

# RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINOLOGY

CLASS TIMES: TUESDAYS 10:40 AM - 11:30 AM & THURSDAYS 10:40 AM - 12:35 PM

CLASS LOCATION: WEIM1094 ON TUESDAYS, WEIM1084 ON THURSDAYS.

## **Instructor:**

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Office hours:

Tuesdays 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

## **Teaching Assistant:**

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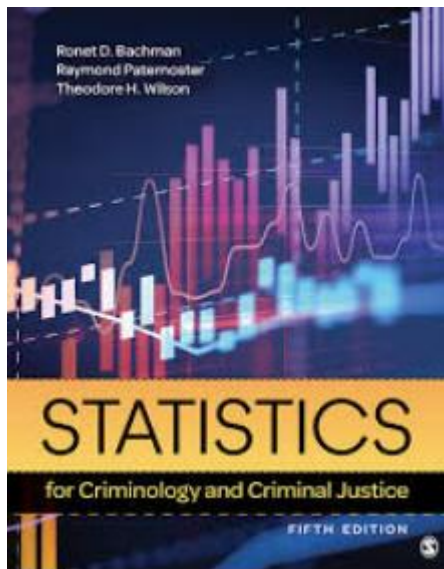
Office hours: Wednesday 12:50 - 1:50 pm  
in Turlington 3349; Friday 12:30 - 1:30 pm

via zoom



## WELCOME TO THE COURSE!

### **Required Text and Software**



Textbook: Bachman, R. D., Paternoster, R., & Wilson, T. H. (2021). Statistics for criminology and criminal justice (5thEd.). SAGE Publications.

Required statistical software package: STATA.

You can buy the license of STATA, as an alternative, you can access it via UF Apps (<https://info.apps.ufl.edu/>) for free. However, you need stable internet access when using it.

# COURSE GOALS & EXPECTATIONS

## Goals for this Course

The goal of this course is to gain a deeper understanding of the research methods and analytical techniques that are used in criminology and criminal justice. Over the course of the semester, we will learn about several approaches you can solve a research question, with special attention paid to identifying a research question, data collection, sampling, data analysis, and making conclusions. We will describe methods used by criminal justice researchers to investigate primary criminal justice questions, as well as their limitations. By the end of the semester, you will have a deeper awareness of how research methods fill the knowledge gaps and broaden our understanding of an issue in criminal justice. With this knowledge we will attempt to explain criminal justice practices and policies in a wide variety of contexts, as well as develop a more sophisticated understanding of conducting research as a whole.

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## Learning Objectives

1. *Familiarize with most used criminal justice data sets of victimization, offending, special patterns of crime, policing, and sentencing.*
  2. *Compare and contrast competing research methods and describe how their pros and cons add to our overall understanding of conducting research.*
  3. *Describe what modern methods are used in criminal justice research as well as what they can and cannot tell us about the mechanism underpinning a social phenomenon.*
  4. *Reflect on how the research findings are translated into policing making, practices, and intervention initiatives.*
  5. *Demonstrate an awareness of how culture and social context shape a social group's behavior by reflecting on findings may or may not be universal.*
  6. *Identify common misconceptions about data correlation that affect several areas such as biases and voters' behavior.*
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## COURSE EVALUATION & QUIZZES

### Course Evaluation

Successful completion of the course will depend on the following criteria:

Lab quizzes	15%
Exam 1 (in class)	12%
Exam 2 (in class)	12%
Exam 3 (in class)	12%
Exam 4 (in class)	12%
Research proposal presentation of your paper	12%
Research paper	15%
Class/lab attendance	10%
	100%

The research paper contains several sections and **you will submit section by section throughout the semester**. It is a department requirement that the students write a research paper in this course. **Please pay attention that the paper you write in this course will NOT satisfy the university writing requirement. If you are counting on a writing requirement for this semester, please see an advisor for assistance.**

The research proposal assignment: you will record a PowerPoint proposal presentation by Zoom and submit the video.

**Important policies regarding late submission, tardiness, absence, make-up exams/assignments, and academic integrity:**

- Due dates are final. No exceptions will be made unless written documents are provided as an excuse for late submission by the University policy.
- Makeup exams/quizzes/assignments will be provided for students with a university recognized excused absence such as: illnesses with a doctor's excuse, serious family emergency, and participation in official university activities (athletics). Students who claim excused absence must notify the instructor before the due date of exams/quizzes/assignments by Canvas emails. All make-up

exams/quizzes/assignments will have **different questions** from the questions in the original exams/quizzes/assignments.

- Tardiness and absence: Arriving late is not accepted unless the students provide **written** documents to prove the excuses are accepted **based on UF policy** ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#:~:text=Acceptable%20reasons%20for%20absence%20from,professional%20conferences\)%3B%20military%20obligation%3B](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#:~:text=Acceptable%20reasons%20for%20absence%20from,professional%20conferences)%3B%20military%20obligation%3B)). If you miss a class it is your responsibility to borrow notes from a peer who attended the lecture you miss.
- University’s honesty policy regarding cheating and plagiarism. The Honor Code shows a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click here to read the Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>).

