

Department of Social Sciences  
Fall 2022  
Advanced Research Methods  
HLS 5304-110, 80408  
Tuesday 6:00-8:45p  
WebEx

**Professor:** Liana R. Taylor, Ph.D.

**Office:** Heritage Hall 204E

**Email:** liana.taylor@tamuct.edu (Canvas Inbox is preferred)

**Office Phone Number:** 254-519-5436

“Behind every uncomfortable syllabus clause lies an even more uncomfortable teaching experience.” – @AcademicSay (April 22, 2016)

---

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS**

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 Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity 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>]

## **FOR UPDATES ON COVID INFORMATION:**

Please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

**\*\*\* Disclaimer: Syllabus may be revised later if needed \*\*\***

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course pertains to the study of scientific research methods used in criminal justice. It will provide the background that will help you to read, understand, critique and plan social science research in criminal justice and related areas. The readings will be of two general kinds: the textbook explaining concepts in research methods and articles reporting actual research exemplifying some of the concepts involved. The idea underlying the approach this course will take is that concepts are best understood by looking at actual examples of published research. Students will then be able to critically evaluate research and develop their own research project.

## Objectives

To successfully demonstrate your understanding of research methods, students must be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the literature on a specific topic and identify suitable research questions.
2. Select and justify methodologies appropriate to particular research questions, the nature of the topic, and the resources available.
3. Become familiar with the basic procedures, strengths, and limitations of various research designs.
4. Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate research.
5. Achieve a good standard of academic writing.
6. Deliver successful oral presentations.

## **REQUIRED READING**

Withrow, B. L. (2016). *Research Methods in Crime and Justice*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-1138124233

Additional required readings will be provided on Blackboard (BB).

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

Ridley, D. (2012). *The Literature Review: A Step-by-Step Guide for Students* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1446201435.

Osmond A. (2016) *Academic Writing and Grammar for Students* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1473919365.

Shon, P. C. H. (2016). *How to Read Journal Articles in the Social Sciences: A Very Practical Guide for Students* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1473918795.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### Respect

This course will be fully online and you are encouraged to participate. All students learn in a variety of ways and at varying paces. I expect everyone to treat one another with respect and help cultivate an environment in which everyone feels free to ask and answer questions respectfully.

## 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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. 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>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a referral,  
[[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0)].

**Violations in academic integrity will result in score of zero on the assignment for which it is suspected. Any suspected violations of academic integrity will also be reported to TAMUCT's Office of Student Conduct:** <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT AND SUPPORT**

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): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION**

Course announcements will be posted to the Announcements page on Canvas.

I will send correspondence to your Canvas Inbox. Make sure you have access to and regularly check it. I recommend you adjust your Canvas Settings so you receive a notification when I post an announcement, you receive a course message, etc.

Do not send Canvas messages/emails about things stated in the syllabus/guidelines or where things are located on Canvas *unless* you are requesting clarification or additional information.

## **STUDENT-PROFESSOR INTERACTION**

Students may speak with me via Canvas Inbox or by appointment. I will answer (most) messages within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. Students who would like to speak to me via WebEx must make an appointment. For appointments the student and I must confirm the date and time via Canvas Inbox.

## **PARTICIPATION POLICIES**

Participation will not count towards your grade. However, it is in your best interest to regularly check Canvas and complete all the assignments. If you do not your grade is likely to suffer. Participation will aid in understanding in the material, which can ultimately improve your grade. If you have a question, I strongly suggest you send me a course message via Canvas or make an appointment.

## ASSIGNMENTS

*Note for all papers:* You are only allowed one submission. Make sure you are satisfied with the version that will be submitted. I will not allow resubmissions. Early submissions will not be graded sooner.

### Reading Assignments

The reading assignments will include research articles, which are available on Canvas under Modules/Week # (i.e. Modules/Week 2), and chapters in the required textbook. It is important to have the textbook when class begins. I recommend you purchase the book as soon as possible so you are adequately prepared for class. Additionally, it is important to make sure you read *all* the assigned readings (articles and chapters) for class each week, as they will be discussed in-depth during class.

I also suggest you purchase and read the Recommended Resources, as they will help you complete your assignments.

### Homework (240 points)

Homework assignments are designed to help you apply the concepts you learn in the course. Check Canvas to see when the homework assignments are due. Homework assignments will be posted under Canvas/Assignments by Monday at 12a. I recommend you complete them by Sunday at 11:59p for the week they are posted. I also placed a link to each assignment under the appropriate week, e.g., Modules/Week 2/Homework 2. If you need more time, you may submit it later without a late penalty. It is in your best interest to submit it by the due date, as this will allow more time for me to grade it and provide you feedback you can use in subsequent assignments. **The latest I will accept the homework assignments is December 9 at 11:59p.**

### Research Summaries (20 points each)

You will write five Research Summaries (RS) for a research article that will be provided to you. For these assignments, you are to summarize the important points of each section of the research study using the format of an annotated bibliography (APA 7<sup>th</sup> format for professional papers). I will provide the instructions on what you need to include for each one. The instructions for each RS will build to writing a complete annotation. Make sure you read the article carefully. The guidelines are available on Canvas under Modules/Week #. The RS must be submitted via the link on Canvas (Modules/Week #) by 11:59p on the date specified in the course schedule. Assignments will not be accepted via email, course message, or in hard copy.

Late submissions will be accepted no later than December 9 at 11:59p. Assignments will not be accepted via email, course message, or in hard copy.

