



## CCJ4700 - Introduction to Research Methods

Tuesday/Thursday 3:05-4:20 -- Bellamy 116

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will provide students with an understanding of the methods used to conduct criminological research. It will focus on the principles of research design, methods of data collection, survey development, and introductory techniques of data analysis. Special attention will be devoted to understanding, evaluating, and interpreting social research using existing data. Course objectives include the following:

1. understand the connection between theory and research
2. understand the ethical standards that guide criminological research
3. understand how to conduct an academic literature review
4. understand how to draw a representative sample of subjects
5. understand how to construct an effective survey
6. understand the methods used to evaluate policies and programs
7. obtain experience working with data and conducting statistical analysis

### INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Professor: Dr. Brian Stults Email: <a href="mailto:bstults@fsu.edu">bstults@fsu.edu</a> ( <a href="mailto:bstults@fsu.edu">mailto:bstults@fsu.edu</a> ) Phone: (850) 645-7376 Office: 302A Eppes Hall Office hours: Tues./Thurs. 12-2 pm	TA: Matthew Vanden Bosch Email: <a href="mailto:mvandenbosch@fsu.edu">mvandenbosch@fsu.edu</a> ( <a href="mailto:mvandenbosch@fsu.edu">mailto:mvandenbosch@fsu.edu</a> ) Office: 301A Office hours: Wed. 10 am - 12 pm
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### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Bachman, Ronet, and Russell K. Schutt. 2021. Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice. 5th edition. ISBN: 9781544374055.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade for this course will be based entirely on assignments and exams. Each of these is described in greater detail below. At times this is a very work-intensive class. All assignments will require

significant time outside of class, so plan accordingly. Do not procrastinate or you will struggle to keep up. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes from another student. I will not provide my lecture notes. Attendance will not be part of your grade, but *you should not expect to pass the course if you do not attend all class meetings.*

- **Assignments**

You are required to complete four 25-point assignments during the semester. This work will be done outside of class. The first assignment will involve researching a criminological topic using academic journal articles and writing a literature review. The other three assignments will involve conducting statistical analysis using criminological data that will be provided for you. These assignments require the use of a software program called SPSS, which is available via the FSU Virtual Lab. You can access the Virtual Lab from any computer (on or off campus) using your web browser. Detailed instructions for all assignments will be provided in class and on Canvas. All assignments will be submitted on Canvas. ANY late assignments will be marked down. Failure to turn in an assignment will result in zero points being awarded for that assignment.

- **Exams**

You are required to take three 50-point in-class exams during the semester. Make-up exams will be given only under extreme circumstances (such as a medical emergency), and you are required to provide documentation. Failure to take an exam will result in zero points being awarded for that exam. There will not be a final exam during finals week.

## **GRADING**

As described above, your grade for this course will be based entirely on your scores from the three exams and the four assignments. This means there will be a maximum of 250 possible points. There will be no opportunities for extra credit. The following cutoffs will be used to determine your final letter grade:

A	232-250	B	207-216	C	182-191	D	157-166
A-	225-231	B-	200-206	C-	175-181	D-	150-156
B+	217-224	C+	192-199	D+	167-174	F	0-149

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES**

- You are expected to meet high standards of academic writing, including proper grammar, formatting, sentence construction, and spelling. Writing quality will be part of your grade. If you need assistance with your writing, I strongly encourage you to make an appointment to speak with someone at the FSU Reading/Writing Center at [fsu.mywconline.com](http://fsu.mywconline.com) (<http://fsu.mywconline.com>). At the very least, be sure to carefully review all writing assignments before submitting them.

- You are responsible for learning how to use the various Canvas features. If you have any questions about this, click on the “Help” button on the course home page.
- You are responsible for setting up an FSU e-mail account and routinely checking it so that you receive messages that I send to the class.
- Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to me indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center ([disabilitycenter.fsu.edu \(http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/\)](http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/)).
- The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and 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 [fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy/](http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy/).)
- 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.
- I do not expect to make any changes to the course schedule. If necessary, notice of any changes will be provided in class and on Canvas (with e-mails and course announcements), and you are responsible for getting this information.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

### **Week 1 – January 10 & 12**

Topic: Course overview and introduction

Readings: Chapter 1

### **Week 2 – January 17 & 19**

Topic: Theory and Ethics

Readings: Chapters 2 & 3

### **Week 3 – January 24 & 26**

Topic: Conceptualization and Operationalization

Readings: Chapter 4



**Week 4 – January 31 & February 2**

EXAM 1 TUESDAY 01/31 (CHAPTERS 1-4)

Topic: Discuss literature review assignment

Readings: none

**Week 5 – February 7 & 9**

Topic: Sampling

Readings: Chapter 5

**Week 6 – February 14 & 16**

Topic: Causation and Experimental Design

Readings: Chapter 6

**Week 7 – February 21 & 23**

Topic: Survey Design and Construction

Readings: Chapter 7

**Week 8 – February 28 & March 2**

EXAM 2 TUESDAY 02/28 (CHAPTERS 5-7)

Topic: Qualitative Methods

Readings: Chapter 8

**Week 9 – March 7 & 9**

Content Analysis and Secondary Data

Readings: Chapter 9

LITERATURE REVIEW DUE THURSDAY 03/09

**Week 10 – March 14 & 16**

Spring Break – No Class This Week

**Week 11 – March 21 & 23**

Topic: Evaluation and Policy Analysis

Readings: Chapter 10

**Week 12 – March 28 & 30**

EXAM 3 TUESDAY 03/28 (CHAPTERS 8-10)

Topic: Discuss statistics assignments

Readings: none

**Week 13 – April 4 & 6**

Topic: Univariate Analysis

Readings: Chapters 11 & 12

**Week 14 – April 11 & 13**

Topic: Bivariate Analysis

Readings: Chapters 11 & 12 (cont.)  
STATS ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE THURSDAY 04/13



### Week 15 – April 18 & 20

Topic: Multivariate Analysis

Readings: Chapters 11 & 12 (cont.)








STATS ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE THURSDAY 04/20

### Week 16 – April 25 & 27

Topic: Putting it all together

STATS ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE THURSDAY 04/27

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Jan 31, 2023	 <b>Exam 1</b> ( <a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816408">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816408</a> )	due by 4:20pm
Tue Feb 28, 2023	 <b>Exam 2</b> ( <a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816409">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816409</a> )	due by 4:20pm
Thu Mar 9, 2023	 <b>Literature review</b> ( <a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816411">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816411</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 28, 2023	 <b>Exam 3</b> ( <a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816410">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816410</a> )	due by 4:20pm
Thu Apr 13, 2023	 <b>Statistics assignment 1</b> ( <a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816412">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816412</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 20, 2023	 <b>Statistics assignment 2</b> ( <a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816413">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816413</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 27, 2023	 <b>Statistics assignment 3</b> ( <a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816414">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/223683/assignments/1816414</a> )	due by 11:59pm