

Course Information

Course Number	CRIM/PA/SOC 3304 section 001
Course Title	Research Methods in Crime and Justice, PA and Sociology
Term	Spring 2013
Days & Times	Tuesday & Thursday 2:30pm to 3:45pm

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor	Brie Diamond
Phone	(972) 883-4757
Email address	diamond@utdallas.edu
Office Location	JSOM 2.901
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 9:30-11:30a

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

There are no pre-requisites for this course.

Course Description

Examines methods of social science research. Topics include the nature of scientific inquiry, framing a research problem, choosing a research design, developing hypotheses, sampling designs, and measuring variables.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of the scientific method to the practice of research.
2. Describe key aspects of the quantitative and qualitative research processes.
3. Apply these aspects to research situations.
4. Assess the quality of academic scholarship in regard to research design.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Maxfield, M.G. & Babbie, E.R. (2011). *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology*, 6th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Other readings assigned throughout the semester will be available on eLearning

Grading Policy

Grades are composed of:

Exams (4 total)	65%
Homework Assignments (3 total)	25%
In Class Quizzes (7 total)	10%

Exams

A total of four exams will be given in class throughout the semester. Exams may constitute a combination of multiple choice questions and short answer essays. Exams will not be comprehensive in nature, but will require knowledge of all material covered since the previous exam. The exam will cover the assigned readings and lectures. You should **BE SURE TO DO ALL READING ASSIGNMENTS** and **TAKE NOTES IN CLASS!** Much of what is covered in exams is not covered in the readings alone!

Homework Assignments

Over the course of the semester, each student will submit three homework assignments. They will be due IN CLASS on the day outlined in the syllabus. Each assignment will require the student to demonstrate his/her understanding of concepts and strategies learned in the course and apply this knowledge to a novel situation. Specific directions and formatting guidelines will vary by assignment and will be explicated on each homework sheet. These assignments are to be completed individually and are to represent an original scholastic attempt by the student. I have no patience or sympathy for academic dishonesty. Any instances of such will be handled according to University policy.

In Class Quizzes

Seven unannounced quizzes will be given IN CLASS over the course of the semester. These quizzes will count for 10% of your overall grade. Again, students are expected to read all assigned material prior to class meetings and attend all meetings. Quizzes will cover the material in the assigned chapter(s) to be covered that day in class. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Grade Scale

98-100 = A+	88-89 = B+	78-79 = C+	68-69 = D+	59 and below = F
93-97 = A	83-87 = B	73-77 = C	63-67 = D	
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-	

Assignments & Academic Calendar – Spring 2013

Date	Topic
<i>Tuesday, January 15, 2013</i>	Syllabus/Course Overview
<i>Thursday, January 17, 2013</i>	NO CLASS
<i>Tuesday, January 22, 2013</i>	Ch 1
<i>Thursday, January 24, 2013</i>	Ch 1, Ch 2
<i>Tuesday, January 29, 2013</i>	Ch 3
<i>Thursday, January 31, 2013</i>	Ch 3
<i>Tuesday, February 5, 2013</i>	Exam 1 (CH 1-3)
<i>Thursday, February 7, 2013</i>	Ch 4
<i>Tuesday, February 12, 2013</i>	Ch 4
<i>Thursday, February 14, 2013</i>	Ch 5
<i>Tuesday, February 19, 2013</i>	Ch 5; Article Assignment Due
<i>Thursday, February 21, 2013</i>	Ch 6
<i>Tuesday, February 26, 2013</i>	Exam 2 (CH 4-6)
<i>Thursday, February 28, 2013</i>	Ch 7
<i>Tuesday, March 5, 2013</i>	Ch 7
<i>Thursday, March 7, 2013</i>	Ch 8; Measurement Assignment Due
<i>Tuesday, March 12, 2013</i>	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
<i>Thursday, March 14, 2013</i>	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
<i>Tuesday, March 19, 2013</i>	NO CLASS
<i>Thursday, March 21, 2013</i>	NO CLASS
<i>Tuesday, March 26, 2013</i>	Ch 9
<i>Thursday, March 28, 2013</i>	Ch 9
<i>Tuesday, April 2, 2013</i>	Exam 3 (CH 7-9)
<i>Thursday, April 4, 2013</i>	VIDEO
<i>Tuesday, April 9, 2013</i>	VIDEO
<i>Thursday, April 11, 2013</i>	Ch 10

<i>Tuesday, April 16, 2013</i>	Ch 10
<i>Thursday, April 18, 2013</i>	Ch 11
<i>Tuesday, April 23, 2013</i>	Ch 11
<i>Thursday, April 25, 2013</i>	Ch 12; Survey Research Assignment Due
<i>Tuesday, April 30, 2013</i>	Ch 12
<i>Thursday, May 2, 2013</i>	Exam 4 (CH 10-12)

NOTE: All reading assignments other than the required text will be posted on the eLearning page.

Course & Instructor Policies

Class Attendance

Class Attendance is expected each day. Please do not arrive late. Test items will come from lectures and discussions, in addition to the assigned readings so it is in your best interest not to miss class. Also, quizzes obviously require one's attendance and cannot be "made up" due to an absence. I will not respond to inquiries related to what was covered in class or regarding due dates for readings/assignments. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get yourself caught up by a fellow classmate. Sound recording devices are not authorized in class.

Computer/Email Access

Students are expected to understand how to use eLearning. All course-related correspondence must be sent through eLearning. Likewise, all correspondence from the instructor will be sent through eLearning. eLearning will provide access to the syllabus, additional readings, power point slides, assignments, and grades. PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL ME ABOUT INFORMATION THAT IS PROVIDED ON THE WEBSITE, if you do, you will most likely not receive a response. NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you check eLearning every day.

Make-up Exams & Late work

Make-up exams will only be given for the following reasons a) severe illness (proof required – a legitimate physicians letter will be required and verified); and b) religious holy days with sufficient prior notice in accordance with UTD policy; c) death of a family member (proof required). SIMPLY NOT FEELING GOOD IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE! Make-up exams will be in essay format and generally much more difficult than normal tests, so it is in your best interest to be in attendance on test days. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an emergency as listed above. To be eligible for make-up exams/late assignments I must be notified with 24 HOURS of the due date and be provided with the appropriate aforementioned documentation.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may present themselves throughout the semester and will be available to the entire class. Extra credit assignments will not be created on a case-by-case basis, so please do not ask.

Classroom Citizenship

The nature of the subject matter covered in this course can be daunting. The best way to learn this material is to read ahead of time, come prepared to class and ask questions. Everyone is encouraged to engage the instructor and fellow students during class as to contribute to the discussion. Please ask questions! Chances are that someone else has the same question/s as you; it can only further your understanding of the material. However, I insist on respectfulness in the classroom for all participants. Disrespect to any classroom participant will not be tolerated. Any classroom participant behaving in such a manner will be asked to leave the classroom.

In class distractions will also not be tolerated. This means that there will be **NO USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES!** This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, iPods, PDAs, pocket PCs, and etc. Please turn all electronic devices to their off (or silent) positions during class hours. If you have an emergency phone call, please quietly leave the classroom prior to beginning the conversation. **The use of a laptop is allowed for the general audience for CLASS PURPOSES ONLY. Surfing the Internet and/or chatting is not allowed. Students caught violating this policy will lose the privilege of laptop use in class and may be asked to leave.** Sleeping in class will also not be tolerated, as this is both disrespectful to both the professor and fellow students.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.