

## **CCJ 4700 Introduction to Research Methods in Criminology**

*College of Criminology and Criminal Justice*

*Florida State University*

*Spring 2023 Semester*

*CRM 0215*

*Monday, Wednesday 3:05 PM – 4:20 PM*

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm or by appointment

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**Office:** Criminology and Criminal Justice Building 310A

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm or by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course introduces undergraduate students to the basic concepts involved in evaluating and conducting research within the field of criminology and criminal justice. This will begin with learning the general components and purpose of social science research. Students will then engage with each component via academic journal articles to understand different types of research methods, including: experiments, surveys, secondary data analysis, and interviews. The course will conclude with an introduction to basic statistics often utilized in describing and presenting criminological research.

**This is an in-person course (not an online or hybrid/FLEX course). Students are expected to attend lectures and take exams in person.**

### **Course Objectives**

Over the course of the semester, students will learn how to demonstrate application of research and analytical skills, including:

- Critically evaluating criminal justice research published in the field
- Generating testable hypotheses
- Defining and operationalizing key constructs
- Selecting the most appropriate study design or method
- Interpreting statistical results in real-world terms

### **Required Readings**

Bachman and Schutt. 2021. *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Please do not purchase older editions of this textbook, as they are substantially different. You are required to obtain the textbook within two weeks of the beginning of class.

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

## Course Grading

Student progress will be evaluated with two in-class exams, a cumulative final exam, reading check quizzes, and two short take-home assignments. All students are also required to complete an ungraded pre- and post-test designed by the University on Canvas.

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Final: 25%

Reading Check Quizzes: 15%

Assignments (2): 20%

93-100 A

90-92.9 A-

87-89.9 B+

83-86.9 B

80-82.9 B-

77-79.9 C+

73-76.9 C

70-72.9 C-

67-69.9 D+

63-66.9 D

60-62.9 D-

### *Midterm and Final Exams*

Exams will include multiple-multiple choice questions (e.g. select all that apply) as well as short answer responses. The final exam is cumulative, but will focus most heavily on the final third of the material, which is not covered on either midterm exam.

### *Assignments*

Students will be required to complete two short writing assignments of 3-5 double-spaced pages. Plagiarism and the use of artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT and others) are strictly prohibited, and all references or sources must be properly cited. **Students who plagiarize or utilize AI writing software will receive a zero for the assignment, without exception.** Assignments must be submitted via Canvas at the start of class on the day they are due (not at 11:59 pm!).

### *Reading Check Quizzes*

Students must complete a brief quiz on the material before the start of each chapter (specific dates are listed in the tentative calendar below). These quizzes are designed to help students practice the material and prepare for the exams, and so working together with other students or asking for help is encouraged (copying assignments is not allowed, however). Reading check quizzes are open book/open note, and students are encouraged to double check the material to ensure they know the correct answers. There is no time limit on reading check quizzes and students may attempt the quiz as many times as desired. Reading check quizzes must be submitted at the start of class on the day they are due (not at 11:59 pm!).

### *Grading Policies*

Absolutely no extra credit will be given or accepted under any circumstances. Exam grades will only be curved if the student average falls below a C, and will be curved to this level accordingly. Final grades will not be rounded.

### *Major Requirement*

The College of Criminology and Criminal Justice requires all students to receive a grade of C or higher in this course (CCJ 4700) in order to continue in the major. Students with a grade of C- or lower will be required to retake this course to satisfy the major requirement.

## **Course Policies**

### *Attendance, Missed Work, and Make-up Exams*

Attendance is mandatory, but will not be graded. While you will not be directly penalized for missing class, your grade will inevitably suffer and no accommodations will be offered to students who do not regularly attend without excused absences.

*Missing Exams:* Students will be permitted to make up exams only when he or she: (1) has an officially recognized absence; and (2) provides official documentation of the absence. Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. If the exam is missed due to a prescheduled issue (e.g., athletic game, religious observance), the student must contact me at least one week prior to the exam. **Absences due to work/employment and other scheduling conflicts are not excused.** If the exam is missed due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., sudden illness or family emergency), the **student must contact me within 24 hours of the missed exam. Time and format of the make-up exam will be decided at my discretion. Please be aware that make-up exams will contain different questions that may or may not be more challenging than the original exam given in class. Make up exams are not subject to the in-class exam curve. Students that do not adhere to these guidelines will receive a zero for the missed exam, without exception.**

*Late Assignments:* Late submissions for assignments and reading check quizzes (not due to an excused absence) will be accepted up to three days after the due date, with a penalty of 10% per day. **No submissions will be accepted more than three days past the due date without an excused absence.** Students with an excused absence will not be penalized for late submissions, but must coordinate a new due date with me with 24 hours of the original assignment due date. Absences will only be excused if they cover the entire period students had to work on the assignment. Students are strongly encouraged to seek help from case management services (contact info below) to provide documentation for any issues.

### *COVID-19 Policies*

If students: (1) are in close contact with someone who has tested positive; (2) test positive; (3) are currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; and/or (4) are required to quarantine per dorm policy, please do not come to class and contact Kyle Knapp regarding your situation.

