Course Syllabus

Course Information
Course Number/Section	**CRIM 6301.002**
Course Title	***Research Design I***
Term	**Fall 2016**
Class Days	**Tuesday**
Class Time	**4:00 PM – 6:45 PM**
Location	**JO 3.536**

Professor Contact Information
Professor	Jon Maskaly, Ph.D.
Office Phone	(972)883-3808
Email Address	jmaskaly@utdallas.edu
Office Location	GR 2.124
Online Office Hours	MW, 10 AM – 12 PM

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions
None.

Course Description
This course provides an overview of the research enterprise and the study of data development strategies and techniques to facilitate effective statistical analysis, using practical criminological applications. Topics generally covered include: (1) issues and techniques in social science research with emphasis on philosophy of science, theory testing, and hypothesis formulation; (2) measurement and data collection strategies, reliability and validity of measures and results, sampling, surveys; and (3) examination of qualitative versus quantitative research techniques, working with observational data, field research issues, and triangulation

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes
Following the successful completion of this course, students should have an understanding of:
- Issues related to research design, especially as it applies to criminology
- Be able to design a scientific study to effectively address a research question
- Be able to critique published studies on methodological grounds

Required Textbooks and Materials
Required Texts

No textbooks are required for this course. Students unfamiliar with basic issues in social science research methodology may find it necessary to consult a quality undergraduate research methods textbook. The Professor will provide recommendations to interested students.

Required Materials
All course related materials are accessible to students through eLearning in pdf form. Students are expected to come to class each week ready to discuss the readings and the general ideas associated with the readings.

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online through Off-Campus Books http://www.offcampusbooks.com or the UT Dallas Bookstore http://www.bkstr.com/texasatdallasstore/home. They are also available in stock at both bookstores.

Technical Requirements
In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#techreqs on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html.

Course Access and Navigation
The course can be accessed using the UT Dallas NetID account at: https://elearning.utdallas.edu. Please see the course access and navigation http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#courseaccessandnav section of the site for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html.
UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication
This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the eLearning Tutorials webpage http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will typically be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Grading Policy
     Excellent Work = A = 94 – 100; A- = 90-93%
     Good Work = B+ = 87-89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83%
     Average Work = C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- = 70-73%
     Unacceptable Work = F = < 70%

Course Policies

Communication
Students should feel free to communicate with the Professor through email. However, students should realize the limits of emails as a tool of assistance. Email is good for answering short questions of clarification or arranging meetings; however, more complex questions are not inappropriate to answer during email. Students sending the professor an email that would better be addressed by a face-to-face meeting will be asked to make an appointment with the professor. Please note that all email correspondence should be written in a polite and professional manner, otherwise is may be ignored. Additionally, the Professor will not answer questions within 24 hours of the deadline of any assignment.

Make-up exams
Make-up exams are not permitted unless you have a university approved absence and failure to complete an exam will result in a posted grade of zero.

Make-up Class Activities
While students are not required to attend class, only those students missing class with a university excused absence will be permitted to make up the class activities. Any missed class activity must be made up the next class, or the grade will be converted to a zero. Students must work with the TA to arrange for the make-up.

Extra Credit
No extra credit will be offered in this course.

Late Work
Work submitted after the due date and time, or not submitted through eLearning, will result in a grade of "0" being assigned. Students must submit a digital copy of the assignment and bring a hard copy with them to class. Please note that if I will grade the assignment submitted, regardless if it is the version you meant to submit. Additionally, if I cannot open a file through eLearning students will be given a zero. It is incumbent upon students to ensure things are properly formatted and submitted.

Special Assignments
See the course schedule below for more details.

Netiquette
Please express all posted comments, messages, and emails in formal English without street jargon or employment related jargon, acronyms, or abbreviations that will not be understood by all students. Avoid being critical of your fellow classmates and focus your responses to the content of what they posted. Do not make emotional outbursts on the discussion page and always remember that anything you post will be retained exactly as you post it for a long time and can be referred to exactly as you post it in the future. Some yes and no rules to follow in the course:
- Yes, you can email your TA as often as you like, which will be forwarded to the Professor as necessary.
  - If you do not get a response from your TA in a reasonable amount of time (i.e., 24 business hours), please email the Professor directly.
- Yes, you can critique postings in your responses in any way you like as long as it is not offensive and not critical of another student personally.
- Yes, you can ask the professor any question you have
- Yes, every message is answered
- No, you should not use a lot of acronyms and jargon in your postings
- No, you should not try to use humor as it sometimes comes across online with unintended consequences.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

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.

Course Deliverables
Students will earn their grade in the course by completing the following assignments.

Deliverable	Number of Occurrences	Points per Occurrence	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Mini-Assignments	5	14	70	10%
Exams	2	140	280	40%
Research Proposal	1	280	280	40%
Research Presentation	1	70	70	10%
Total				100%

Mini-Assignments
Students will be required to complete five mini-assignments that will reinforce the content covered in class. Generally, students will need to submit the completed assignment—or evidence of completion in some cases—to eLearning prior to the start of class on the date listed in the calendar below.

Exams
There will be two exams in this course on the dates listed on the syllabus. Because this is a graduate level course, students will be given approximately 4 days to answer essay questions related to the material covered in the course. There is no minimum amount that students must write. However, prior experience dictates that the questions require approximately 5 pages for most students to answer completely. If a student is particularly efficient, this number may be lower. It is better to answer the question thoroughly. Students are advised to use the entire exam period to work on exams. Exams will be submitted to eLearning by the date and time listed on the exam instructions. Exams are expected to be well written, cover the breadth of the material covered in the course and conform to the 6th Edition APA formatting guidelines.

Research Proposal
A separate handout will list the specific instructions for the research proposal. Students must have the topic of their research proposal approved by the professor—in writing—prior to the end of the third class meeting.

Research Presentation
Part of going to graduate school is learning how to speak intelligently and confidentially about research. The only way most people develop this skill set is by practicing it. To that end, all students will be randomly assigned a slot during one of the last class meetings in which to present their research proposal to the class. All students will have 15 minutes to present their idea and 5 minutes to answer the questions from their peers. Students will be cut off at 15 minutes exactly to open up the floor to questions. Students who miss any part of the research presentation days will have their final grade in the course reduced by half a letter grade.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Week	Date	Topic	Due
1	8/23	Course Introduction & Epistemology	
2	8/30	Philosophy of Crime & Science	
3	9/06	Ethics	**CITI Training**
4	9/13	Classifying Research	
5	9/20	Causality	**Research Questions**
6	9/27	Measurement	
7	10/04	**EXAM I**	
8	10/11	Sampling	**Sampling Designs**
9	10/18	Experimental & Quasi-Experimental Design	
10	10/25	Survey Research	**Questionnaire Design**
11	11/01	Field Research / Ethnography	**Field Notes**
12	11/08	Secondary Data on Crime / Content Analysis	
13	11/15	**Exam II**	
14	11/22	**Fall Break No Class**	
15	11/29	**Project Presentation (Part I)**	
16	12/06	**Project Presentation (Part II)**	

NOTE: While great care and consideration went into crafting this syllabus, it may be necessary to amend it during the semester. In the case that the syllabus is amended, written notification will be sent to students through eLearning and an amended copy will be posted online. Students are responsible for all dates, deadlines, and materials in the most up to date syllabus.