CCJS 300: Criminological and Criminal Justice Research Methods
Fall 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE/SECTION: CCJS 300: Sections 0101/0201
CREDITS: 3
TERM: Fall 2024
TIME/LOCATION: 0101 MW 9-10:15 AM   1132 Tydings Hall
                        0201 MW 10:30-11:45 AM   1132 Tydings Hall

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brett Lacey
                      He/him/his
OFFICE: 2211 Lefrak Hall
OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 8-8:50AM
TELEPHONE: 301-405-0170
EMAIL: blacey1@umd.edu

Should you need to contact me, please do so through my UMD email account. You may expect a 24-hour response time to email although I will typically get back to you much earlier. I can be reached via the above phone number as well.

TEACHING ASSISTANT INFORMATION

0101	Darcia Gleason	dgleaso1@terpmail.umd.edu	M 10:30-11:30/(4:30-5:30V) W 12:30-1:30
	Rachel Twigg	rtwigg@terpmail.umd.edu	MW 2:15-3:15, (Zoom Th 9-10)
0201	Emma Morton	emorton1@terpmail.umd.edu	MW 1-2, (Zoom F 1:30-2:30)
	Judy Nasser	jnasser@terpmail.umd.edu	W 6-8PM, (Zoom Th 12:30-1:30)

All in-person TA office hours are held in 0102 Morrill Hall

Office Hours: I will maintain in-person office hours as indicated above and by appointment if those hours do not work well with your schedule. We can also organize meetings virtually via Zoom at other times which may be more convenient for you.

Masking Requirement (if in place)
University policy states masks will not be required in most situations including classrooms. Should a policy change be forthcoming, it will be strictly adhered to without exception in this course.

Textbook:
Hagan, Frank E. (2018). Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Pearson. Tenth
     Edition. ISBN 9780134558912

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; SPSS, that are typically used in analyzing social science data. In this class, students will complete six research projects and one optional research project that build on each other. These research projects introduce students to the various research techniques used in our field by having them actually conduct research. These projects are designed to increase in difficulty and to allow the student to apply the knowledge learned in the class as they progress. In the course of these projects, students will assess ethical issues in research, create a survey instrument, disseminate the survey, 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 of said hypotheses, select and transform variables, test hypotheses using criminological data, perform appropriate statistical tests, and develop conclusions and implications based on their research.

Upon competing this course, students will be able to:
- Demonstrate an ability to select, critically evaluate, and apply relevant areas of scholarship;
- Articulate the processes required to bring about a successful outcome from planning, modeling, and preparing, to critiquing, revising and perfecting research;
- Recognize how an application of scholarship affects or is affected by political, social, cultural, economic or ethical dimensions;
- Produce original projects that reflects a body of knowledge relevant to this course;
- Effectively communicate the application of scholarship through written material

Prerequisites: The following course must be taken before enrolling in this course: CCJS 100, 105, and 200 (or an approved statistics course).

Course Policy: The University has created a course related policies web page which will be adhered to that can be found at: http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html

Communication Policy: In accordance with university policy, your university issued email must be issued for all email correspondence. Although the above-mentioned timeframe is 24 hours to receive a reply, it will typically be much sooner. Please have some patience as at times it may take several hours to reply due to other obligations. Should you email me at off business times, you may not receive a response until the following morning. Your understanding and adherence are appreciated.

ELMS Learning Management System: This course relies heavily on ELMS as a delivery platform for the learning material. Power points, assignments, and other course documents and resources are posted and available in the ELMS course site. Students should:

- Become proficient in utilizing ELMS as a Learning Management platform

- Check ELMS regularly for changes, updates, and learning materials

- *Set notifications in ELMS* which automatically notify students of instructor emails, submission comments (grading), and additions of new assignments.

