

CCJS 300: CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS
FALL 2026

SECTION 0401 Van Munching Hall 1207

Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30pm-1:45pm

SECTION 0301 Van Munching Hall 1207

Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00pm-3:15pm

Instructor: Dr. Alan R. Lehman Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00am-1:00pm
2209 LeFrak Hall and by appointment
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Teaching Assistants:

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Office Hours:

Mon. 3:00pm – 5:00pm

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Tue. 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Thu. 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Samantha Merlo (0301)
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Fri. 11:00am - 1:00pm

Tatiana Rubio (0301)
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Mon. 8:00am - 10:00am

Course Description:

CCJS 300 is an introduction to the formulation of research questions covering research design, data collection, and interpretation and reporting in criminological and justice-system settings. Using data provided by the instructor, you will conduct basic descriptive and inferential statistics using computer software (IBM SPSS). In this course, you will learn how to perform hypothesis tests and generate and interpret statistical output.

Course Prerequisites:

You MUST have already COMPLETED CCJS 100, CCJS 105, and CCJS 200 (or an approved statistics course).

Required Textbook:

Hagan, Frank E. 2018. Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology, 10th edition, Pearson, New York. (ISBN: 978-0-13-455891-2)

Required Data (and class related files):

The data files, codebooks, and other supplementary files (the syllabus, computer assignments, readings, etc.) that will be used for this course will be available through ELMS/Canvas.

Course Grading:

Your grade will be based upon three exams and 7 assignments, four of which will include statistical programming with **IBM SPSS**. Each exam will count 20% toward your final grade, the assignments will be worth a total of 40%. See weekly schedule for more details.

The exams will cover material from the lectures, class discussions, assigned readings from the textbook, handouts, and files found on our class ELMS site. Approximately 2/3 of the exam questions come from lecture and class discussions and the remaining 1/3 come from the textbook. Exams will not be cumulative. I have a very strict policy concerning makeup exams. Exams must be taken on the assigned day unless you have presented a valid, written excuse (such as a doctor's note or a police report or summons) before the exam and made arrangements with Dr. Lehman to take a makeup exam. Health center notes are not valid excuses! Under no circumstances will oversleeping, car trouble, or health problems (without a doctor's note) be grounds for a makeup exam. Dr. Lehman reserves the right to change the format of the makeup exam if he wishes.

All assignments are due on Fridays by 5pm (see our weekly schedule on pages 4 and 5). While it is perfectly acceptable to get help with these assignments from Dr. Lehman or our TA(s), each student must complete his or her own assignments. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!** There will be no makeup assignments unless you have made arrangements with Dr. Lehman before the assignment is due.

There will be no curve--final grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+ = 97.00% - 100%	A = 93.00% - 96.99%	A- = 90.00% - 92.99%
B+ = 87.00% - 89.99%	B = 83.00% - 86.99%	B- = 80.00% - 82.99%
C+ = 77.00% - 79.99%	C = 73.00% - 76.99%	C- = 70.00% - 72.99%
D+ = 67.00% - 69.99%	D = 63.00% - 66.99%	D- = 60.00% - 62.99%
F = <60.00%		

Attendance Policy

Under this policy, instructors are expected to accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from a student who has missed a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, attesting to the date of the illness. This note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under the Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A student is allowed only ONE self-signed note per class for the semester. Please note that this situation does NOT apply to Major Scheduled Graded Events (exams, assignments, etc.).

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behaviors such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as illicit possession of

previous semester's exams and/or computer assignments. All students are required to sign the Honor Pledge on each exam and computer assignment.

The use of AI tools (ChatGPT, TerpAI, Gemini, Grammarly, etc.) is **prohibited** for any part of the assignment process in this class, including brainstorming, writing, and editing. This policy aims to foster your ability to develop original ideas and a unique voice, both core skills of this class. Any use of AI-generated work to outline, write, create, or edit your assignments will be considered an academic integrity violation and will be subject to a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. If you have any questions about this policy, please email Dr. Lehman.

