

SPRING 2022

CCJ 3701 Research Methods in Criminology

University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law

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

Office: Turlington 3330

Email: clgibson@ufl.edu (*I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours of receipt*)

Dr. Gibson's Office Hours:

Thursday 9:30am – 10:30am and 12:40pm – 1:40pm

(also available by appointment via zoom)

Lab Instructor: Jordan Press, Criminology graduate student

Email: j0603082239@ufl.edu

Course Lecture (Days and Times):

Tuesday 10:40am – 11:30am (TUR 2305)

Thursday 10:40am – 12:35pm (TUR 2305)

Weekly Lab Meeting:

Wed. 9:35am- 10:25am (WEIL 408A) (SECTION 0088)

Wed. 10:40am - 11:30am (WEIL 408A) (SECTION 0095)

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. Lectures will not be posted on the canvas course.

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Required Text

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

Additional required readings can be located on the canvas 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 the 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 statistical software packages, e.g., STATA and/or SPSS.

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. (***Epecially 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. It is important that you do not miss labs because valuable information and data exercises are discussed that are related directly to major assignments for this course. If you must miss a lab due to extremely extenuating circumstances, you **MUST** email your lab instructor **BEFORE** the lab session you are missing.

Course Policies

1. **Upon entering class all cell phones, Ipods, Ipads, earphones, and MP3 players should be turned off.** Failure to do so can result in me asking you to leave the class and return the following class period.
2. **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 on the same day as the final exam.**

- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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 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.ua.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.ua.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

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.

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Grading

Exams: 300 points (6 mini exams/50 points each)

Paper Assignments: 250 points (5 X 50 points each)

Lab Attendance: 40 points (2.5 points per lab)

TOTAL POINTS: 590 points

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

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

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**

Assignments:

Students are required to complete 5 major assignments worth 50 points each. **These assignments are a large part of your course grade.** Taken together, assignments are designed to achieve the equivalent of a course paper that satisfies the Gordon Rule and the requirement of completing a data analysis project/research paper. The difference is that you will do this in smaller chunks that 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. These assignments will go hand and hand with materials covered in lab and lecture so it is **VERY IMPORTANT** you understand, and are able to apply, information covered in both.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1 (Jan 6) Course Introduction

MODULE 1

Week 2 (Jan 11 & 13) Research Fundamentals

Reading:

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

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 3 (Jan 18 & 20) Ethical Issues in Research

Reading:

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

MODULE 2

Week 4 (Jan 25 & 27) 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 5 (Feb 1 & 3) 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 6 (Feb 8 & 10) Probability and Non-probability Sampling

Reading:

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

Week 7 (Feb 15 & 17) 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 8 (Feb 22 & 24) Causation in Criminology

Reading:

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

Week 9 (Mar 1 & 3) 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.

SPRING BREAK March 5-12 (NO CLASS)

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MODULE 5

Week 11 (Mar 15 & 17) Univariate 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 11 (Mar 22 & 24) Bivariate Statistics

Reading:

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

MODULE 6

Week 12 (Mar 29 & 31) Bivariate Linear Regression_

Reading: TBA

Week 13 (Apr. 5 & 7) Multivariate Regression (Part 1)

Reading: TBA

Week 14 (Apr. 12 & 14) Multivariate Regression (Part 2)

Reading: TBA

Week 15 (Apr. 19) Module 6 Mini-exam

April 20th is the last day of classes