Review posted course materials each week to stay abreast of what is occurring in the course including due dates and materials which will assist in completing the final. I will be using ELMS to post the syllabus, grades, some handouts, and you will be submitting assignments on ELMS as well. Go to http://www.elms.umd.edu/ and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature. In the event you have difficulty with ELMS:

1. Contact the ELMS support desk at 301- 405-1500

2. Send me an email letting me know what has occurred (Blacey1@UMD.EDU)

UMD Course Related Policies
The University has created a UMD Course Related Policies website:
http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies/html

Classroom Conduct Policy: Students are expected to behave professionally in the classroom, be respectful towards instructors and fellow classmates, and ensure their behaviors do not disrupt or interfere with class activities. Instructors have the authority and professional obligation to maintain a positive and inclusive learning environment for all students.
To that end, the following expectations will be enforced:
- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire class period.
- Be attentive throughout the entire class period.
- Do not engage in side conversations with students.
- Act in a mature and adult manner at all times.
- Respect everyone in the class, but not be fearful of disagreement. Discussion and debate are at the heart of learning.
- Do their best to succeed. Some students may need to work harder than others to succeed, but all students can earn an A in the class depending on their willingness to work.
- Ask the instructor for clarification or further explanation if they feel they do not understand the material being discussed or read. Chances are someone or everyone else has the same question.
- Challenge the instructor using evidence and reasoned arguments if they disagree with something the instructor says!
- Please note that cell phones are to be turned off during class. Repeated classroom disruptions will result in being asked to leave the class and may ultimately affect the grade you receive.
- While laptop use is allowed in lectures, please do not visit websites not related to the course or watch videos. This is rude to the prepared lecturer and is distracting to other students.

INSTRUCTOR CONDUCT POLICY: Students can expect me to:
- Treat them with respect.
- Provide feedback in a timely manner on assignments (ideally, within two weeks of the due date of exercises, usually sooner).
- Provide extensive feedback and assistance to students as they learn.
- Be honest in response when I do not know something.
- Enforce the standards I have established for grading and the learning outcomes of the course.

Names, Pronouns, and Self-Identifications

The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit trans.umd.edu to learn more. Additionally, how you identify in terms of your gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose (e.g., should it come up in classroom conversation about our experiences and perspectives) and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly, and I ask you to do the same for all of your fellow Terps.

Additional Requirements

You will be copying three SPSS data files onto a flashdrive before we begin the computer assignments. These files are found on ELMS in the files section. You must use a PC (not a Mac) to copy these files. We will copy them together when we have our computer workshop so you will need to bring your flashdrive with you when you come to the workshop.

In-person and Virtual Lab Options

There are two options this semester for running our SPSS programs with the exception of RP3- in-person computer lab and the Virtual Lab. For RP3, we will meet in the in-person lab in Lefrak in small groups during the Computer Workshop week. After that, you will have the option of completing the remaining research projects (RP4, RP6, extra credit RP) using the Virtual Lab or the in-person labs on campus. I will explain the Virtual Lab when distributing RP4. If you are using the Virtual Lab, you will have to set it up on your own devices. The directions for connecting to the lab are in the Files section of ELMS and there are directions for both a PC and MAC. If you run into difficulties with the Virtual Lab, there is an online form you can submit to: https://oacs.umd.ued/form/request-virtual-pc-lab-support You can also contact the OACS Help Desk at 301-405-1670 during business hours or email oacshelpdesk@umd.edu . The website for the actual lab (also listed in the lab directions) is: https://bsoslab.umd.edu/rdweb

Religious Observances: If you are unable to take the any exams or to be present in class on a required attendance day due to a religious observance, you will need to discuss this with me by, September 10, 2024.

Course Requirements

There are multiple requirements for this course. As noted above, there are six required and one optional extra credit projects where student will do independent research using social science data that will build on each other. These required research projects make up 1/3 of the overall course grade and will be submitted **online.** There will also be three **in class** exams, each covering a specified portion of material and they will total the other 2/3 of the overall course grade. None of the exams are cumulative in nature. The exams are designed to cover the vocabulary, content, and the use of statistical software that students must learn in order to conduct research. **Exams and all assignments 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.** Exams are primarily multiple choice with some true/false. Approximately 2/3 of exam questions are from lecture and the

remaining 1/3 are from the book. **Exams must be taken in the class you are registered for and will be in person. Assignments must be turned in online via ELMS.** Bring a picture ID to each exam.

