

Research Methods in Criminal Justice
CRIM 251-001
Final Syllabus
Spring 2019

Instructor:	Katherine Hazen, MA, JD Nebraska Hall 517 413-626-2776 Katherine.hazen@unl.edu	Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday 5:00-5:30 or by appointment
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When sending emails:

Always put CRIM 251 in the subject line (or email through Canvas) if you want a prompt response. Every effort will be made to make email replies within 24 hours of receipt (Monday through Friday).

A short note about basic email etiquette to best represent yourself when corresponding with the instructors -- It is expected that each email will include a subject alerting the instructor to the content of the email, a simple greeting, at least one sentence, and a closing that includes the student's full name. For more information about email etiquette please visit <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/636/1/>.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the principles, methods, and techniques of empirical social science used to understand the criminal justice system and its relationship with society. This course seeks to provide criminal justice students with a basic understanding of where data on criminal justice comes from and how to understand and critique the findings.

Prerequisites:

Introduction to Criminal Justice, CRIM 101.

Textbook:

Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology (8th Edition, 2017) by Maxfield & Babbie, other materials will be provided through Canvas.

Attendance Policy:

Class participation and attendance are strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all material covered in class and assignments due during class. If you miss a class, you should first meet with another student to get the notes but I am also happy to meet with you during office hours or by appointment to discuss the material covered. The instructor will not make the Powerpoints available online.

Honesty Policy:

Basically, don't cheat. If you need more than that, please see the University of Nebraska's Student Code of Conduct (§ 4.2)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructors for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Exam policies:

- Material for the exams is not limited to topics discussed in class. Students are responsible for assigned readings.
- No make-up exams will be given without a valid, documented excuse and notification to the instructor before the scheduled exam. For example, if you are ill on a particular exam day, you will need to call the instructor's

office or email before missing the exam and obtain written proof of your condition from a physician.

Late work policies:

If for some reason you are unable to complete any of the course materials by the deadline, you will receive a 10% penalty if you turn in the assignment within five days (including weekends) of the due date. If you turn in an assignment after that first week, but before the last day of class (April 24, 2019), you will receive a 50% penalty on your grade for that assignment. Course materials turned in after the end of the course will not be accepted. Please try to turn your work in on time, as it will make everything easier for the both of us.

Research Participation:

You are required to participate in research for this class. You must participate in research that ongoing through SONA (<https://unl.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>). Participate for at least 6 credits, no more than 3 of which can be through on-line studies. This means, you can complete an on-line survey for 3 credits, but no more. The remainder of the credits must be earned through in-lab participation. If you are currently a research assistant or volunteer in a lab on campus or for a project on campus, you may receive credit for half of your participation. Please talk with me about the type of research activities you are involved in and what type of research you should participate in. For example, if you are involved in running participants in an in-lab setting, you will be able to complete the remaining 3 credits through on-line studies.

Research participation credits can also be gained through writing three 3-page summaries of criminal justice research articles. This alternative will require you to find, read, and appropriately describe at least 3 different criminal justice studies. Credit will be granted for identifying and describing the following information in the article: 1. Theoretical foundations, 2. Participants, 3. Materials and procedures, 4. Summary of findings and implications.

Grading:

Additional details about individual assignments and allocation of points for those assignments will be provided in separate documents at the end of the first week of classes.

Personal information card	50 points	Due January 9th
Research Proposal paper	300 points	April 19, 2019
Research question topic	50 points	February 4, 2019
Proposal outline	50 points	February 20, 2019
Proposal Draft 1	75 points	March 15, 2019
Final Research Proposal	125 points	April 19, 2019
Exam 1	200 points	March 11, 2019
Exam 2	200 points	April 30, 2019 at 8:30 AM
Research Credits	100 points	April 28, 2019
10 in-class writing assignments	150 points (15 pts. each)	Throughout the semester
TOTAL	1000 points	

Grading Scale:

The following scale is intended only as an approximate guideline, and may be adjusted at the discretion of the instructor when awarding final grades:

A+: 97-100	B: 83-86	D: 60-69
A: 93-96	B-: 80-82	
A-: 90-92	C+: 77-79	
B+: 87-89	C: 70-76	

Course Schedule:

A more detailed course schedule will be available online at the end of this week/beginning of next once the class has made their selections from the topic choices available and the student survey results are tabulated.

Important dates

Wednesday, January 9th	Completed personal information survey
Monday, February 4th	Research questions due
Wednesday, February 20 th	Proposal outline due
Monday, March 11th in class	Exam 1
Friday, March 15 th	Research proposal draft 1 due
Friday, April 19 th	Final Research proposal due
Wednesday, April 28 th	Research credits due
Tuesday, April 30th at 8:30 AM	Exam 2

Course Schedule:

Week	Class	Topic	Assigned Readings
1	1/7	Welcome to Research Methods!	
	1/9	Introduction to Research Methods: How read a research article	Personal information survey; M&B pp 21-23 (stop at "The Research Proposal"); PDF on Canvas
2	1/14	Introduction to Research Methods: Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry	M&B pp. 3-12
	1/16	Introduction to Research Methods: Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry (Con't)	M&B pp. 12-26 (skip 21-23); In-class writing 1
3	1/21	Martin Luther King Day (No Class)	NO CLASS
	1/23	Foundations of Criminal Justice Research	M&B 28-39 (stop at "Theory 101"); In class writing 2
4	1/28	Foundation, con't	M&B 39-52
	1/30	Class Cancelled	
5	2/4	Ethics and Criminal Justice Research	M&B 57-66, 75-79; In class writing 3; Research Questions due at 11:59 PM
	2/6	No Class (Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference)	NO CLASS
6	2/11	General Issue in Research Design	M&B 82-92 (stop at "Units of Analysis")
	2/13	General issues, con't	M&B 92-107 In class writing 4
7	2/18	Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement	M&B 108-123
	2/20	Snow Day	Paper Outline Due

8	2/25	Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement, con't	M&B 123-135 In class writing 5
	2/27	Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs	M&B 165-186 (Stop at "Time Series Designs")
9	3/4	Sampling	M&B 199-216 In class writing 6
	3/6	Exam Review	
10	3/11	EXAM 1 in class	Exam 1
	3/12	No Class (American Psychology and Law Society Conference)	
11	3/18	SPRING BREAK (no class)	
	3/20	SPRING BREAK (no class)	
12	3/25	Exam review and paper writing	PDF emailed
	3/27	Methods sections con't	PDF on CANVAS (Wolfe et al 2018) In class writing 7
13	4/1	Interpreting Data	M&B 395-410
	4/3	Interpreting Data, cont	M&B 410-425 In class writing 8
14	4/8	Survey Research	M&B 229-248
	4/10	Qualitative Interviewing	M&B 270-293 In class writing 9
15	4/15	Field Observations	M&B 298-313
	4/17	Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data	M&B 325-340 In Class writing 10
16	4/22	Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data, con't	M&B 340-353
	4/24	Final Exam review	
	4/30	Exam 2 at 8:30am	