arise. Do not take your exams on mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets.

Students are only allocated one exam reset due to internet connectivity issues.

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

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.

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**Student Evaluation of Instructor (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.

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**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. 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.

Assignments & Academic Calendar:

Week 1 (1/14 – 1/20)
- Syllabus, IRB Training, Discussion Posts, and Exams
- Chapter 1: The importance of Research Methods and Becoming an Informed Consumer of Research
- Causality Slide

Week 2 (1/21 – 1/27)
- Chapter 2: Getting Started: The Beginning and Pitfalls of Research
- 1/27: IRB Certificate due via Canvas @ 11:59pm

Week 3 (1/28 – 2/3)
- Chapter 3: Sampling Methods
- Sample Slide posted

Week 4 (2/4 – 2/10)
- ICJSF – No Assignments due this week
- Study for Exam 1

Week 5 (2/11 – 2/17)
- 2/11: Discussion Post 1 access starts @ 12:01am
- 2/17: Discussion Post 1 access ends @ 11:59pm

Week 6 (2/18 – 2/24)
- 2/18: Exam 1 access starts @ 12:01am
- 2/24: Exam 1 access ends @ 11:59pm
- Exam 1 will cover Chapters 1 – 3, IRB, Causality Slide, and Sample Slide

Week 7 (2/25 – 3/3)
- Chapter 4: Survey Research
- Survey Postings in Canvas

Week 8 (3/4 – 3/10)
- Chapter 5: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs
Research Design Table
O=T+E Slide

**Week 9 (3/11 – 3/17)**
Spring Break – No Class – University Closed

**Week 10 (3/18 – 3/24)**
3/18: Discussion Post 2 access starts @ 12:01am
3/24: Discussion Post 2 access ends @ 11:59pm

**Week 11 (3/25 – 3/31)**
3/25: Exam 2 access starts @ 12:01am
3/31: Exam 2 access ends @ 11:59pm
Exam 2 will cover Chapters 4 – 5, Research Design Table, and O=T+E Slide

**Week 12 (4/1 – 4/7)**
Chapter 6: Qualitative Research

**Week 13 (4/8 – 4/14)**
4/8: Discussion Post 3 access starts @ 12:01am
4/14: Discussion Post 3 access ends @ 11:59pm

**Week 14 (4/15 – 4/21)**
Chapter 7: Unobtrusive Methods
Chapter 8: Putting it all Together

**Week 15 (4/22 – 4/28)**
Chapter 9: Basic Statistics for the Consumer
4/22: Discussion Post 4 access starts @ 12:01am
4/28: Discussion Post 4 access ends @ 11:59pm

**Week 16 (4/29 – 5/5)**
4/29: Exam 3 access starts @ 12:01am
5/5: Exam 3 access ends @ 11:59pm
Exam 3 will cover Chapters 6 - 9

**Week 17**
Finals Week

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*