You can earn extra credit by completing an Extra Credit Research Project (distributed in early November). For the **Extra Credit Research Project,** I will discuss it during class and it will have a maximum of ten raw points.

Assessments:

Exams I, II, III (50 pts. Each)

Research Projects:

> RP1 Ethics(10 pts)
> RP2 Survey Assignment (10 pts)
> RP3 Syntax and Descriptive Statistics (10 pts)
> RP4 Sampling and Survey Administration (15 pts)
> RP5 Field Research (10 pts)
> RP6 Tests of Independence (20 pts)
> **Total Points:** 225

The instructor reserves the right to adjust policies/assignments/points or content dates.

Course Evaluation Policy
Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we will do several forms of evaluation throughout this semester. One way is to fill out the online evaluation at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Fall 2024 courses in April. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations. Students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester (excluding summer), can access the posted results via Testudo's CourseEvalUM Reporting link for any course on campus that has at least a 70% response rate.

Copyright
The lectures that 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 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).

Accessibility and Disability Support
I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Support Services (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2024 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than September 20, 2024. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by ADS after

September 20, 2024. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS Center need to provide me with the link to the testing form for each exam and I must receive this **no later than 1 week prior to each exam**. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty of any form will absolutely NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semester's exams and computer assignments. It is important to note that course assistance websites such as CourseHero, or **any AI generated content** are not permitted sources, unless permission is granted. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam and computer assignment. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally Recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit the following link: https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-integrity-student-conduct-codes/

Evaluation and Assessment of Course Learning Outcomes (Grading): Percentage points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

A+ (97-100%)	B+ (87-89%)	C+ (77-79%)	D+ (67-69%)	F (<60%)
A (93-96%)	B (83-86%)	C (73-76%)	D (63-66%)	
A- (90-92%)	B- (80-82%)	C- (70-72%)	D- (60-62%)	

I will be rounding grades at the end of the term, using the .45 threshold. So, for example, a 92.45% will be rounded up to an A, but a 92.44% will remain as an A-. Do not ask to "bump" your grade up, doing so will result in automatic refusal unless the grade is entered incorrectly.

Attendance will be taken on the days that RP6 and the Extra Credit Research Projects are handed out and discussed. You must be present those days or have an excused absence you notified me in advance of in order to receive assistance from myself or the TA on these assignments. In general, it is expected that if you must attend class on the days I hand out and discuss all assignments in order to receive assistance from myself or the TAs. You will also need to get the assignment handouts in class as they will not be available online or via email.

Copying SPSS data files (we will do this together during Research Project 3 lab days)
You will need to copy SPSS data files that we will use this semester. They are found under the files section on ELMS. **You must use a PC to copy these files.** In-depth directions and steps for these projects will be distributed prior to the assignments.

Makeup Policy

This course has a very strict makeup policy regarding exams or assignments. These will only be given in cases of excused absences and official documentation is required. **Exams and research projects are**

considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medial excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediately family, required school activities, and required court appearance. **I will not accept a Health Center honor statement to verify an illness.** If you go to the Health Center and a doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so.

For exams, I must be notified by email or phone PRIOR to missing an exam (must notify me before the exam begins in class) for me to consider providing a makeup exam, even if this means you have to use limited cell data to email me. Make up exams may be a different style than you regular exam If you have a problem on the date of the exam, call or email me. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam with an approved absence, you will be expected to take the exam prior to your absence and prior to the regularly scheduled exam.

For the Research Projects, I must be notified PRIOR to the start of class on the day the Research Project is due for me to consider an extension. Given that you have ample time for each Research Project and they are submitted online, I do not anticipate giving extensions on these projects. Do the projects early to avoid potential issues. **If you are traveling for athletic events or other approved absences the day the Research Project is due, it is still due and you will need to submit the project before you go.**

