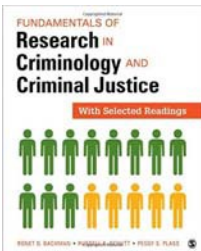




## COURSE INFORMATION

[wstickle@umd.edu](mailto:wstickle@umd.edu)



### Required Text

Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice with Selected Readings.  
 Bachman, R. and Schutt, R.K. (2015)  
 Sage. Edition 1.  
 ISBN: 978-1506323671

### Student Resources Site:

<https://study.sagepub.com/bachmanfrccejr>

Additional Readings: On ELMS Website: [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu)

Prerequisites: CCJS100, CCJS105 and CCJS200 (or an approved Statistics Course)

### GRADING SCHEMA

- Quizzes (9/18, 10/9, 11/6, 12/13) 50%
- Research Projects 40%
- Class Participation 10%

# 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 seven 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, 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 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

# ELMS

I will be using ELMS to post the syllabus, grades, and handouts. Further, all assignments should be submitted on ELMS before class begins on the specified due date (unless instructed to bring assignment to class). Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature.

# COURSE PHILOSOPHY

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. You will be responsible for all assigned readings and lectures PRIOR to class. Class time will be spent on further exploring concepts, group and independent work, and discussion. Essentially, classwork will become homework and homework will become classwork!

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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.

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 email me to schedule a time for us to meet in my office.

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 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.**

**GROUP WORK:** Students will work in pre-assigned groups regularly in this class. I realize that group work can be stressful. However, all careers require you to work with others, thus I hope you all will learn how to work together.

**EXAMS:** There will be four quizzes (which will collectively make up 40% 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. Tentatively quizzes will be completed **independently**, online (except for Quiz 4). 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 exam policies.

**RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Five research projects will account for a total of 40% of your final grade. All projects should be turned in via ELMS (unless noted otherwise) before class on the due date. Projects turned in during or after class will be considered late. Ten percentage points will be deducted for every day (including weekend days) a project is late. Assignments will not be accepted beyond five days after the due date. Class room time will be provided for peer-review as well as feedback from the instructor. There will be opportunities for collaboration with your pre-assigned groups. Specific details on group projects, including expectations when working in groups, will follow. Research projects will include:

1. NIH Training (<https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/PHRP.pdf>) (10 pt)
2. Survey Construction (10 pts)
3. Analysis with Descriptive Statistics/Write up of sampling technique and survey procedures (25 pts)
4. Field Research (10 pts)
5. Analysis with Tests of Independence and Inferential Statistics (45 pts)

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Class participation will be measured by in-class group work and quizzes. Class participation will be evaluated through the collection of in-class group assignments and quizzes, and observation of classroom and group discussions. Absent students will not be permitted to make-up in-class activities without documentation for an excused absence.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra credit opportunities will be made available periodically throughout the semester, at the discretion of the instructor.

## Final Grade

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

## 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](http://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.

## MAKEUP POLICY

Opportunities to make-up missed in-class work 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 new University medical 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 immediate family, required school activities, and required court appearance. If 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. I must be notified in person or by phone or email **PRIOR** to missing a **in-class assignment** for me to consider giving you a makeup. **If you know you will not be in class for in-class work or a date a project is due for an excused reason it is your responsibility to turn in the work PRIOR to the due date.**

In the case of extended absences, due to an excused reason, students may be referred to their academic advisor to discuss academic options. Refer to the [UMD Absence Policy](#) for specific information related to missing class.

## SENDING EMAIL

Please use the subject line “CCJS300” whenever you send an email, which will increase the probability of us not considering it junk mail. The professor will mainly rely on email in order to communicate with students. The professor prefers communications be send via Outlook rather than through ELMS. Please check your email regularly.

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY

No computers, phones or tablet devices are permitted during our class meetings. I understand and have considered arguments for permitting laptop and tablet computers in the classroom. However, in my experience (and based on the research evidence) the reality is that they present an irresistible distraction and detract from the cooperative learning environment. Researchers have found that these distractions do in fact interfere with learning and active participation. For that reason, the use of computers and phones will not be permitted during class meetings (except when required for ADS accommodations). If a computer is needed to accomplish a class objective for the day I will provide it or give you advanced notice to bring one with you.

