INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINOLOGY: CCJ 4700

Class Days/Time
LECTURE: Thursday 12:30pm – 1:45pm
Location: Classroom Building (HCB) 314
DISCUSSION: Tuesday 9:30am-10:45am, 11:00am-12:15am, and 12:30pm-1:45pm
Location: Eppes (EPS) 215
Spring 2020

PROFESSOR
Dr. Eric A. Stewart
Office: Eppes Hall 310D
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00am – 11:00am
Phone: 850-645-8150
Email: estewart2@fsu.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Porche' A. Whitby
Office: Eppes Hall 310B
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Email: paw14@my.fsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
This course will introduce you to research methods used in criminology and criminal justice. We will explore the nature of scientific inquiry, issues in research methods, and statistical concepts used in quantitative analyses. To accomplish these objectives, we will read published articles and critically assess their design, results, and conclusions. Additionally, we will work with the statistical software package (SPSS) to perform basic data analysis and interpretation. By the end of the course, you should be able to understand various research methods used to study criminology, including how to critically review criminological research, how to use specific statistics, and how to recognize strengths and weaknesses of research designs.

COURSE FORMAT
This course will be largely lecture in format and will reflect sections or chapters from your textbook. However, please keep in mind that not all of the material in the lectures appears in the course readings, nor is all the material in the readings covered in the lectures. You are responsible for the material in the textbook and in the lectures. Additionally, computer-based assignments are also an important component of this course. In terms of time commitment, you should expect to spend several hours a week working outside of class. Specifically, for every credit hour spent in class per week you should expect to spend approximately 3 hours on work outside of class. This can result in a heavy workload of approximately 10 hours per week.

You are expected to attend all class meetings, and to read all assignments before you come to class. The better prepared you are before class, the more you will get out of the course. “Research Methods” courses tend to be work intensive, and this course is no different. At multiple points during the semester, you will be required to work on assignments outside of class at the same time you are studying for a test. This is the nature of research methods. Please do not procrastinate. This is a challenging course and falling behind will make the course much harder for you. Please keep up with the assignments and workload. If you are having difficulty understanding the material being covered,
after you have read the assigned chapters, please make an effort to ask for help earlier in the semester rather than waiting until later.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

A small collection of supplemental information will be placed on Canvas. It is important that you check the Canvas site regularly to ensure that you don't miss important updates or supplementary class material.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams: There will be **TWO** exams given in this course. Each exam will be worth a maximum of 100 points. Exams may be a combination of multiple choice, matching, and short-answer questions, or a single essay question. The exams will cover all material addressed in class and in the readings up to that point. However, you should be aware that the subjects we cover are generally cumulative in nature. As a result, areas covered early in the course are relevant throughout the entire course.

- Exam #1 100 points Date: 2/13/2020
- Exam #2 100 points Date: 3/26/2020

Quizzes: There will be **FOUR** pop quizzes given in this course. Each quiz will be worth a maximum of 25 points. Quizzes may be a combination of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions, or a single essay question. Quizzes will cover all material addressed in class and in the readings up to that point.

- Quiz #1 25 points
- Quiz #2 25 points
- Quiz #3 25 points
- Quiz #4 25 points

Homework: There will be **THREE** homework assignments required in this course. Two of the homework assignments will be worth 25 points each. The third assignment will be worth 50 points. No late homework assignments will be accepted. Missing class is not a valid excuse for late homework. Assignments must be typed and given to the instructor in class on the due date. Please be sure your name is on all assignments. Full details of the assignments will be given in class.

- Homework #1 25 points Date: 2/27/2020
- Homework #2 25 points Date: 4/2/2020
- Homework #3 50 points Date: 4/28/2020

Total course points 400 points

GRADING SCALE

A Note on Grades

Please note that grades are *earned*, not *given*. Thus, it is the student’s responsibility to master the material well enough to earn his/her desired grade and pass the course. Keep the following in mind:

- Exam scores and quiz scores will NOT be curved.
- Final grades will NOT be rounded up (e.g., an 89.9999 is a B+).
- Extra credit will NOT be offered.
- Final grades will NOT be altered because a student wants a better GPA, wants to graduate on time, etc.
The final grade will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>74-76%</td>
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<td>67-69%</td>
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<td>64-66%</td>
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<td>0-59%</td>
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MAKE UP EXAMS