Computer Lab and Computer Assignments

During the weeks of Tuesday, September 29th and Thursday, October 1st, and October 20th and October 22nd we will meet in the basement computer lab in LeFrak Hall, Lab #2(0227). Each student will be assigned a day (either Tuesday or Thursday) and a time to receive an orientation (the first week) to computing with **IBM SPSS** [Statistical Package for the Social Sciences] and instruction on creating a class data file (the second week). It is strongly recommended that you save electronic copies of your computer output as backups. The best way to do this is to use a flash drive. All class assignments (including programming assignments) will be available through our ELMS page.

Copyrights

The lectures I give in this class and the course materials I have created are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. You are permitted to take notes from the lectures and to use course materials throughout the semester. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes/assignments 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).

Disability Support

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form. This form must be presented to me no later than September 18th. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS by September 18th. DSS students who are requesting to take their exams at the DSS Center need to provide me with a testing form for each exam that must be turned in to me 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.

Answers to other course related questions and policies may be found at the web site: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>.

Week	Date(s)	Topics, Exams, Due Dates	Book Chapter(s)
Week 1	September 1	Introduction to Criminal Justice Research Methods	Review Syllabus Hagan Chapter 1
	September 3	Finish Introduction	Hagan Chapter 1
Week 2	September 8	Begin Ethics in Research	Hagan Chapter 2
	September 10	Finish Ethics in Research (Ethics Assignment on ELMS)	Hagan Chapter 2
Week 3	September 15	Experimental Methods and Research Design	Hagan Chapter 3
	September 17	Experimental Methods and Research Design Ethics Assignment Due 9/18 by 5pm	Hagan Chapter 3
Week 4	September 22	Statistics and Data Analysis Exam Review	Hagan Chapter 13
	September 24	Exam #1	Hagan Chapters 1-3, 13
Week 5	September 29 October 1	MEET IN COMPUTER LAB #2 (0227) in LeFrak Hall) THIS WEEK (See Lab Assignment Sheet for room, dates, and times.) SPSS Assignment #1 on ELMS	
Week 6	October 6	Uniform Crime Reports and Sampling	Hagan Chapter 4
	October 8	Uniform Crime Reports and Sampling SPSS Assignment #1 due 10/9 by 5pm	Hagan Chapter 4
Week 7	October 13	No Classes—Enjoy Fall Break	
	October 15	Survey Research: Questionnaires (Survey Assignment on ELMS)	Hagan Chapter 5
Week 8	October 20 October 22	MEET IN COMPUTER LAB #2 (0227) in LeFrak Hall) THIS WEEK (See Lab Assignment Sheet for room, dates, and times.) SPSS Assignment #2 on ELMS	

Week	Date(s)	Topics, Exams, Due Dates	Book Chapter(s)
Week 9	October 27	Begin Interviews and Telephone Surveys SPSS Assignment #3 on ELMS, In-Class Computer Instruction	Hagan Chapter 6
	October 29	Finish Interviews and Telephone Surveys SPSS Assignment #2 due 10/30 by 5pm	Hagan Chapter 6
Week 10	November 3	Participant Observation and Case Studies, Exam Review	Hagan Chapter 7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chs.
	November 5	No classes, Dr. Lehman at a conference Survey Assignment due 11/6 by 5pm	
Week 11	November 10	Field Day Assignment Mandatory Attendance	Hagan Chapters 4-7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chs.
	November 12	Exam #2 SPSS Assignment #3 due 11/13 by 5pm	Hagan Chapters 4-7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chs.
Week 12	November 17	Unobtrusive Measures and Secondary Analysis SPSS Assignment #4 on ELMS In-Class Computer Instruction	Hagan Chapter 8
	November 19	Validity & Reliability	Hagan Chapter 9
Week 13	November 24	Begin Scaling/Index Construction	Hagan Chapter 10
	November 26	No Classes (Happy Thanksgiving)	
Week 14	December 1	Finish Scaling/Index Construction	Hagan Chapter 10
	December 3	Begin Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research SPSS Assignment #4 due 12/4 by 5pm	Hagan Chapter 11
Week 15	December 8	Finish Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research,	Hagan Chapter 11
	December 10	Exam Review, Course Evaluation	Hagan Chapters 8-11
Finals: 0401 (12:30pm)	Friday December 18	Final Exam 4:00pm-6:00pm	Hagan Chapters 8-11
0301 (2:00pm)	Thursday December 17	Final Exam 10:30am-12:30pm	Hagan Chapters 8-11