If you test positive for COVID-19, please be sure to report your positive test to SAFER.

1. Send a copy of your positive test result to [uhs-medicalrecords@fsu.edu](mailto:uhs-medicalrecords@fsu.edu).
2. SAFER will be in contact and call you from 850-644-5555.
3. Resources are available at [uhs.fsu.edu](http://uhs.fsu.edu) and [stayhealthyfsu.edu/safer](http://stayhealthyfsu.edu/safer).

### *Syllabus Change Policy*

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. The course calendar listed below is tentative, and due dates and/or exams may be subject to change.

### *Communication*

Students are expected to check Canvas as well as their email on a regular basis. Important information such as assignments, class cancellations, and changes in course material will be relayed via Canvas announcements. Students should expect that an email response to questions can take up to 48 hours, and that some questions must be addressed directly.

### *Canvas*

You can access the main FSU Canvas site at <https://canvas.fsu.edu/>. You are responsible for checking this site regularly as course information will be added to the site. Canvas training courses and tutorials are offered for free through the University at <https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/section/175/>.

## **University Policies and Resources**

### *Academic Honor Policy*

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. 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." All students enrolled in this course must adhere to Florida State University's academic honor policy. Those of you who are unfamiliar with this policy are expected to read it online at: <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>. Violations of the academic honesty policy will not be tolerated, and will be reported to university officials. I take this policy very seriously and will make every effort to ensure it is strictly followed.

### *University Attendance Policy*

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

### *Confidential Campus Resources*

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Case Management Services  
University Center A, Suite 4128  
(850) 644-9555  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/cms>

Victim Advocate Program  
University Center A, Rm. 4100  
(850) 644-7161  
Available 24/7/365  
Office Hours: M-F 8-5  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

University Counseling Center  
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor  
942 Learning Way  
(850) 644-8255  
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services  
Health and Wellness Center  
(850) 644-6230  
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

*Americans with Disabilities Act*

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course. To receive academic accommodations, a student: (1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS); (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and, (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services  
874 Traditions Way  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167

(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
oas@fsu.edu  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

### *Academic Success*

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

### *Free Tutoring from FSU*

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact [tutor@fsu.edu](mailto: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. While I encourage you to utilize these resources, I cannot guarantee there will be a free tutor available at any given time.

### *Final Exam Policies*

Students are expected to take the final exam in person at the scheduled time during finals week. Final exams will only be rescheduled for some other time during finals week when justified by illness, official documented accommodations on record with the Student Disability Resource Center, conflicting examinations, three or more examinations within a twenty-four hour period, or certain emergencies. Arrangements should be made prior to the scheduled exam. If a student misses the scheduled final examination and does not have approval in advance for a rescheduled exam within the final exam week, no make-up examination will be given. Students seeking to reschedule the final exam must obtain written permission from me as well as the dean of the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice prior to the exam. More information on University policies regarding final exams can be found at:

[https://registrar.fsu.edu/registration\\_guide/spring/exam\\_schedule/](https://registrar.fsu.edu/registration_guide/spring/exam_schedule/).

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

All readings and assignments are due at the **start** of class on the date listed, not at 11:59 PM.  
 Schedule subject to change; please check announcements on Canvas for updates.

DATE	TOPIC	READ	DUE
01/09/23	Course Overview		
01/11/23	Society and Research	Chapter 1	Pretest
01/16/23	<b>No Class (MLK)</b>		
01/18/23	Research Process	Chapter 2	Quiz 1
01/23/23	Research Ethics	Chapter 3	
01/25/23	Research Ethics		CITI Training
01/30/23	Measurement	Chapter 4	Quiz 3
02/01/23	Measurement		
02/06/23	Sampling	Chapter 5	Quiz 4
02/08/23	Sampling		
02/13/23	Experimentation	Chapter 6	
02/15/23	Midterm Review		
02/20/23	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)</b>		
02/22/23	Experimentation		Quiz 5
02/27/23	Experimentation		
03/01/23	Surveys	Chapter 7	Quiz 6
03/06/23	Surveys		
03/08/23	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 8, Chapter 9 pp. 244-247	Quiz 7; Assignment 1
03/13/23	<b>Spring Break</b>		
03/15/23	<b>Spring Break</b>		
03/20/23	Qualitative Methods		
03/22/23	Evaluation	Chapter 10	Quiz 8
03/27/23	Evaluation		
03/29/23	Midterm Review		
04/03/23	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 6-10)</b>		
04/05/23	Mixed Methods	Chapter 11	Quiz 9
04/10/23	Data Presentation	Fox et al. 2014 Chapter 2	
04/12/23	Central Tendency	Fox et al. 2014 Chapter 3	
04/17/23	Variability	Fox et al. 2014 Chapter 4	Quiz 10
04/19/23	Variability		
04/24/23	Statistics Practice		
04/26/23	Final Review		Assignment 2; Post-test
05/04/23	<b>Final Exam (Cumulative)</b>	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	