Make up exams will be given only when the student has an officially recognized absence. These include serious illness as documented by a physician, religious observance, participation in activities at the request of FSU authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond the control of the student. If an exam is to be missed for a legitimate reason you must contact me prior to the exam. If an exam is missed due to unforeseen circumstances, you must contact me within 24 hours of the missed exam. Official documentation of your excuse must be provided (e.g., admittance papers from the hospital, notice of funeral). If a student misses an exam for any other reason than specified above, he/she will receive a grade of zero for that exam. Please note that a make-up exam will usually consist of essay questions.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are encouraged to learn and apply yourself in a way that promotes respect for yourself and others. Students are expected to conduct themselves with scholarly integrity. Any type of scholastic dishonesty is prohibited. If any of the following are suspected, appropriate and formal action will be taken: Cheating (intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized material, information or study aids in any academic exercise); Fabrication (intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise); Facilitating academic dishonesty (intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the academic code); and Plagiarism (intentionally or knowingly representing words/ideas of another as your own). Perpetrators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of FSU regulations. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “... be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy).

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

In order to reduce cellular rudeness, please place cell phones and/or beepers in the off or silent mode before entering class. I do understand that mobile communication devices are useful for emergencies or other serious matters. If such a situation arises, please let me know.

Due to the large amount of class discussion that will take place, it is important that you listen while others are speaking and that you be respectful of their thoughts and opinions. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If you are being disruptive, you will be asked to leave. Disruptive behaviors include talking about material other than that presented in class, reading newspapers or other non-class material, sleeping, playing games, or talking with other students while I’m talking, etc. It is very distracting. Participation in any of these activities WILL affect your final grade.

Class time will NOT be used to address individual concerns or issues, such as test grades. I will address such inquiries after class or during office hours.

ATTENDANCE

Attending each class is important to be successful in this course. I encourage students to attend each class. If you miss class, you are responsible for all material covered, as well as all announcements.
and assignments. Assigned readings should be completed before the class for which the topic is scheduled. If it is clear that the readings are not being completed, pop quizzes or written assignments based on the material may be given. If one is given and you are not in class on that day, you will NOT be given the opportunity to make up the assignment. Keep in mind that poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part. FOR EXAMPLE, many students must maintain a high GPA for advancement or acceptance into academic programs. It is the student’s responsibility to work toward this goal. Do not tell me, “I have to get a ____ grade in this class.” You cannot make up missed assignments or quizzes. Come to class and participate! I reserve the right to lower your grade if you are chronically late to class, or are disruptive to me and/or other students in class. **Do not make a habit of coming to class late or leaving early!!!**

DISABILITIES SERVICES
Florida State University has a strong commitment to ensuring our academic and campus facilities and programs are accessible to all students, regardless of disability. Students with disabilities needing accommodations should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC); and (2) bring a letter to me indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first two weeks of class. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations until appropriate verification from the SDRC has been provided. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the SDRC directly:

874 Traditions Way  
108 Student Services Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
850-644-9566 (Voice) | 850-644-8504 (TDD)  
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu | [http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu](http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu)

ELECTRONIC MAIL POLICY
E-mail concerning the class will be sent to students’ FSU accounts. Email topics include frequently asked questions, requests to meet with an individual student, and other vital information. You are welcome to e-mail me at any time, day or night, but do not expect me to answer your e-mail at any time, day or night. I will do my best to reply to your e-mail within 24 to 48 hours but this will not always be possible. In most cases, I will respond relatively quickly (and don’t forget, you can always stop by during my office hours or make an appointment to see me in my office). Do not send me any attachments – ZERO – via e-mail; I will not accept any of your work over e-mail. Remember that e-mail is an official form of university communication and to check your FSU e-mail account regularly. When you communicate with me through e-mail, please include your first and last name within the text of the e-mail. Finally, I am much more likely to respond to your e-mail if you offer me the same kind of respect as you would in person. Remember: You are e-mailing a professor, not texting a friend. I appreciate proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation in an e-mail.

