

CRIJ4316-110, Research Methods, Spring 2023

Texas A&M University – Central Texas

Course Dates

This is a 16-week course that runs from January 17 through May 12, 2021.

Course Modality

This is a 100% in-person course, which means that we meet in person on campus. To earn attendance credit you must attend the course. However, all quizzes and assignments are completed on Canvas remotely.

Contact Information

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

Communication

You can talk to me before or after class, but if you would like to meet with me privately, you can come by my office, meet with me virtually using Teams, or schedule a phone call. To schedule a meeting, send me a Canvas email. I'm available Monday - Friday 8-5, but I can arrange to meet outside those hours with a little notice.

SAFEZONE Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

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].

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:
 - iPhone/iPad: [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]
 - 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 [<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>

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.](#)

Major Course Requirements

Writing Instruction 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.

All written assignments must be your own work. You may not copy from any sources, including the articles you read, without properly citing. Failing to cite is plagiarism.

[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*.

Written Assignments (60%) Written assignments assess your ability to apply the material. Students receive opportunities to improve. All written assignments should include citations in the text and a reference section. In this course we use American Psychological Association [APA](#).

Media Assignments (10%) Media assignments put the material you are learning into real-world 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 (30%) Exams are multiple choice and assess a student's understanding of the information contained in the text.

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.

Earning a 0 Plagiarism is a deliberate attempt to deceive the grader into believing that you produced the work. In this class and others what you write is used to assess how well you learned the material. If the material presented is someone else's, the assessment is not of you. Consequently, students who plagiarize receive a 0.

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 [Student Interactions](#) [Quiz Log](#)

Late Policy Assignments are posted at the beginning of the semester to allow students to work around their schedules Media quizzes and exams can be completed until the end of the semester without penalty. Written assignments will be accepted up to 3 days late (no exceptions) before receiving a 0.

16 Week Course Calendar

Writing Assignments and their due dates are missing below. See Canvas for those assignments.

Date	Details
Thu Jan 19, 2023	Plagiarism and How to Avoid It
	How to read a peer reviewed article.
Mon Jan 23, 2023	Preparing Students For the World through Undergraduate Research
	Trust in research -- the ethics of knowledge production
	Data Driven Criminal Justice Policies
Mon Feb 20, 2023	What is Crime Solutions?
	What is NIBRS?
Sun Feb 26, 2023	Exam 1
Mon Mar 13, 2023	Man vs Machine Learning: Criminal Justice in the 21st Century

Date	Details
	<u>Risk Assessment Tool Helps Probation Officers</u>
Sun Mar 19, 2023	<u>Exam 2</u>
Mon Mar 20, 2023	<u>How AI Could Reinforce Biases In The Criminal Justice System</u>
Fri May 12, 2023	<u>Exam 3</u>

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

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.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

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 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>]

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].

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?PartnerIdpld=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlso&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.

Important information for Pregnant and/or 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.

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.

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.

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>]. 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) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index]

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/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at 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.

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) [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].

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.

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