

## **CRIJ-4316-120: METHODS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH**

**\*\*\* DISCLAIMER: SYLLABUS MAY BE REVISED LATER IF NEEDED \*\*\***

### **COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Class Time.** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11-12:15PM

**Classroom.** Founder's room 212

**Office.** Founder's room 217N, office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-4:30PM.

**Email.** MQuinones@TAMUCT.edu

**Communication.** Canvas has an email function we will use to communicate. To learn how to use Canvas *Conversations*, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10573-4212710324>.

You can also see me after class, during office hours, and by appointment.

### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

#### **Methods of Criminal Justice Research. (3-0-WI)**

This course is an introduction to the methods of criminological and criminal justice research, with emphasis on research ethics, research design, and methods of data collection and analysis.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will demonstrate writing skills appropriate to the discipline of Criminal Justice.
2. Students will understand, value, and practice ethical behaviors associated with social science research.
3. Students will understand basic social science research methodologies as applied to research in Criminal Justice and Criminology.
4. Students will demonstrate basic research skills by developing research projects.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Withrow, B.L. (2014). *Research Methods in Crime and Justice (2nd Ed)*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 9781138124233.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

Students may receive handouts and additional reading materials throughout the semester. These materials are distributed during class or posted on Blackboard.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course meets face-to-face, with supplemental readings and required assignments completed online using the TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System: <https://tamuct.instructure.com>. We will meet in person most of the time, the rest of the time you will complete assignments from home. Students must be able to access Canvas. I communicate to you as a class using *Canvas Announcements*, so make sure you enable notifications for announcements

## **ATTENDANCE & MISSED MATERIAL/QUIZZES/EXAMS POLICY**

I am required to take attendance, but I do not count it towards your final grade. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to keep up with the reading, assignments, exercises, and any additional materials provided in class during the semester. There will be no optional assignments for extra credit, late assignments are not accepted, make-up exams are not allowed, and I do not provide my lecture notes.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Your final grade in this course is based on how well you do on assignments and exams. Assignments and exams are completed on Canvas.

## **DESCRIPTION AND VALUE OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**Chapter Quizzes (40%).** Students complete quizzes over each chapter. Quizzes review material from the chapter and help prepare students for in-class participation.

**Research Proposal Assignments (60%).** Students will develop a research question and hypothesis, conduct a literature review, and propose a methodology to test the hypothesis. Students must also address ethical issues relevant to their research. This assignment is broken up into multiple parts throughout the semester to help the students work through this assignment.

All assignments are completed on Canvas. To learn how to view assignments in Canvas, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10566-4212191416>. Exams are also completed on Canvas. For information on viewing quizzes in Canvas, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10581-421250756>

I will provide feedback on the content when possible and refer you to a tutor for additional help with grammar and writing. TAMUCT offers free on-campus and online writing assistance through the writing center. Students also have access to writing tutors through Tutor.com for free. You can access Tutor.com directly from Canvas. Also, review the section on plagiarism at the end of the syllabus (\*).

## **GRADING CRITERIA RUBRIC AND CONVERSION**

Your final grade is based on the average grades you earn on required assignments.

**90-100 A:** Outstanding work and mastery of material

**80-89 B:** High quality work and sufficient understanding of the material

**70-79 C:** Satisfactory work and minimal understanding of the material

**60-69 D:** Minimally acceptable performance

**<59 F:** Does not understand basic elements of course

A C grade is average, to earn an overall grade higher than a C you must consistently produce high quality and outstanding work.

## POSTING GRADES

Grades are available on Canvas, on the *Grades* page. Since all assignments are completed on Canvas, grades are usually returned quickly. I will let you know of any delays or technical difficulties. Feedback for assignments and exams is not available until after the due date. Learn how to view your grades on Canvas, by visiting <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-9540-4212724430>

## COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

## CLASS CONDUCT

No digital recording of any kind is allowed, unless prearranged with me. That includes, audio recording the lecture, taking photographs of the PowerPoints, and videotaping.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Below is our tentative course outline and calendar. I will adjust the outline/calendar if we need to take extra time to cover sections. For a tutorial on accessing the calendar, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10693-4212717347>. Please visit the Canvas calendar for days we do not meet.

CHAPTER	READING/ASSIGNMENTS
Introduction to Course; the Practice of Research	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 1 <b>Quiz</b>
The Process of Research	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 2 <b>Quiz</b>
The Ethics of Research	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 3

	<b>Quiz</b>
Finding Peer-Reviewed Sources	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 4 <b>Quiz</b>
Defining Research & Finding Causes	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 5 <b>Quiz</b>
Measuring Social Concepts	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 6 <b>Quiz</b>
Variables and the Structure of Research	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 7 <b>Quiz</b>
Sampling	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 8 <b>Quiz</b>
Experimental Design Research Methods	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 9 <b>Quiz</b>
Survey/Interview Research Methods	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 10 <b>Quiz</b>
Non-Reactive Methods	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 11 <b>Quiz</b>
Qualitative Research Methods	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 12 <b>Quiz</b>
Evaluation Research	<b>Reading:</b> Chapter 13 <b>Quiz</b>

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

This course will use the TAMUCT Instructure Canvas learning management system.

- Logon to TAMUCT Canvas <https://tamuct.instructure.com>
- Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)
- Password: Your MyCT password

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu) Phone: (254) 519-5466 Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

*When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.* For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND POLICIES

**Drop Policy.** If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a Drop Request Form, found through the [Registrar's web page](#): <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/business-office/droppolicy.php>

*Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student.* The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

**Academic Integrity.** Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

**\*Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism, most simply defined, is not properly crediting sources of information through the use of textual citations and the provision of a works cited list. If something is not your own original idea, thought, words, or the product of your original data collection and analysis, you must cite your source in the text. Students who plagiarize will receive a 0 for the assignment and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. To learn more about plagiarism, please visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>

**Academic Accommodations.** At Texas A&M-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion webpage](http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion): <http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion>.

TAMUCT supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#), please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>.

**Tutoring.** Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Kim Wood at [k.wood@tamuct.edu](mailto:k.wood@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

**The University Writing Center.** Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University – Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-4pm Monday-Thursday during the Summer semester (June 5, 2017 to July 27, 2017). Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours

(both half-hour and hour sessions are available). Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

**University Library.** The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [homepage](https://tamuct.libguides.com/): <https://tamuct.libguides.com/>.

### **Important University Dates:**

August 28, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins

August 30, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 16-week and 1st 8-week classes

September 1, Priority Deadline to Submit Graduation Application

September 4, Labor Day, CAMPUS CLOSED

September 5, Last day to drop 1st 8-week classes with no record

September 13, Last day to drop 16-week classes with no record

September 22, Last day to drop a 1st 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W

October 6, Deadline to submit graduation

October 20, Last day to withdraw from the University (1st 8-week classes WF)

October 23, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins, 2nd 8-week classes

October 26, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 2nd 8-week classes

October 30, Last day to drop 2nd 8-week classes with no record

November 10, Veteran's Day

November 10, Last day to drop with a Q or withdraw with a W (16-week classes)

November 17, Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W

November 23-24, Thanksgiving, CAMPUS CLOSED

December 15, Last day to withdraw from the University (16-week and 2nd 8-week classes)

December 15, Last day to file for Degree Conferral (Registrar's Office)

December 15, Commencement (End of Fall Term)

December 25-January 1, WINTER BREAK