CCJS300 SECTION ESG1

Criminological and Criminal Justice Research Methods

INSTRUCTOR: DR. STICKLE

Course Format

This course will be offered fully online. It will have synchronous and asynchronous components. Please see the course schedule (available on ELMS and SLACK) for weekly expectations.

COURSE WEBSITE AND
COMMUNICATION FOR CCJS300

ELMS

Course website for all
assignments and lectures

Slack

Course communication,
including emails,
announcements, group texting,
office hours etc.)

See Course Schedule on
ELMS/Slack for Weekly
Expectations

ELMS-Canvas
Students and Instructors

LOG IN

- ELMS Management Tool
- ELMS Support
- About ELMS and How Tos
- Privacy Policy
- Terms of Use

**We will use Slack for all course communication (e.g.,
emails, announcements, group texting, etc.) :
CCJS300Fa21 Slack**

**All assignments and lectures can be found on the
ELMS site.**

This isn't forever.
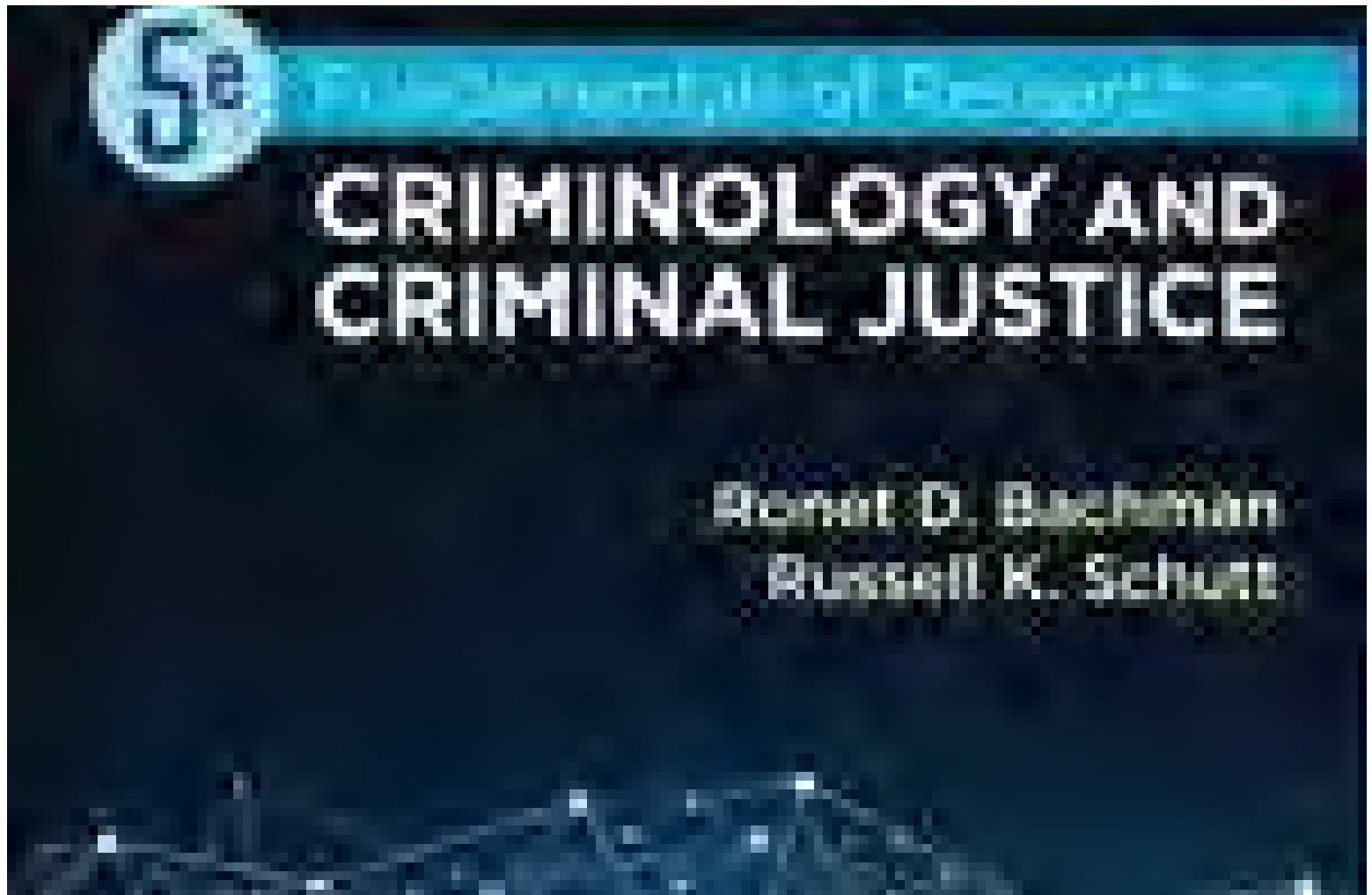It's just right now.

