

# **CRIJ4316, Research Methods, Fall 2021**

## **Texas A&M University – Central Texas**

### **Course Dates**

This is a 16-week course that runs from August 24<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **Course Modality**

**This is a 100% online course and uses the Canvas Learning Management System.** Students must be able to use Canvas to access the learning materials and submit all assignments. I designed the course so that it may be completed using the Canvas smartphone app. This may be helpful to students with inconsistent internet or computer access. **All professor/student communication will occur through Canvas and meetings take place on WebEx.** Students unfamiliar with Canvas or new to online learning are encouraged to review the following:

### **Contact Information**

Dr. Michele Quiñones (Dr. Q for short) You can learn a little about me from my [Faculty Member Profile](#).

**Communication** Students can contact me using the [Canvas Inbox function](#). I respond to emails within 24 hours, Monday - Friday, 8AM - 5PM. I will communicate important course information through Canvas Announcements. Please sign up for notification alerts in Canvas. Click the Account link, then click the Notifications link, to set [notification preferences](#).

**Office Hours** I hold office hours by appointment only. I am available 8-5 Monday - Friday. However, I can meet students in the evening and on weekends, schedule permitting. All meetings take place in my virtual classroom in [WebEx](#). You can also join by phone by calling (415) 655-0001 access code: 920409658.

### **Warrior Shield**

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas** Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account. Connect to Warrior Shield by 911Cellular [<https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

**Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan.** For the most recent campus information regarding COVID-19 see the Texas A&M University-Central Texas [Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

### **Writing Instructive (WI) Course Description**

This is a Writing Instructive (WI) course. Writing is an important component of any criminal justice career. Criminal justice agents communicate what they do in police reports, administrative reports, as data analysis, when performing community outreach, and when they work with other agencies. Whatever your field, writing will be important! To help you improve written communication, writing will be an integral component of most assignments. The goal is to help you, not penalize you, so students receive feedback on all assignments and the opportunity to resubmit, if necessary.

Students are also expected to work on their own, with the University Writing Center. To schedule time with the UWC, visit <https://tamuct.mywconline.com>

**Plagiarism** is a form of theft. Plagiarism occurs when someone presents another person's thoughts or work as their own. Someone presents another person's thoughts as their own when they do not give credit to the source of the information by including a citation at the end of the statement sentence. Students will avoid plagiarizing by completing a tutorial and familiarize them with plagiarism and proper APA citation style. Sources and citations are required for all assignments.

### Course Description

CRIJ4316 (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 Learning Objectives (CLO)

The goal of the course is to help students become familiar with the methods used by social scientists to research crime, crime control policies, and programs. By the end of this course students should be able to,

1. writing skills appropriate to the discipline of Criminal Justice.
2. understanding, value, and practice of ethical behaviors associated with social science research.
3. comprehension of basic social science research methodologies as applied to research in Criminal Justice and Criminology.
4. Understand the steps involved in criminal justice research.

### Course Textbook

Withrow, B. L. (2016). *Research Methods in Crime and Justice* (2nd Edition). Taylor & Francis.

<https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/books/9781317300663>

### Major Course Requirements

Writing is a significant aspect of this course and significantly affects scores. Overall, writing should be concise, without losing important information, and submission should be well organized. Please review the [Writing for the Social Sciences](#) page for guidance and contact the [University Writing Center](#) to review your writing.

**4 Research Assignments (60%)** Research assignments assess your ability to apply the material learned to real world research. Students read articles and answer questions about the research. Students are encouraged to keep copies of this assignment for future use on literature reviews, annotated bibliographies, and other papers. *Students may resubmit each research assignment once. One research assignment is dropped.*

**Media Assignments (20%)** Media assignments put the material you are learning into context. Students learn, how to read peer-reviewed articles, the importance of research in criminal justice, the challenges with criminal justice data, and the benefits of using evidence-based practices.

**3 Exams (20%)** Exams are multiple choice and assess a student's understanding of the information contained in the text. Students receive 2 attempts on each exam.

