

CCJS300-ESG1

Criminological and Criminal Justice Research Methods

Spring 2022

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Criminological and Criminal Justice Research Methods-Spring 2021

Prerequisites

CCJS100 and CCJS105; and (PSYC200, CCJS200, ECON321, BMGT230, or SOCY201).

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the formulation of research questions covering crime and justice, research designs, data collection, and interpretation and reporting in criminological and justice-system settings. This course will teach students the basic elements of 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 the computer software package SPSS that is typically used in analyzing social science data. In this class, students will complete five 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: (1) assess ethical issues in research, (2) create a survey instrument, (3) disseminate the survey, (4) decide on and assess a sampling technique, (5) analyze survey and other criminological data using descriptive analysis and inferential statistics, (6) conduct a field observation study, (7) develop hypotheses and present the justification for these hypotheses, (8) select and transform variables, (9) test hypotheses using criminological data, (10) perform appropriate statistical tests, and (11) develop conclusions and implications based on their research.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

-Demonstrate competency in written communication.

-Demonstrate competency in oral communication.

-Demonstrate competency in critical analysis.

-Demonstrate competency in critical reasoning.

- Students will demonstrate understanding of how crime and criminal justice are products of political, economic, and social structures and examine how they intersect with systems of oppression

Learning Objectives

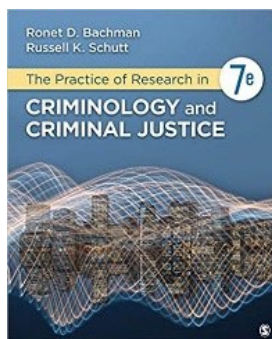
In the course of this class, students will:

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 reflect a body of knowledge relevant to the course;
5. Effectively communicate the application of scholarship through written material

Course Prerequisites CCJS100 and CCJS105; and (PSYC200, CCJS200, ECON321, BMGT230, or SOCY201).

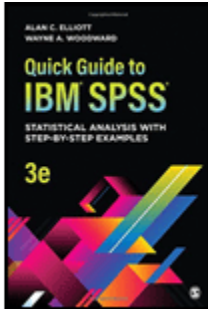
Required Textbook:

Bachman, R. D., & Schutt, R. K. (2018). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice* (7th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN 9781544366906



Recommended

Elliott, Alan C. and Woodward, Wayne A. Quick Guide to IBM SPSS, (3rd ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN 9781544360423



Other readings will be discussed and provided throughout the course.

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 ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

Activities, Learning Assessments, & Expectations for Students

ELMS/CANVAS

I will be using CANVAS to post the syllabus, grades, and some handouts. Go to <http://www.elms.umd.edu/> and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature. Please check ELMS regularly for updates and related course materials.

Course Communication

Primary Communications will be through email (ELMS). Please use the subject line “CCJS300” whenever you send an email, which will increase the probability of me not considering it junk mail. The professor will mainly rely on email in order to communicate with students. The student may also use Outlook if any difficulty arises with ELMS. Please check your email regularly.

I will primarily rely on ELMS for sending time-sensitive information to students (e.g., ELMS announcement). Here is a link with some helpful guidance on writing professional emails ([ter.ps/email \(Links to an external site.\)](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#))).

Course Requirements: There are multiple requirements for this course, described below. Exams and the Final Paper/Exam 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.

Grading Schema

Exams (Mid-term and Final) 200 points total

Research Projects 85 points total

Research projects

1. Ethical Issues (10 points)
2. Survey Construction (10 points)
3. Analysis with Descriptive Statistics/Write up of sampling technique (20 pts)
4. Analysis with Tests of Independence (20 pts)
5. Analysis with Tests of Inferential Statistics (25 pts)

Class Participation: Class participation is an important part of this class. This class is virtual and on those dates when we meet, it is essential to attend. Missing class and not participating within the class will hurt your grade through not gathering in-class information. Absent students will not be permitted to make-up any online in-class assignments without documentation for an excused absence.

Religious Observances: 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.