BECAUSE #2021

Dear students,

As you are well aware, this semester is not normal. All of us continue to deal with additional stress and anxiety. I'm writing this to let you know that I am very open to being flexible should life events arise that make it hard for you to keep up with the class. Such events might include things happening to you personally or things happening to family members. Please know that I want to do everything I can to support you. To do this, though, I

need to know about a problem when it starts, not after it has already derailed your ability to keep up with class. I don't need to know details. Whatever you are comfortable telling me is fine. Letting me know sooner rather than later, though, is key. I'm in a much better position to help you and make accommodations if you tell me when the problem arises. It is MUCH harder to do this if you wait until the end of the term. You can email me or come to office hours.

Upshot: I am here to help. If you are having life issues that are making it hard for you to keep up with class, PLEASE let me know so I can help.

I am so excited we will be able to meet in person this semester. Please remember masks must be worn at all times when in USG and UMD buildings. More information can be found here.

TEXTBOOKS

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
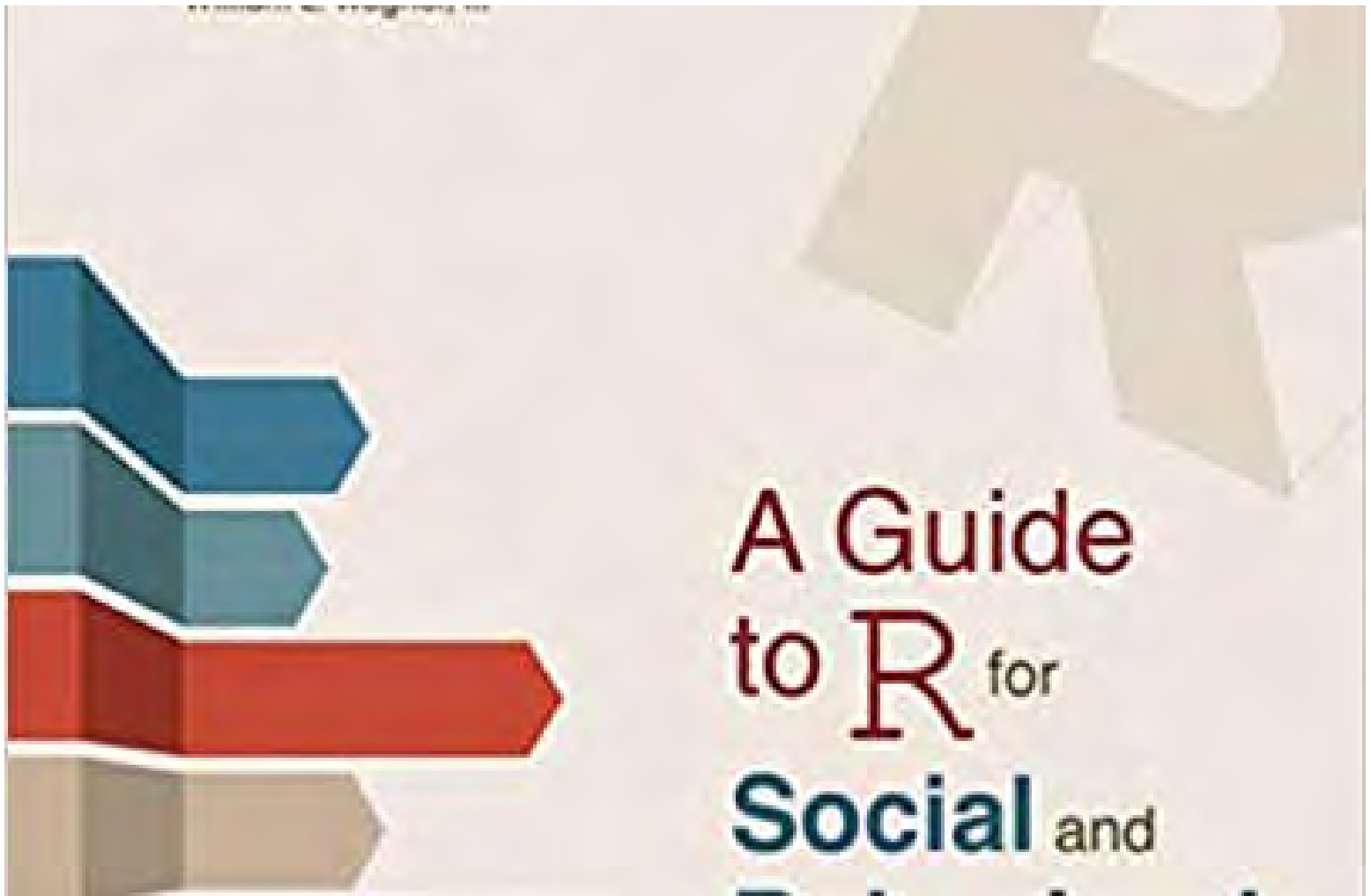
Ronet D. Bachman