Research Projects

All research projects are **due via ELMS by the very beginning of the class you are registered for (either MW 9 or 10:30)** and they must be submitted on time. **I do not accept late assignments** and they are due to be submitted by the beginning of class online on the due date. **I will lock the submission at 10 minutes after the class starting time and no submissions will be accepted after that time. This is a firm deadline with no exceptions.** You can always submit assignments early but never late. **Only one submission is permitted per research project.** Makes sure you include all necessary attachments before you click submit. If you accidentally submit prematurely, you can add an attachment in the comments section of your submission. Once a research project is submitted on ELMS, it is considered submitted and changes cannot be made. **You will need to check that your submissions and attachments posted and can be viewed on ELMS. I will not give credit after the fact if the submission did not submit or cannot be viewed in ELMS.**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE/FINAL EXAM REMINDER
WEEK 1 (August 26-31, 2024)

Week 1: Major Topics	Intro and syllabus
August 26	
	Introductions, thoroughly read and review syllabus
August 31	
	Process of Research Read Ch. 1

WEEK 2 (September 2-6, 2024)

Week 2: Major Topics	Process of Research
September 2	
	NO CLASS- Labor Day!
September 4	
	Process conclusion and Ethics

WEEK 3 (September 9-13, 2024)

Week 3: Major Topics	Ethics
September 9	
	Ethics Read Ch. 2
September 11	
	Paper Presentations Get RP1

WEEK 4 (September 16-20, 2024)

Week 4: Major Topics	Hypotheses, Research Design
September 16	
	Hypothesis testing/research design experiments Read Ch. 3 Read p. 86-88
September 18	
	Sampling, Questionnaire Construction Read p. 98-117

WEEK 5 (September 23-27, 2024)

Week 5: Major Topics	Presentations/Coding
September 23	
	Presentations
September 25	
	Presentations/Coding/SPSS Read Ch. 12

WEEK 6 (September 30– October 4, 2024)

Week 6: Major Topics	Exam 1
September 30	
	Exam Review
October 2	
	Exam 1

WEEK 7 (October 7-11, 2024)

Week 7: Major Topics	Computer Week
October 7	
	Computer Workshop Group 1 RP2 due Get RP3

October 9	
	Computer Workshop Group 2 **Get RP3**

WEEK 8 (October 14-18, 2024)

Week 1: Major Topics	**Virtual Lab and Interviews**
October 14	
	Measures of Central Tendency, Read Pages 117-130 **Virtual Lab** **Get RP4**
October 16	
	Interviews **Read p. 132-146** **Read Ch. 7**

WEEK 9 (October 21-25, 2024)

Week 9: Major Topics	**Field Research**
October 21	
	Field Research **Read Ch. 8** **RP3 due** **Get RP5**
October 23	
	Field Research

WEEK 10 (October 28-November 1, 2024)

Week 10: Major Topics	**Field Research/unobtrusive measures**
October 28	
	Field Research/UCR **Read p. 86-97**
October 30	
	Crime Databases/Q & A RP4

WEEK 11 (November 4-8, 2024)

Week 1: Major Topics	
November 4	
	Exam Review **RP4 due**
November 6	
	EXAM II in class

WEEK 12 (November 11-15, 2024)

Week 1: Major Topics	**Research Project 6**
November 11	
	Get RP6- Mandatory attendance for assistance
November 13	

	Self-Reports, Victimization Read p. 123-127 RP5 due

WEEK 13 (November 18-22, 2024)

Week 1: Major Topics	Victimization/Self Reports
November 18	
	Victimization Read p. 146-158 Extra Credit Part I- Attendance required for assistance
November 20	
	Scales and Prediction Read Ch. 10

WEEK 14 (November 25-29, 2024)

Week 14: Major Topics	Scales and Prediction
November 25	
	Prediction RP6-Due
November 27	
	Fall Break-No Class!

Week 15: (December 2-6, 2024)

Week 15: Major Topics	Reliability and Validity, Evaluative Research
December 2	
	Reliability and Validity Read Ch. 9
December 4	
	Evaluation Research Read Ch. 11 Extra Credit due

WEEK 16 (December 9-13, 2024)

Week 16: Major Topics	Proposal writing
December 9	
	Proposal Writing
Final Exam	Section 0101 December 14, 1:30-3:30 PM Section 0201 December 17, 10:30AM-12:30 PM

All Research Projects are submitted via ELMS

All exams are in class and in the regular classroom