Disability Support

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Service (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form. Only written DSS documentation of the accommodation will be considered. This form must be presented to me no later than February 11, 2022. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who provide me with documentation which has not been reviewed and approved by UM's DSS Office after February 11, 2022.

Grading Schema

Final Letter Grades are determined in the following manner:

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

Grades will be posted in ELMS as soon as possible after the exam or paper's due date. They can be viewed in ELMS and will review class exams in class. Subjective work will be returned to the student as an attachment in ELMS after the paper is graded.

Keep in mind, that grades are not given, but earned. Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually. 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 discuss this matter.

Make-Up 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 an **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.**

Code of Conduct

Students are expected to treat each other with respect and this includes on-line. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to demonstrate civility with one another or me will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Security. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

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.

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. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam and project. 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:

<http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Grade Disputes

If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe the professor should review them, you must submit a written request over email to the professor that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week of the day that grades for the relevant assignment are disseminated.

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 semester, 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. I will announce the dates the evaluations are available during our semester. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)) to complete their evaluations.

Academic Deadlines

*Cancel Registration January 21, 2022

*Change from Full-time to Part-Time (See Schedule Adjustment) January 21, 2022

<http://registrar.umd.edu/current/registration/ScheduleAdjustment.html> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

*Add a Course February 4, 2022

*Apply for Graduation February 4 2022

*Change Credit Level February 4, 2022

*Change Grading Option February 4, 2022

*Drop a course without “W” (Withdrawal) February 4, 2022

*Drop a Course with “W” (Withdrawal) April 8, 2022

<http://registrar.umd.edu/current/registration/ScheduleAdjustment.html> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Get Some Help!

You are expected to take personal responsibility for you own learning. This includes acknowledging when your performance does not match your goals and doing something about it. Everyone can benefit from some expert guidance on time management, note taking, and exam preparation, so I encourage you to consider visiting the USG Center for Academic Success (<https://shadygrove.umd.edu/student-services/center-for-academic-success> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)) when needed.

Everything is free because you have already paid for it, and **everyone needs help...** all you have to do is ask for it.

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 and online 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 ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) 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.

The syllabus for our class is below. Please review the course schedule.

This class is virtual and synchronous and on those dates when we meet, it is essential to attend. We will be meeting via Zoom and I will send out the invitation the weekend prior to the class date. We'll meet on Mondays from 11 am until 1230 pm.

Date	Topic	Activity
Week 1 January 24 thru January 30 2022	Review the Syllabus Introduction to Research	ELMS Chapter 1
Week 2 January 31 thru February 6 2022	Research Design	Chapter 2
Week 3 February 7 thru February 13 2022	Ethics	Chapter 3
Week 4 February 14 thru February 20 2022	Conceptualization and Measurement	Chapter 4
Week 5 February 21 thru February 27 2022	Sampling	Chapter 5 Research Project 1 (Ethics) is due
Week 6	Survey Research	Chapter 8

February 28 thru March 6 2022		
Week 7 March 7 thru March 13 2022	Exam 1	Exam covers Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,8
Week 9 March 21 thru March 27 2022	SPRING BREAK March 20 (Sun) thru March 27 (Sunday)	
Week 10 March 28 thru April 3 2022	Measures of Central Tendency	Research Project 2 (Survey Construction) is due Chapter 14
Week 11 April 4 thru April 10 2022	SPSS Introduction	Instructor Material
Week 12 April 11 thru April 17 2022	Tests of Independence	Instructor Material Research Project 3 (Descriptive Statistics) is Due
Week 13 April 18 thru April 24 2022	Inferential Statistics and Tests of Variance	Instructor Material
Week 14 April 25 thru May 1 2022	Summarizing and Reporting Research	Chapter 16 Research Project 4 (Tests of Independence) is Due
Week 15 May 2 thru May 8 2022	Exam 2	Exam covers Course Posted materials (Instructor materials) and Chapter 16 from text.
RP5 takes the place of a Final Exam. The due date will be on the University's scheduled date for what they list as the Final Exam for this class.	Final Project 5	Research Project 5 (Tests of Variance) is due.

