

CRIM 6307: Extent of Crime and Measurement Problems in Criminology
Spring 2014
Thursdays 7:00 – 9:45
Dr. Nadine M. Connell

Course Information

CRIM 6307.501 (22706)
Extent of Crime and Measurement Problems in Criminology
Spring 2014
Thursdays 7:00-09:45
CB3 1.304 (May Change)

Professor Contact Information

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Office: GR 2.208
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Office Hours:
Thursdays 3:30-5:30 and by appointment

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

See handbook

Course Description

This is an upper-level graduate research methods course that will examine and address problems in the measurement of crime and indicators of crime in the field of criminology. We will examine the major data sources available on crime, criminals, and related institutions, as well as the limitations inherent in the measurement of social science phenomena. This course will also investigate issues surrounding the collection of data on crime, including reliability and validity, sampling and survey techniques, and theoretical perspectives on appropriate ways to measure and operationalize social problems.

This course will consist of three parts: an in-depth examination into available government statistics related to crime and criminal justice institutions; the investigation of the positive and negative aspects of the use of self-report data collection methods; and, an exploration of some of the more common statistical issues surrounding the measurement of crime and delinquency.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes (in no particular order)

1. Identify and evaluate the sources of government data related to crime and criminal justice.
 2. Identify and evaluate existing sources of self-reported data on crime and delinquency.
 3. Create valid and reliable instruments for the collection of data on crime and delinquency.
 4. Understand and interpret the ways in which statistical analyses can be used to further our knowledge and understanding of data on crime and delinquency.
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Required Textbooks

DeVellis, R.F. 2012. *Scale development: Theory and applications* (3rd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 9781412980449

Fowler, F.J. 2009. *Survey research methods* (4th edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 9781412958417

Mosher, C.J., Meithe, T.D. & Hart, T.C. 2011. *The mismeasure of crime* (2nd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 9781412981811

Shultz, K.S., Whitney, D.J., & Zickar, M.J. 2014. *Measurement theory in action: Case studies and exercises* (2nd edition). New York, NY: Routledge Press. ISBN: 9780415644792

Other Course Materials

See weekly reading assignments

Suggested Textbooks

You may find the following books useful to have in your personal library or for additional information on the class topics.

Carmines, E.G. & Zeller, R.A. 1979. *Reliability and validity assessment*. Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 0803913710

Converse, J. M. & Presser, S. 1986. *Survey questions: Handcrafting the standardized questionnaire*. Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 0803927436

Kalton, G. 1983. *Introduction to survey sampling*. Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 0803921268

Kim, J. & Mueller, C.W. 1978. *Factor analysis: Statistical methods and practical issues*. Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 0803911611

Kim, J. & Mueller, C.W. 1978. *Introduction to factor analysis: What it is and how to do it*. Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 0803611653

Long, J. SS. 1983. *Confirmatory factor analysis*. Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 080392044X

McIver, J.P. & Carmines, E.G. 1981. *Unidimensional scaling*. Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 0803917368

Spector, P.E. 1992. *Summated rating scale construction: An introduction*. Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 0803943415

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Assignments:

Final Exam:

100 points

There will be one exam this semester. It is a cumulative final exam that will cover all of the course material. It will take place on the date that the University has set for the final exam in this course.

Assignments:

300 points

There will be six assignments during the course of this semester. Each assignment will be worth 50 points. They will be related to the readings and topics covered in class. Each assignment will be presented 2 weeks before it is due in class. Please see the attached scheduled for assignment due dates.

Schedule

Please see the attached class schedule for a list of the assigned readings and due dates.

Grading Policy

Calculating Your Grade – 400 points

376 – 400	A
360 – 375	A-
348 – 359	B+
336 – 347	B
320 – 335	B-
312 – 319	C+
296 – 311	C
295 of less	F

Course & Instructor Policies

Make Up Exams:

Make up exams will only be allowed with University approved documentation and if the professor is notified within 24 hours of the missed exam. In the case that it is known that an exam will be missed ahead of time, the student is responsible for taking the exam before the appointed time, as set by the professor. Please note that going on a vacation is not a reason to be allowed to take a make-up or an early exam.

Extra Credit:

None

Late Work:

The same policies for make-up exams apply for late work.

Special Assignments:

None

Class Attendance:

Class attendance is expected. In the case of an absence, the student is responsible for missed materials.

Classroom Citizenship:

In addition to the policies on student conduct and discipline, please note that I have the following policies:

1. Laptops are not allowed during class time. This is a small discussion based class and laptops are a distraction to both me and to fellow students.
2. Cell phones must be turned off. If you are expecting a call, please be courteous and leave your phone on silent and then step politely out of the room to answer it. If a cell phone goes off unexpectedly, I reserve the right to give a pop quiz. Furthermore, I do not expect students to be texting during class. If I see this once, I will offer a generalized warning to the entire class that I do not want to see students texting. If I see this a second time, you will be asked to leave the class and will not receive credit for any assignments for that class period.
3. Do not under any circumstances engage in academic dishonesty. All of the work that you hand in for this course should be created by you and be ORIGINAL. I will refer all questions of academic dishonesty directly to disciplinary proceedings.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.