Research summaries will be graded as follows:

<b>Research Summary Component</b>	<b>Point Distribution</b>
Content	15 points
Writing Mechanics and Quality	3 points
Formatting (APA 7 <sup>th</sup> style)	2 points

Annotated Bibliography (130 points)

An annotated bibliography provides a summary of research articles used in a research project/literature review. Each student shall complete the annotations for each RS and compile them into an annotated bibliography. Each annotation should be one page each (no more, no less). Thus, the annotated bibliography should not exceed five pages (excluding title page). *Do not include a reference page or quotes.* The annotated bibliography must be written in APA 7<sup>th</sup> format for professional papers, and submitted via the link on Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/Annotated Bibliography) by November 20 at 11:59p. The guidelines are also available at this link.

Late submissions will be accepted no later than December 9 at 11:59p. Assignments will not be accepted via email, course message, or in hard-copy.

The annotated bibliography will be graded as follows:

<b>Annotated Bibliography Elements</b>	<b>Approximate point distribution</b>
Content (summary)	100 points
Writing mechanics and quality	20 points
Formatting (APA 7 <sup>th</sup> Format)	10 points

Final Proposal (200 points)

Each student will write a research proposal as if it is being submitted to a funding agency for review. The research proposal will be no more than 15 pages. The proposal must be submitted via the link on Canvas (Modules/Research Proposal/Final Research Proposal) by **December 9 at 11:59p**. The guidelines are also available at this link. Proposals will not be accepted in hardcopy, email, or course message.

The approximate grade distribution of your research proposal will be as follows:

<b>Research Proposal Elements</b>	<b>Percentage of grade</b>
Introduction	5%
Literature Review	10%
Key Concepts	10%
Proposed Sample and Sampling Plan	20%
Methodology	20%
Data Collection	10%
Implications	15%
Writing mechanics	5%
Formatting (APA 7 <sup>th</sup> format for professional papers)	5%

## **GRADES**

Grades will be posted on Canvas within approximately one week. Students will be notified if it will take longer to post the grades. Your final grade will be weighted as follows:

	<b>Number of Points</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Homework	~20 points/each (~240 points)	25%
Research Summaries	20 points/each (100 points)	20%
Annotated Bibliography	130 points	20%
Research Proposal Overall	440 points	35%
Literature Review	40 points	
Research Proposal Draft	200 points	
Final Research Proposal	200 points	
<b>Total</b>	<b>910 points</b>	

## **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.

Copyright. (2022) by Liana R. Taylor at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Department of Social Sciences; 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254-519- 5436; Fax 254-519-5781; [liana.taylor@tamuct.edu](mailto:liana.taylor@tamuct.edu).



## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Due</b>
Week 1	08/23	Intro to Research - <b>WebEx</b>	Withdraw – Ch. 1 and 7
Week 2	08/30	The Research Process – <b>No Class</b>	Withdraw Ch. 2
Week 3	09/06	Variables, Research Questions, and Hypotheses - <b>WebEx</b>	Withdraw – Ch. 7 NeMoyer et al., 2020 – RS 1 by <b>09/11 at 11:59p</b>
Week 4	09/13	Literature Review – <b>No Class</b>	<b>Submit your preliminary RQ by 09/18 at 11:59p</b>
Week 5	09/20	Relationships - <b>WebEx</b>	Withdraw – Ch. 5
Week 6	09/27	Measurement - <b>WebEx</b>	Withdraw – Ch. 6 Severson (2019) – RS 2 by <b>10/02 at 11:59p</b>
Week 7	10/04	Sampling - <b>WebEx</b>	Withdraw – Ch. 8 LaGrange & Silverman – RS 3 by <b>10/09 at 11:59p</b>
Week 8	10/11	Experimental Designs Quasi-experimental Designs - <b>WebEx</b>	Withdraw Ch. 9 <b>Draft of Literature Review due at 10/16 at 11:59p</b>

Week 9	10/18	Survey Research – <b>No Class</b>	Withdraw – Ch. 10 Lambert (2020) – RS 4 by <b>10/23 at 11:59p</b>
Week 10	10/25	Non-Reactive Research – <b>No Class</b>	Withdraw Ch. 11 Loeb et al. (2015) – RS 5 by <b>10/30 at 11:59p</b>
Week 11	11/01	Evaluative Research - <b>WebEx</b>	Withdraw Ch. 12 <b>Final Proposal Draft due 11/06 at 11:59p</b>
Week 12	11/08	Qualitative Research – <b>No Class</b>	Withdraw – Ch. 13
Week 13	11/15	Ethics in Research – <b>No Class</b>	Withdraw Ch. 3 <b>Annotated Bibliography due 11/20 at 11:59p</b>
Week 14	11/22	Turkey Week – <b>No Class</b>	
Week 15	11/29	Reporting Results - <b>WebEx</b>	Withdraw Ch. 13
Week 16	12/09	<b>No class</b> <b>Final Paper due 12/09 at 11:59p</b>	

## **EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM FOR TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS**

### **SAFEZONE**

SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the SafeZone website [[www.safezoneapp.com](http://www.safezoneapp.com)].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
  - o iPhone/iPad: [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]
  - o Android Phone / Tablet  
[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

### **DROP POLICY**

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

[<https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlSSO&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%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.

## **TUTORING**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing [WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu](mailto:WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu).

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit Tutor Matching Services [<https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT>] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote 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.

## **THE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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 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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

## **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES**

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956) [<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956>]. 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>].

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, 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/pregnant-and-parenting-students.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>].

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.

### **A NOTE ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT A&M-CENTRAL TEXAS**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the Title IX webpage [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

### **BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral online [[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=2](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2)].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES**

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