

University of North Texas at Dallas

Fall 2015 SYLLABUS

CJUS 4700-001: Research Methods in Criminal Justice (3 hrs)			
Department of	Criminal Justice	Division of	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:	<i>Julie Siddique</i>		
Office Location:	<i>DAL2 Room 315</i>		
Office Phone:	<i>972-338-1835</i>		
Email Address:	<i>julie.siddique@untDallas.edu</i>		
Office Hours:	M 2pm-4pm, W 10am-12pm & 2pm-4pm, Th 10am-12pm & 2pm-4pm, or by appointment.		
Virtual Office Hours:	<i>Same as above. Responses to email generally within 1 business day.</i>		
Classroom Location:	DAL2, Room 240		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Monday 7:00pm-9:50pm		
Course Catalog Description:	Examines research methodology in criminal justice. Special emphasis is placed on methods and techniques for conducting research in criminal justice, including the relationship between theory and research, the nature of causation, research designs and techniques, conceptualization and measurement, operationalization, sampling, and ethical issues.		
Prerequisites:	Senior standing and a minimum of 18 hours in criminal justice, with 12 hours from the criminal justice core.		
Co-requisites:	None		
Required Text:	Bachman, R. & Schutt, R.K. (2015). <i>Fundamentals of Research in Criminology & Criminal Justice, 3rd Edition</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.		
Recommended Text and References:	APA Handbook. Supplemental readings and other materials will be distributed to students throughout the semester at the professor's discretion.		
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 338-1616; web: http://www.untDallas.edu/our-campus/library UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com		
Course Goals or Overview:	This course is designed to familiarize students with the process of social scientific inquiry. Students will learn the fundamentals of research methods, including the process by which research questions are formulated, relevant literature is reviewed, data are collected and analyzed, and results are written up.		
Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	After completion of this course, students should be able to:		
1	Identify the characteristics of social scientific research questions		
2	Define the most commonly used quantitative and qualitative research methods		
3	Describe appropriate methods to identify a relevant population and sample from that population		
4	Understand the ways in which the quality of data are assessed (e.g. validity, reliability, etc.)		
5	Be able to use academic databases to search for peer-reviewed journal articles		
6	Conduct basic quantitative and qualitative data collection		
7	Conduct basic data analysis of quantitative and qualitative data		

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class and by Blackboard announcement & email.

TIMELINE	TOPICS
Aug 24	Ice Breakers; Introduction to Criminological Research (Ch. 1)
Aug 31	The Process of Criminological Research (Ch. 2); Discussion of Research Proposal Assignment
Sep 7	Labor Day: NO CLASS
Sep 14	Research Ethics (Ch. 3)
Sep 21	Conceptualization and Measurement (Ch. 4); Review for Exam 1
Sep 28	EXAM 1 ; Sampling (Ch. 5)
Oct 5	Causation and Research Design (Ch. 6)
Oct 12	Survey Research (Ch. 7)
Oct 19	Qualitative Methods (Ch. 8); Review for Exam 2
Oct 26	EXAM 2 ; Analyzing Content (Ch. 9)
Nov 2	Evaluation & Policy Analysis (Ch. 10); Research Proposal Topic Due
Nov 9	Mixing and Comparing Methods (Ch. 11); Research Proposal Preliminary Lit Review Due
Nov 16	Reporting Results (Ch. 12); Review for Exam 3; Research Proposal Sample/Design Due
Nov 23	EXAM 3 ; Q&A on Research Proposals; Research Proposal Pilot Study Due
Nov 30	Peer Review of Research Proposals, Peer Evaluations Due
Dec 7	Final Research Proposal Due

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – *written tests designed to measure knowledge and retention of presented course material*

Research Proposal – *written assignment designed to demonstrate ability to apply presented course material*

Class Participation – *daily attendance and participation in class discussion and activities, including in-class exercises, homework assignments, and quizzes*

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Exams	3 exams @ 20% each	60%
Research Proposal	20%	20%
Class Participation	20%	20%
Total:	100%	100%

Grade Determination:

A = 90% or better

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = less than 60%

Assignment Policy:

Exams: *There will be three exams in this course. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. Questions will come from assigned readings, lecture, and class discussion and activities.*

Research Proposal: *The final assignment for this class will be a research proposal. Students will select a topic of inquiry based on their own interests and design a research study to examine a particular research question. The proposal must follow proper conventions of social science research as discussed in class. (Samples will be provided to students). The proposal should be about 10-12 pages in length. This assignment should be submitted via Blackboard by midnight on Monday, Dec. 7th.*

Class Participation: *Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of regular attendance and participation in class discussion and activities. Class activities may include in-class exercises, homework assignments, and quizzes. Instructions for these activities will be presented in class. Each of these activities will contribute to the overall class participation grade.*

Late Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at [http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code. In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.