I expect you to make the responsible and respectful decision to refrain from using your cellphone in class. If you have critical communication to attend to, please excuse yourself and return when you are ready. For more information about the science behind the policy watch: [youtu.be/WwPaw3Fx5Hk](https://youtu.be/WwPaw3Fx5Hk)

## 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 September 10, 2017, 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. Please remember that accommodations are not made for travel to and from the 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](http://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 Fall 2019 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than **September 9, 2019. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by ADS after September 9, 2019.**

# CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Class	Topic	Additional Information
Week 1 08/28	Introduction to the course Introduction to SPSS Part I (in class)	CJ and Policy Article (Introduction Module)
Week 2 09/04	Topic 1: Introduction to Research and the Scientific Method	<b>Class Preparation:</b> Chapter 1; Topic 1 Lectures, <b>Due:</b> Article Interpretation Assignment, 9am
Week 3 09/11	Topic 2: Theory and Research Topic 3: Ethics and Research	<b>Class Preparation:</b> Chapters 2 and 3; Broken Windows article; Topics 2 and 3 Lectures <b>Due:</b> Broken Windows Assignment and Ethics Research Assignment, 9am
Week 4 09/18	<b>Quiz 1 (Chapters 1-3)—Complete online</b>	<b>Due: The quiz will be available from midnight to 11:59pm on 9/18</b>
Week 5 09/25	Topic 4: Measurement and Sampling	<b>Class Preparation (in recommended order):</b> Chapter 4; Recorded Lectures 6.1-6.7; Chapter 5; Recorded Lectures 6.8-6.12 Article Interpretation 2, 9am
Week 6 10/02	Topic 5: Research Design	<b>Class Preparation:</b> Chapter 6; Topic 5 Lectures <b>Due: RP#1—Ethics (9:00am)</b>
Week 7 10/9	<b>In Class Discussion 9:30-11 (Rm III-2230)</b> <b>Quiz 2 (Chapters 4-6)—Complete online</b>	<b>Due: The quiz will be available from 12pm 10/9 through 11:59pm on 10/10.</b>
Week 8 10/16	Topic 6: Experiments/Quasi-Experiments  Introduction to SPSS Part II-Descriptive Statistics (in class)	<b>Class Preparation:</b> Topic 6 Lectures; Appendix D (in textbook); SPSS Resources (on ELMS); Introduction to SPSS Part II Module <b>Due:</b> Experimental Design activity, 9am
Week 9 10/23	Topic 7: Survey/Interview Methods	<b>Class Preparation:</b> Chapter 7; Topic 7 Lectures <b>Due:</b> Survey Design Activity, 9am
Week 10 10/30	Introduction to SPSS Part III-Chi Square (in class)  Survey Development Work (Lab III-3211)	<b>Class Preparation:</b> In class, bring a copy of draft survey for each group member <b>Due:</b> SPSS Exercise 1, 11:59pm  <b>RP#2-Survey Construction, 11/3 11:59pm</b>
Week 11 11/06	<b>Quiz 3 (Topics 6, 7, Descriptive Statistics)—Complete online</b>	<b>Due: The quiz will be available on 11/06 from midnight until 11:59pm.</b>

<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
<b>Week 12 11/13</b>	Topic 8: Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis  Introduction to SPSS Part IV—T-Tests and Correlations	<b>Class Preparation:</b> Chapter 8,; Topic 8 Lectures <b>Due:</b> SPSS Exercise 2, 11:59pm  <b>RP#3--Descriptive Statistics and Write up of Sampling and Results by 11/17 11:59pm</b>
<b>Week 13 11/20</b>	Topic 9: Analyzing Content using Alternative Methods	<b>Class Preparation:</b> Chapters 9 and 11; Topic 9 Lectures  <b>Due: RP#4—Field Research, 11/24@ 11:59pm</b>
<b>Week 14 11/27</b>	<b>NO CLASS –Thanksgiving Break</b>	
<b>Week 15 12/04</b>	Topic 10: Evaluation Research Reporting Results	<b>Class Preparation:</b> Chapter 10 and 12, Teen Court Article; Topic 10 Lectures  <b>Due: RP#5 Tests of Variance/Inferential Statistics @ 11:59pm</b>

**FINAL EXAM (Quiz 4): Friday December 13 8:00-9:30am**