

Fall 2022

CCJ 3701 Research Methods in Criminology

University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law

Instructor: Chris L. Gibson, Ph.D., Professor of Criminology

Office: Turlington 3330

Email: clgibson@ufl.edu (*Will try my best to respond within 48 hours of reading email*)

Dr. Gibson's Office Hours:

Tuesday 12:30 noon – 1:30pm (Office: Turlington 3330)

Thursday 8:30am – 9:30am (Office: Turlington 3330)

(also available by appointment via zoom)

Lab Instructor: Jordan Press, Criminology graduate student

Tuesday 2pm-3pm (Office: Turlington 3347); Thurs. 2pm-3pm (Zoom)

Email: j0603082239@ufl.edu

Course Lecture (Days & Times):

Tuesday 10:40am – 11:30am (MCCA G186)

Thursday 10:40am – 12:35pm (MCCA G186)

Weekly Lab:

Wed. 9:35am- 10:25am (WEIL 408E) (SECTION 002D; COURSE #11459)

Wed. 10:40am - 11:30am (WEIL 408E) (SECTION 003E; COURSE # 11480)

As scheduled and consistent with UF policy, this course will be delivered in person/face-to-face. This course will not have a hyflex option; therefore, lectures/labs will not be online synchronous. Video lectures will not be posted on canvas

Required Text

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2020). *The Practice of Research in Criminology & Criminal Justice* (7th edition). Sage.

Additional required readings can be found canvas/e-learning course site

Course Description

Criminologists and criminal justice practitioners should know how to use research methods and interpret results from empirical studies. They should understand research designs and statistical methods that are often necessary for answering questions about the criminal justice system and criminal behavior. They should be able to conduct searches for peer-reviewed scientific journal articles, and also be able to identify limitations of studies they read. Further, criminal justice practitioners should be familiar with the research process although many of them may never engage in actual research themselves. A practitioner who is able to understand this process will be better equipped for policy discussions.

This course focuses on fundamentals of research design, measurement, and quantitative data analysis techniques used by criminologists. Students will learn various types of research designs, research terminology, and develop an understanding of the ethical practices involved in conducting research. In weekly labs students will experience analyzing criminological data while becoming familiar with a statistical software package, i.e., STATA.

Course Objective

1. Become informed consumers of criminological research
2. Learn how to formulate a research question and apply research terminology
3. Perform statistical analyses on criminological data
4. Learn how to disseminate and report research findings

Material

Students are required to read book chapters and articles posted electronically for each class period. The main readings for each week are listed in the course outline in this syllabus. Additional readings may be required as the course progresses, and they will always be announced and posted electronically.

Expectations

What can you expect from me?

1. Be interested and passionate about the course and the material
2. Help you understand the applicability of research methods
3. Challenge you to think about an apply course/lab material
4. Start and end class on time

What will I expect from you?

1. Attend class and show up on time
2. Finish reading assignments prior to lecture/lab and take complete notes
3. Complete all assignments on time
4. For success in most college courses, a student should put in 2 hours outside of class for each hour spent in class. (***Especially important for a research methods course***)

Course Policies and Etiquette

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL LABS. You earn 2.5 points for each lab session attended. Also, you should not miss lab because valuable information and data exercises are discussed which are directly related to major assignments for this course. If you must miss lab due to extremely extenuating circumstances, you **MUST** email your lab instructor **BEFORE** the lab session you are missing.

Course Policies

1. **Makeup exams 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). If you must miss an exam due to extremely extenuating circumstances, you must **notify me before the exam by email. All make-up exams will be scheduled during finals week.**
2. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Any student suspected of cheating will be failed on that particular assignment and referred to the University Honor Court. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, then you are strongly encouraged to refer to your Student Handbook @ (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) or discuss any concerns with the instructor.
3. **Be respectful of your professor, lab instructor, and peers.** Impulsively shouting out ideas and opinions will not be tolerated. If you want to share an insight, idea, or have a question please raise your hand. The expression of ideas will not be censored; however, be prepared to defend your ideas. In addition, extend appropriate courtesy to each person in the class.
4. **I do not post video lectures on canvas.** If you miss class it is your responsibility to borrow notes from a peer who attended the lecture(s) you miss.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> (Links to an external site.). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> (Links to an external site.). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> (Links to an external site.).

University's honesty policy regarding cheating and plagiarism

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA in this class.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center (Links to an external site.): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support (Links to an external site.): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center (Links to an external site.): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Accommodations for students with disabilities

University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action institution committed to providing reasonable accommodations for any person with a disability who meets the definition of disabled as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter,We Care to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit UF Counseling & Wellness Center or call 352-392- 1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit UF Student Health Care Center.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center.

Grading

Exams: 300 total points (6 mini exams X 50 points each)

Research Project Assignments: 250 total points (5 X 50 points each)

Lab Attendance: 40 points (2.5 points per lab)

TOTAL POINTS Possible: 590 points

Converting your earned points to a percentage for determining course standing you will need to take number of earned points and divide by total number of possible points. For example, if you earned a total of 500 points for the course then your grade is $500/590 = .847$ (84.7 which is a B).