Russell K. Schutt

REQUIRED TEXT

Bachman, R. and Schutt, R.K. (2020) *Fundamentals of research in criminology and criminal justice* . Sage. Edition 5.

Student Resources Site:

https://edge.sagepub.com/bachmanfrccj5e

(Strongly) RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

Gillespie, B.J., Hibbert, K.C., and Wagner, W.E. (2020)
A guide to R for social and behavioral science statistics. Sage.
Edition 1. ISBN: 978-1544344027.

GRADES....

... are not given, but earned. Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually (not curved). If earning a particular grade is important to you, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester so that I can offer some helpful suggestions for achieving your goal.

Quizzes 45% | Research Projects 45%| Participation 10%

Final Grade

A+ 97 or above | **A** 96 to 93 | **A-** 92 to 90 **B+** 89 to 87 | **B** 86 to 83 | **B-** 82 to 80 | **C+** 79 to 77 | **C** 76 to 73 | **C-** 72 to 70 **D+** 69 to 67 | **D** 66 to 63 | **D-** 62 to 60 | **F** Less than 60%

Course Description

This course will teach students how to actually conduct research in the criminal justice field. Students will learn about traditional social science methods used in our discipline and how to apply them to their own research. We will cover various research designs, sampling issues, ethical considerations, survey construction, interviewing, and basic functions with a computer software package, R, that are typically used in analyzing social science data.

In this class, students will complete several research projects that build on each other. These research projects

introduce students to the various research techniques used in our field by having them actually conduct the research. These projects are designed to increase in difficulty and to allow the student to apply the knowledge learned in this class as they progress.

In the course of these projects, students will: assess ethical issues in research, create a survey instrument, decide on and assess a sampling technique, analyze survey and other criminological data using descriptive analysis and inferential statistics, conduct a field observation study, develop hypotheses and present the justification for these hypotheses, select and transform variables, test hypotheses using criminological data, perform appropriate statistical tests, and develop conclusions and implications based on their research.

Learning Objectives

In the course of this class, students will: **1.** demonstrate an ability to select, critically evaluate, and apply relevant areas of scholarship; **2.** articulate the processes required to bring about a successful outcome from planning, modeling, and preparing, to critiquing, revising and perfecting; **3**. recognize how an application of scholarship affects or is affected by political, social, cultural, economic or ethical dimensions; **4.** produce original projects that reflects a body of knowledge relevant to the

course; **5.** effectively communicate the application of scholarship through written material

Course Expectations and Format

Research Methods is a complicated topic. In order to give you the time and attention to truly grasp the concepts and practice of research methods, all lectures will be available to you online.

This class will mostly meet in person, weekly. You will be responsible for all assigned readings, lectures and assignments each week. Weekly modules provide information on what should be prepared before class. Follow the due dates in ELMS.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page. If you would like to review any of your grades (including the exams), or have questions about how something was scored, please come to my office hours or reach out on Slack to schedule a time for us to meet.