### Assignments & Outcomes

Learning Objective	Taxonomy	Quizzes	Final Project	Class Participation	ARQs	Discussion Forum
1	<i>Knowledge &amp; Comprehension</i>	X	X	X	X	
2	<i>Analysis</i>			X	X	
3	<i>Comprehension</i>	X		X	X	
4	<i>Application &amp; Analysis</i>	X	X	X	X	X
5	<i>Cultural Application</i>		X	X	X	X

### Grades

Final grades will be assigned based on the following standard:

Grade	%	Grade	%
A	93.0 – 100.0	C+	77.0 – 79.9
A-	90.0 – 92.9	C	70.0 – 76.9
B+	87.0 – 89.9	D	60.0 – 69.9
B	83.0 – 86.9	F	Below 60
B-	80.0 – 82.9		

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## Expectations

### *I expect from you...*

- ▽ **Honesty** – Our format requires a great deal of trust between students and professor. Please be sure to complete your work independently when asked to.
  - **Do not copy, share, photograph, or discuss sensitive materials posted online (e.g., ARQs).** Ask questions if you are unsure.
  - **Attendance and participation points are to be completed IN-PERSON. This course is a 100% in-person course. If you are interested in an online version of this course, please contact the department to find details.**
- ▽ **Respect** – for the views & backgrounds of everyone in the class, even those you may not fully agree with. Use appropriate speech and behavior for a classroom setting.
- ▽ **No Interruptions** – from electronic devices. If you have an emergency, please leave the room to handle it.
- ▽ **Attentiveness** – Do not use class time to sleep, check Facebook, email, or other distractions. They not only affect you but also become a distraction to everyone in your immediate vicinity (e.g., Sana, Weston, Cepeda, 2013). If you are clearly not engaging or are a distraction to the learning environment, **I will ask you to leave the classroom. In this situation, you will lose attendance points.**
- ▽ **Responsibility** – Come to class, take notes, participate, seek help if you are struggling, read assigned chapters, and complete required assignments. If you miss a class, be sure to get lecture notes from a classmate.
- ▽ **Participation** – I want us to engage in questions and discussions as much as possible. I expect course engagement by sharing your ideas and answering questions in lecture.

### *You should expect from me...*

- ▽ **Respect** – for you and your contributions to this course. I will be thoughtful of your ideas & put sincere effort into answering your questions.
- ▽ **Help** – mastering material through lectures, activities, and help. To make sure multiple students with varying questions would not come to my office at the same time, please make sure to email me when you would like to seek help during office hours.
- ▽ **Communication** – through **canvas email**. I typically respond without serious delay during the weekday depending on the urgency of your inquiry. However, **during weekends, holidays, and business trips I tend to not check my emails** very often.

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## Mental Health

## MENTAL HEALTH & DIVERSITY

If you experience stress or personal pain, I can refer you to appropriate resources via Canvas inbox. I've also listed campus resources below (i.e., Counseling and Wellness Center, University Police Department, U Matter, We Care).

Counseling and Wellness Center offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Learn more about their service at <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>.



### Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion

The University of Florida values diversity, equity, and inclusion as integral to our mission as a student-centered public research university strongly focused on learning, research, entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity so that its graduates are prepared to succeed in a global market. Similarly, our classroom will benefit from the various perspectives and experiences you all bring. I want our classroom community to ensure that a diversity of cultures, races and ethnicities, genders, political and religious beliefs, and physical and learning differences is thriving.

**Course calendar (This calendar contains modules, readings, and due dates. Given inclement weather and other factors, there might be times when adjustments to the course calendar are needed.)**

Week	Dates	Topic	Lectures and readings	Assignments and exams (lab quizzes are to be completed and submitted during the lab sessions)
1	01/14 and 01/16	Going through syllabus; basic concepts of research	Introduction of this course, walking through the syllabus, and discussing basic concepts of research Read: Textbook Chapter 1, p1-8	Lab quiz 1

Week	Dates	Topic	Lectures and readings	Assignments and exams ( <b>lab quizzes are to be completed and submitted during the lab sessions</b> )
2	01/21 and 01/23	Principles of research ethics; population and sample	Principles of research ethics Read: Maxfield/Babbie (2017) p.57-66 “Ethical issues in criminal justice research.” p.76-78 “The Stanford prison experiment.” (you will find the readings in Canvas Modules)	
3	01/28 and 01/30	Stratified sampling; Measures	Sampling READ: Textbook: chapter 1 p8-17	Lab quiz 2.
4	02/04 and 02/06	Major sources of crime data: compare NCVS and UCR	Comparing NCVS and UCR  READ: Maxfield/Babbie (2017) chapter 6 p.136-164 (you will find the readings in Canvas Modules)	Lab quiz 3.
5	02/11 and 02/13	Data distribution and variable types (part 1)	Readings: Textbook Chapter 1. Levels of Measurement and Aggregation. Chapter 5. Measures of Dispersion	Lab quiz 4.
6	02/18 and 02/20	Data distribution and variable types (part 2).	Readings: Textbook Chapter 3. Data Visualization Techniques: Ways Of Understanding Data Distributions	02/20 Exam 1 (location: the lab)
7	02/25 and 02/27	T test: one-sample and two-sample t test	Readings: Textbook Chapter 8. From Estimation to Statistical Tests: Hypothesis Testing for One Population Mean and Proportion	Lab quiz 5.