FSU TUTORING
On-campus tutoring assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services site [http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring](http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring) and view the comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options, or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.
GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Review the syllabus thoroughly, and check for modifications on a regular basis.
   - It is the student’s responsibility to keep up-to-date on any changes to the syllabus/schedule.
2. Visit the course Canvas site and check your University email account frequently.
   - **Do not use Canvas for solicitation of any kind** (e.g., selling notes, selling graduation tickets).
   - Doing so violates the University’s IT policy and may result in disciplinary action under the Student Conduct Code. (See [http://policies.vpfa.fsu.edu/bmanual/itpolicy.html](http://policies.vpfa.fsu.edu/bmanual/itpolicy.html))
3. Engage in courteous interactions—in person and online—with the Instructor and classmates.
4. Maintain academic integrity at all times.
   - **Do not engage in any acts (e.g., cheating, plagiarism) that violate the Academic Honor Policy.**
   - Such behavior is subject to the full extent of disciplinary action (e.g., course failure, suspension, expulsion).
TENTATIVE COURSE
CALENDAR
Below is a tentative course schedule of lecture topics, readings, assignments, and exams. Class readings are to be done before that date. *Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
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<td>T</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3/24/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>TR</td>
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<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>Interpreting Data–Univariate Analysis</td>
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<td>Interpreting Data – Univariate Analysis</td>
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<td>TR</td>
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<td>Day</td>
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<td>T</td>
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<td><strong>Homework Assignment #3: Due 4/28/2020 before 2pm</strong></td>
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Homework Assignment #1
Article Write-Up
DUE: 2/27/2020

Using one peer-reviewed article, write a 1-2 page paper addressing the following elements of the article:

1. Provide a brief overview (2 paragraphs) on the previous research discussed in the article.

2. What was/were the main hypothesis/hypotheses stated in the journal article?

3. What are the main independent variable(s) and dependent variable(s)?
   a. How were the main independent variable(s) and dependent variable(s) operationalized?
   b. What was the level of measurement used for the main independent variable(s) and dependent variable(s)?

4. What was the unit of analysis (the “what” or “who” studied)?

5. Was the research design used cross-sectional or longitudinal?
   a. How did you come to this conclusion?
   b. Based on your answer, what are the benefits and disadvantages of using this type of research design (cross-sectional or longitudinal)?

Please Note:

 Artikel MUST (a) be published between 2000 and 2020; (b) be peer-reviewed (DO NOT USE reviews, editorial notes/introductions, etc.); and (c) come from one of these approved journal titles (any article that is not from one of the journals listed below will NOT be accepted):

   1. American Journal of Criminal Justice
   2. Crime and Delinquency
   3. Criminal Justice and Behavior
   4. Criminology (Beverly Hills)
   5. Criminology and Public Policy
   6. Journal of Criminal Justice
   7. Journal of Quantitative Criminology
   8. Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency
   9. Justice Quarterly
   10. Race and Justice

Your homework assignment must be:
   o Typed using Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-spaced.
   o Stapled – assignments that are not stapled will NOT be accepted.

Print the front page of your journal article and staple it at the end of your assignment.
Homework Assignment #2
Survey Research
DUE: 4/2/2020

You are interested in studying whether college students who are involved in risky/deviant lifestyles (partying, alcohol/drug use, etc.) affects their academic performance. To examine this relationship, you must create a survey questionnaire consisting of 15 questions. Specifically, five (5) questions must measure deviant lifestyles, five (5) questions must measure academic performance, and five (5) questions must measure demographics (e.g., age, sex/gender, race/ethnicity, year in school). Make all of your questions closed-ended. Furthermore, please make sure that you only ask “good questions.” Lastly, create a good introductory spiel – this should be placed at the beginning of your survey.

After you create your survey, answer the following questions in detail:

1. What steps did you take to ensure that you created “good” worded questions?
   a. Are sensitive questions an issue? Why or why not?

2. If you were to administer this survey to college students, what sampling approach (random or nonrandom) would you use and why? *Be detailed here – explain which specific type of sampling procedure you would use and how!*
   a. What would be your population?
   b. Will your sampling technique allow you to generalize back to this population? Why or why not?
   c. Would sampling error be an issue? Why or why not?

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using closed-ended questions? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using open-ended questions?

Please Note:
- Your homework assignment must be:
  - Typed using Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-spaced.
  - Stapled – assignments that are not stapled will NOT be accepted.