Late work will not be accepted for course credit so please plan to have it submitted well before the scheduled deadline. I am happy to discuss any of your grades with you, and if I have made a mistake I will immediately

correct it. Any formal grade disputes must be submitted **in writing (via Slack or email) and within one week of receiving the grade**.

There are multiple requirements for this course, described below. Exams and all Research Projects are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them.

Please note that I will not round up grades. Do not email, call, or ask in person. The answer will be no. Extra credit opportunities will be available during the semester. I will not reply to any emails at the end of the semester asking for additional extra credit or extra work to improve grades.

Group Work: Students will be split into Discussion Groups for all Discussion assignments. Smaller groups will allow you to engage in more intimate and thoughtful discussions. Students will also be assigned to Research Project groups. The purpose of these groups is not to submit work as a group, but rather, bounce ideas off of each other. Good research requires collaboration and perspective. Your research groups should be able to provide that!

Quizzes: There will be four quizzes (which will collectively make up 45% of your grade). These quizzes will not be cumulative and will consist of multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions. The quizzes will cover all assigned material presented in lectures, readings, and class discussion. Quizzes will be **completed independently, online**. Student may use notes and the text book to complete the quizzes. Quizzes will be open for 24 hours unless noted otherwise. Make up quizzes will be given only if the instructor is provided documentation of an excused absence and the student notifies the instructor of his/her absence prior to the start of the exam. The instructor holds the right to provide make up quizzes in an alternative format. All make up quizzes must be complete within 2 weeks of the original quiz. Note that the quiz format will change should the instructor feel students are not respecting the quiz policies.

Research Projects: Research projects will account for a total of 45% of your final grade. All projects should be turned in via ELMS (unless noted otherwise) before class on the due date. **Late work will not be accepted**. Research projects will include:

1. Ethics Training | **2.** Survey Construction | **3.** Data Analysis Project (which will include multiple assignments including: brief literature review, write up of sampling technique and survey procedures analysis with descriptive

statistics, analysis with tests of independence and inferential statistics. Students will submit a written report and design a brief presentation using VoiceThread.

Class Participation: Class participation will make up 10% of your final grade and will be measured by weekly discussions and assignments. Engagement in Slack will be considered, particularly if students have borderline grades. Late submission of participation assignments will not be accepted.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities will be made available periodically throughout the semester, at the discretion of the instructor. No extra credit opportunities will be given at the end of the semester or on an individual-basis.

Campus Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

Academic integrity | Student and instructor conduct | Accessibility and accommodations | Attendance and excused absences |Grades and appeals | Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

Course Policies

Turnitin: For this course, some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page. I have chosen to use this tool because it can help you improve your scholarly writing and help me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit Turnitin Originality Checker for Students

Religious Observances: By the end of the second week of classes, students must provide the instructor, in writing, a request for a make-up exam for an exam date on the syllabus you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify). Please refer to the Online Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.

Copyright: The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to

ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

Course Evaluation: I take your course evaluation very seriously. Each year I revise my syllabus, course assignments and exam questions based on the feedback I receive on the course evaluation. I am not only interested in the scores that you give this class but I am also very interested in the specific comments you have about this course. I want to encourage each student in this class to evaluate not only my class but all of your classes. One important campus-wide evaluation is the online evaluation at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations.

Disability Support: I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form, which has been updated for the

current semester. This form must be presented to me no later than end of the second week of classes. I will not provide any accommodations without a letter from UMD ADS.

CREATED BY
Wendy Stickle

Credits:

Created with images by Hans-Peter Gauster - "You've got your work cut out for you." · United Nations COVID-19 Response - "Heads Up: This Isn't Forever. Our "positive propaganda" is meant to foster a sense of hopefulness in times of uncertainty. This isn't blind optimism; we want people to feel less alone and to recognize that we will come out on the other side of these immense challenges. The future is still bright. Image created by Heads Up (Madwell). Submitted for United Nations Global Call Out To Creatives - help stop the spread of COVID-19." · Alex Samuels - "Coffee Shop Thoughts" · Soundtrap - "untitled image" · Octavian Dan - "Projects lettering, lighting with colored gels"

CCJS300 Course Schedule

OVERVIEW

Below is a quick overview of the semester.

MEETING TIMES: This will be a blended class. When we meet, it will be on Wednesdays 9:30am-12:00pm rm: IV

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: All Course Policies and Grading Details are in the syllabus and on ELMS. You can find all assignments and lecture notes on ELMS. All readings and assignments should be completed PRIOR to coming to class.