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

**Accessing Grades** Students can view their grades in the Canvas Gradebook by going to “Grades” link on Canvas. Most grades are available immediately. Grades for written assignments are returned within 7-10 days of the due date.

**Grading Rubric** A C grade is average, to earn an overall grade higher than a C you must consistently produce high quality and outstanding work. See individual assignments for more detailed rubrics.

- A, 90-100: Outstanding work and mastery of material.
- B, 80-89: High quality work and good understanding of the material.
- C, 70-79: Satisfactory work and basic understanding of the material.
- D, 60-69: Missing work and insufficient understanding of the material.
- F, <59: Missing work and no understanding of the material.

### Attendance, Performance, and Late Policy

**Attendance** A student is considered attending the course if they are completing assignments regularly. If students do not complete assignments regularly, they may be marked as “not attending” which can affect enrollment status and financial aid. Students are responsible for keeping up with the course outline.

**Performance** Canvas records student’s interactions with the platform which allows professors to see how often students access the course and view pages; how much time is spent on exams, exam questions, and when answers are changed; and whether videos are watched, for how long, and if they were skipped. I use this information for grade disputes. If you want to learn more about the information faculty can see, visit

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-view-analytics-for-an-individual-student-in-New/ta-p/801>

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-view-a-quiz-log-for-a-student/ta-p/580>

**Late Policy** There is no need to contact me about late or missing assignments. Due dates for this course are generous. Assignments are posted at the beginning of the semester to allow students to work around their schedules. One written assignment is due per month to allow students several weeks to complete them. One written assignment is also dropped, giving students up to 2 months of down time in case of emergency. Written assignments will be accepted up to 5 days late (no exceptions) before receiving a 0. Media quizzes and exams can be completed until the end of the semester without penalty.

### 16 Week Course Calendar

Date	Details
Fri Aug 27, 2021	<a href="#">Preparing Students For the World through Undergraduate Research</a>
Sun Aug 29, 2021	<a href="#">How to read a peer reviewed article.</a> <a href="#">Trust in research -- the ethics of knowledge production</a>
Sun Sep 5, 2021	<a href="#">Article Analysis: Vulnerable Victims? A Current Awareness of the Victimization of People with Learning Disabilities</a>
Sun Sep 26, 2021	<a href="#">Data Driven Criminal Justice Policies</a> <a href="#">What is Crime Solutions?</a> <a href="#">What is NIBRS?</a>
Fri Oct 1, 2021	<a href="#">Exam 1</a>
Sun Oct 10, 2021	<a href="#">Article Analysis: Becoming an Informant</a>
Sun Oct 17, 2021	<a href="#">Man vs Machine Learning: Criminal Justice in the 21st Century</a> <a href="#">Risk Assessment Tool Helps Probation Officers</a>
Fri Oct 22, 2021	<a href="#">Exam 2</a>
Sun Oct 24, 2021	<a href="#">How AI Could Reinforce Biases In The Criminal Justice System</a>
Sun Nov 7, 2021	<a href="#">Article Analysis: Are shock incarceration programs more rehabilitative than traditional prisons? A survey of inmates</a>
Fri Dec 10, 2021	<a href="#">Exam 3</a> <a href="#">Article Analysis: Broken Windows</a>

### Important University Dates

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

### Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

### Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, 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>]. Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

## University Resources, Procedures, And Guidelines

### Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[\[https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612\]](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612).

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed 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, working with others in an unauthorized manner, 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 referred 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.

For more information regarding the Student Conduct process, [\[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html\]](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html).

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a report,

[\[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0\]](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0).

### Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-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 Office 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 Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion Canvas page (log-in required)

[\[https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717\]](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717)

### Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit Student Affairs [\[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html\]](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html). Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines online, please visit the website [\[http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf\]](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf).

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

### Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting,

Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu)

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WOnline (<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>). In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **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 85,000 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 24 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 Library website (<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>).

For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our Library website (<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>) to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

### **Copyright Notice**

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