Course grade can be calculated at any time during the semester by taking number of earned points up to that point and divide by the total number of possible points at that particular time. For example, if you have earned 150 points of 200 possible points, then your grade at that particular moment in the course is $150/200 = .75$ (75 which is a C)

Course Grading Scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	E	00-59

Module Mini Exams:

Exam questions will come from lecture notes and assigned readings. Exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions. **The final exam is NOT comprehensive. Exam dates are listed below.**

Module 1 mini-exam:	Tuesday, Sept. 20th
Module 2 mini-exam:	Tuesday, Oct 4th
Module 3 mini-exam:	Tuesday, Oct 18th
Module 4 mini-exam:	Tuesday, Nov 1st
Module 5 mini-exam:	Tuesday, Nov 15th
Module 6 mini-exam:	Tuesday, Dec. 6th

Assignments:

Students are required to complete 5 major assignments worth 50 points each. **These assignments are a substantial part of your course grade.** Taken together, assignments are designed to achieve the equivalent of a course paper that satisfies the Gordon Rule and our program requirement of completing a data analysis/research paper.

The course research project will be disaggregated into assignments, which are smaller chunks of work that should make the task of writing a major research paper less overwhelming and more manageable.

The overarching goal of these assignments is to develop and test a criminological hypothesis by analyzing data provided by Dr. Gibson. You will have approximately 2 to 3 weeks to complete each assignment, and we will provide links to data and assignments on e-learning well in advance. These assignments will go hand and hand with materials covered in labs and lectures so it is **VERY IMPORTANT** you understand, and are able to apply, information covered in both.

Research Project Assignment Due Dates (submit via canvas/e-learning)

Assignment 1:	Sept. 29th (midnight)
Assignment 2:	Oct 20th (midnight)
Assignment 3:	Nov 8th (midnight)
Assignment 4:	Nov. 23rd (midnight)
Assignment 5:	Dec. 12th (midnight)

Tentative Course Outline

MODULE 1

Week 2 (Aug 30th & Sept. 1st) Research Fundamentals (Part 1)

Reading:

Bachman & Schutt (2020) Science, Society, and Research.... *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pp 2-25.

Week 3 (Sept 6th & Sept. 8th) Research Fundamentals (Part 2)

Reading:

Bachman & Schutt (2020) The process and problems of *research related to crime and Criminology. The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pp 26-57.

Week 4 (Sept 13th & Sept. 15th) Ethical Issues in Research

Reading:

Bachman & Schutt (2020). Ethical Guidelines for Research. *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pp. 59 – 81

Review UF IRB website: <https://irb.ufl.edu/>

MODULE 2

Week 5 (Sept. 20th & Sept. 22nd) Data Set Introduction/Course Project

Reading:

Data set overview, research design, and secondary data (assigned reading)

Developing a research question and hypothesis (assigned reading)

Week 6 (Sept 27th & Sept 29th) Measurement in Criminology

Reading:

Bachman & Schutt (2020) Conceptualization and Measurement. *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pages 86 – 116.

MODULE 3

Week 7 (Oct 4th & Oct 6th) Sampling

Reading:

Bachman & Schutt (2020) Sampling. *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pages 117 - 149.

Week 8 (Oct 11th & 13th) Survey Research in Criminology

Reading:

Bachman & Schutt (2020). Survey Research. *The Practice. Of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pp. 214 – 263.

MODULE 4

Week 9 (Oct 18th & Oct 20th) Correlation and Causation

Reading:

Bachman & Schutt (2020). Causation and Research Design. *The Practice off Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pp. 150-180.

Week 10 (Oct 25th & Oct 27th) Experimental Design in Criminology

Reading:

Bachman & Schutt (2020). Causation and Research Design. *The Practice off Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Pp. 182-213.

Rapp-Paglicci, Stewart, & Rowe (2009). Evaluating the effects of the Prodigy Cultural Arts Program... *Best Practices in Mental Health*. Pp. 65-73.

MODULE 5

Week 11 (Nov 1st & Nov 3rd) Univariate Statistics and Significance Testing

Reading:

Ellis, Hartley, & Walsh (2010). Univariate statistics and the concept of statistical significance. Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Pages 213 – 24.

Week 12 (Nov 8th & Nov 10th) Bivariate Correlations

Reading:

Ellis, Harley, & Walsh (2010). Bivariate correlation and multivariate statistics. Pp 72 – 97.

MODULE 6

Week 13 (Nov 15th & Nov 17th) Multivariate Regression (Part 1)

Reading:

Gallo, Amy. (2015) A refresher on regression analysis. Harvard Business Review

Week 14 (Nov 22nd) Nov 24th Thanksgiving Holiday

Reading:

Bento, Carolina (2018). Linear regression in real life: Real world problems solved with math

Week 15 (Nov 29th & Dec 1) Multivariate Regression (Part 2)

Reading: TBA

Week 16 (Dec 6th) **Module 6 Mini-exam**

Classes end on Dec. 7th