Week	Dates	Topic	Lectures and readings	Assignments and exams (lab quizzes are to be completed and submitted during the lab sessions)
8	03/04 and 03/06	Chi-square test and Correlation of two numeric variables.	Looking at two variables together Readings: Textbook Chapter 9. Testing Hypotheses With Categorical Data Chapter 10. Hypothesis Tests Involving Two Population Means or Proportions	03/06 Exam 2 (location: the lab)
		Multivariate Regression (part 1)	Readings: Textbook PART IV. Multivariable Analysis: Predicting One Dependent Variable with Two or More Independent Variables (including chapter 13 and 14)	
9	03/11 and 03/13	Multivariate Regression (part 2)	Readings: Textbook PART IV. Multivariable Analysis: Predicting One Dependent Variable with Two or More Independent Variables (including chapter 13 and 14)	03/13 Exam 3 (location: the lab)
10		Spring break		
11	03/25 and 03/27	How to write a research paper (part 1)	Conley, E. S. (2015) How to read a research article. In Wash, A. & Hemmens, C. (Eds.). <i>Introduction to criminology: A text/reader</i> (pp. 19-20). <a href="https://www.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/18151_How_to_Read">https://www.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/18151_How_to_Read</a>	Lab quiz 6. Research proposal presentation of your paper (video) due Sunday midnight



Week	Dates	Topic	Lectures and readings	Assignments and exams (lab quizzes are to be completed and submitted during the lab sessions)
			<p><a href="#">a Research Article + Reading WalshHemmens.pdf</a></p> <p>Busse, C., &amp; August, E. (2021). How to Write and Publish a Research Paper for a Peer-Reviewed Journal. <i>Journal of Cancer Education</i>, 36(5), 909-913.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-020-01751-z">https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-020-01751-z</a> ENGL 102 2021</p> <p>Denney, A. S., &amp; Tewksbury, R. (2013). How to write a literature review. <i>Journal of Criminal Justice Education</i> 24(2), 218-235.  <a href="http://doi:dx.doi.org/10.1080/10511253.2012.730617">http://doi:dx.doi.org/10.1080/10511253.2012.730617</a></p> <p>(you will find the readings in Canvas Modules)</p>	
12	04/01 and 04/03	How to write a research paper (part 2)	<p>Pollock, W., Joo, H-J, &amp; Lawton, B. (2010). Juvenile arrest rates for burglary: A routine activities approach. <i>Journal of Criminal Justice</i>, 38, 572-579.</p> <p>Barnum, T. C., Herman, S., van Gelder, J. L., Ribeaud, D., Eisner, M., &amp; Nagin, D. S. (2024). Reactive guardianship: Who intervenes? How? And why?. <i>Criminology</i>, 62(3), 587-618.</p>	Lab quiz 7.

Week	Dates	Topic	Lectures and readings	Assignments and exams (lab quizzes are to be completed and submitted during the lab sessions)
13	04/08 and 04/10	How to write a research paper (part 3)	Miller, R. G. (2016). Exploring the effect of exposure to short-term solitary confinement among violent prison inmates. <i>Journal of Quantitative Criminology</i> , 3 2(1), 1-22. doi:org/10.1007/s10940-015-9250-0572-579 (you will find the readings in Canvas Modules)	Lab quiz 8. Literature review of the paper due Sunday midnight.
14	04/15 and 04/17	Measuring abstract concept	Latent factors. Readings: Bachman & Schutt. (2020). Conceptualization and Measurement. <i>The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice</i> . Pages 86 – 116. Chapter 6 of Babbie, E. (2016). <i>The practice of social research</i> (Fourteenth edition.). Australia: Cengage Learning. Chapter title: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies (you will find the readings in Canvas Modules)	Lab quiz 9. Methods and results of the paper due Sunday midnight.
15	04/22 (all classes end by 04/23/2025 at UF)	Different collection methods and sources of crime data	Kleck, G., Tark, J., & Bellows, J. J. (2006). What methods are most frequently used in research in criminology and criminal justice?. <i>Journal of Criminal Justice</i> , 34(2), 147-152. (you will find the readings in Canvas Modules)	04/24 Exam 4 (location: the lab)

Week	Dates	Topic	Lectures and readings	Assignments and exams ( <b>lab quizzes are to be completed and submitted during the lab sessions</b> )
16	Final week			Discussion and introduction sections of the paper due 04/28/2025 midnight.