COMMUNICATION: Ask Dr. Stickle and your peers questions on SLACK.. All office hours will take place on Slack. Office hours will be held on Slack and/or by appointment.

WEEKLY EXPECTATIONS: Visit the weekly Module to get a detailed description of the expectations for the week. Below offers a brief overview. You will generally have reading and some sort of assignment to apply what you have learned. You will see, below, when any Major Graded Assignments will occur and/or be due.

Week	Topic	Preparation	Quiz and Project Work	In class
Before First day of class 9/1	Course Introduction: The Intersection of Criminological Research and Policy	ELMS: Introductions Module (try to complete before the first day! *Don't forget to complete the syllabus quiz after class!		
Week 1 9/1	Course Introduction			In person class, 9:30-11:00am

Week 2 9/8	Topic 1: Introduction to Criminological and Criminal Justice Research Methods	Textbook: Chapter 1 ELMS: Topic 1 Module		NO in person class. Complete assignments on ELMS.
Week 3 9/15	Topic 2: The Criminological Research Process	Textbook: Chapter 2 ELMS: Topic 2 Module		In person class, 9:30-11:00am
Week 4 09/22	Topic 3: Research Ethics	Textbook: Chapter 3 ELMS: Topic 3 Module		In person class, 9:30-11:00am
Week 5 09/29	Introduction to R Studio Introduction to General Social Survey	ELMS: Introduction to R Studio **complete GSS assignments before class. We will go over R in class** Gillespie: Chapter 1 OR Open Source Data (see ELMS for suggestions)	Quiz 1 (Ch 1-3) 9/29 (on ELMS) Open 12am-11:59pm Ethics Research Project 10/3	In person class, 9:30-11:00am
Week 6 10/6	Topic 4: Conceptualization and Measurement, Data Applications	Textbook: Chapter 4 ELMS: Topic 4 Module Gillespie: Chapters 2 & 3 OR Open Source Data (see ELMS for suggestions)	Data Analysis Project: Brief Statement of Possible Research Project	In person class, 9:30-11:00am
Week 7 10/13	Topic 5: Sampling	Textbook: Chapter 5 ELMS: Topic 5 Module Gillespie: Chapters 2 & 3 OR Open Source Data		In person class, 9:30-12:00pm

		(see ELMS for suggestions)		
Week 8 **10/20**	Topic 6: Causation and Experiments, Data Applications	Textbook: Chapter 6 ELMS: Topic 6 Module Gillespie: Chapter 4 & 6 OR Open Source Data (see ELMS for suggestions)		In person class, 9:30-12:00pm
Week 9 **10/27**	Topic 7: Hypothesis testing using R	Textbook: Chapter 7 ELMS: Topic 7 Module Gillespie: Chapters 7, 8, 9 OR Open Source Data (see ELMS for suggestions)	Quiz 2 (Chapters 4-6) 10/27	In person class, 9:30-12:00pm
Week 10 **11/3**	Topic 8: Survey Research	Textbook: Chapter 7 ELMS: Topic 7 Module		In person class, 9:30-11:00am
Week 11 **11/10**	Topic 9: Analyzing Content using Alternative Methods	Textbook: Chapter 9 ELMS: Topic 9 Module Gillespie: Chapter 10 OR Open Source Data (see ELMS for suggestions)	Bring paper copy of survey to class 11/10 Survey Research Project 11/14	In person class, 9:30-12:00pm
Week 12 **11/17**	Topic 10: Evaluation and Policy Analysis Data Visualization	Textbook: Chapter 10 ELMS: Topic 10 Module Gillespie: Chapter 5 OR Open Source Data (see ELMS for suggestions)		In person class, 9:30-12:00pm

Week 13 **11/24**	Thanksgiving		Quiz 3 (Chapters 7-10) Open 11/23-11/24 Data Analysis Project Proposal Due (11/23)	No class
Week 14 **12/1**	**Skipping Bachman ch 11** Topic 12: Reporting Research Results Work on Final Project!	Textbook: Chapter 12		In person class, 9:30-12:00pm
Last Day of Class 12/8	Data Analysis Project Presentations			In person class, 9:30-12:00pm
Final Exam Week			Data Analysis Report due (12/14)	