

# CJ 454, Research Techniques in Criminal Justice

Preliminary Syllabus -- May be changed with notice. The final syllabus with any changes will be available on Blackboard on the first day of class.

## Syllabus Fall 2011

01S-Thursday 7:00-9:45 p.m., (Main Campus - TBA)  
42R-Thursday 7:00-9:45 p.m., (NTCC via ITV)

W. T. Jordan, Instructor

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<a href="#">GRADES</a>	<a href="#">Major topics</a>	<a href="#">ASSIGNMENTS</a>
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**Course Description:**

Introduction to research methods and computer applications in criminal justice.

**Purpose:** Prepare students to read about, participate in, and utilize research applicable to criminal justice related policy and work; and provide a foundation for more advanced research courses.

**Course Objectives:**

- Given published resources and literature databases, the student will be able to
  - Find and organize a targeted bibliography
  - Identify research questions or theories, hypotheses, and dependent and independent variables
  - Identify and distinguish between elementary research models
  - Identify and distinguish between sampling and data collection strategies
  - Make elementary comparisons of the goodness of research techniques
  - Demonstrate basic analytical logic given appropriate summary data.

**Course Materials:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maxfield and Babbie, <i>Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology</i>, 3rd ed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 Ring binder and tab dividers</li><li>• 3-prong pocket folder</li></ul>
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ISBN: 9781111346911	• Computer access and software (campus lab access is sufficient), and diskettes.
• Books and articles as needed by individual students or as assigned in class.	• A voice recorder (if needed to complete class notes).
• Calculator with square-root function.	• M&M's candy (package size TBA)
• <a href="#">Articles (click here for list)</a>	

Grading Policy:

Letter Grades are based on exams, written assignments, quizzes, participation, etc. You must participate substantially and collegially in the course. Each of these components will contribute proportionally to the final grade as indicated in the table below.

Planned Activities:	% POINTS
Bibliography	10%
Homework/Article Analysis Assignments (7@5%)	30%
Exams (4 @15%)	60%
Extra Credit (built into homework)	(5%)
<i>Subject to change with notice</i>	

Final course grades will be determined according to the proportion of total points available. If for any reason some activities are added, canceled, or modified, the total proportion available will be adjusted to reflect this. The following scale provides the absolute floor for assigning letter grades. However, to more closely align class grades with A&M-Texarkana management and student grade expectations, adjustments will be made, if necessary, to insure that at least half the class receives A's and B's, and students who average at least 50% and turn in all assignments on time will receive a passing grade.

Grading Scale:

- 90% = A
- 80% = B
- 70% = C
- 60% = D

❶ Every out-of-class assignment includes the requirement to make and keep a copy of your written work in case the original is lost or misplaced. ❶ Students are encouraged to make an appointment to review and discuss graded material and their progress in the course. ❶ No Grade of "incomplete" will be given except in the most unusual circumstances that reasonably preclude completion of the course (e.g. you are in a coma) -- poor grades is not an acceptable reason. ❶ No additional extra credit assignments will be given; please do not ask. ❶ Notice must be given, and arrangements made prior to an excused absence or late assignment. ❶ You are strongly encouraged to complete your written assignments early when possible to avoid missed deadlines due to technology or other circumstances. ❶ If the final exam is missed due to legitimate absence, a grade of "I" will be given until the makeup is taken. ❶ Makeup exams may be a different format and different questions from the regular exams. ❶ **Late work will be reduced in grade by 10% every day that it is late**, beginning immediately after the deadline. Late work at the end of the semester may result in a zero or an "X" (incomplete grade). ❶ Note that you are responsible to be in class every day that the class meets. Exam and activity dates are tentative and may be moved. If you are absent, you are responsible to get from other students the notes, syllabus changes, assignments, instructions, or other announcements that are given in class. Absence can negatively affect your grade.

**Disability Accommodation:** *"Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062."*

**Academic Dishonesty:** *Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of 'F' in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.*

Please review the Student Code of Conduct and the statement on Academic Dishonesty in the Catalog, then read the explanation of plagiarism supplied by TurnItIn at [http://www.turnitin.com/research\\_site/e\\_home.html](http://www.turnitin.com/research_site/e_home.html). ~~Any act of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will normally result in a zero for failure to complete the assignment and may result in an "F" in the course and referral to the university judicial system.~~ At this level of scholarship, students should understand the severity of cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation of another's work. The instructor encourages questions regarding citations, references, cheating, improper behavior, and academic ethics. You should review this page within the first two weeks of class. When in doubt, **ASK** the instructor!

**Classroom Courtesy:** Cell phone and beepers: Students are required to turn off cell phones or beepers while in the classroom. If an emergency situation exists (or on-call law enforcement officers) which requires you to be contacted immediately, you are expected to discuss the situation with the professor prior to the beginning of class presentation. Students are expected to refrain from talking to each other while formal instruction is being presented. This applies to the professor's and student's presentations (Amended from the College of Health and Behavioral Science statement on classroom courtesy).

Course Schedule

DATE/SESSION	TOPIC/AGENDA	READING/OTHER
Week 1 (8/25)	Introduction & Pretest	
Week 1 (8/25)	Literature Research AKA "Where's the Library and what's it there for?" (Literature Types and Literature searching)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read Ch. 1</li><li>• <a href="#">Click here for Tom's Research Helps</a></li><li>• Find and print articles for AAA Assignments</li></ul>
Week 2 (9/1)	<b>Labor Day Holiday</b>	
Week 2 (9/1)	Philosophy of Science and the Scientific Method	Ch. 3 <b>Due: Folder with Printed Articles</b>
Week 3 (09/8)	Scientific Method continued Hypothesis Testing	Ch. 4: 75-85
Week 3 (09/8)	Hypothesis Retrospective	
Week 4 (09/15)	Ethics of Research	Ch. 2
Week 4 (09/15)	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Week 5	Intro. to Data, Datasets, and Statistics	Ch.4: pp.82-85; Ch. 11: pp. 274-282

(09/22)	Frequency Distribution and Summary Statistics (central tendency and dispersion)  Introduction to Excel for data analysis	Bibliography and Literature Search Log Due
Week 5 (9/22)	Summary Measures continued  Research Design; Experimental Models	Ch. 5
Week 6 (9/29)	Research Design continued	Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice Annual Mtg. 10/8-10/10, Laredo, TX
Week 6 (9/29)	Complete Research Design	
Week 7 (10/6)	Frequency Distributions, Percentages, and Rates	Ch. 11: pp. 282-284
Week 7 (10/6)	Analysis Logic using Crosstabulations	Ch. 11: pp. 284-287
Week 8 (10/13)	crosstabs continued	
Week 8 (10/13)	Exam #2	
Week 9 (10/20)	Sampling Design	Ch. 6: skim pp. 136-144, read for detail all the rest Buy M&M's per class directions
Week 9 (10/20)	Complete Sampling	ASC Annual Mtg., 11/4-11/7, Philadelphia, PA
Week 10 (10/27)	Data Collection	Ch.4: pp. 85-96 & Ch. 8
Week 10 (10/27)	Complete Data Collection  Composite measures	Ch. 9 & Ch. 4: pp. 96-100
Week 11 (11/03)	Exam #3	
Week 11 (11/03)	Data Collection: Surveys	Ch. 7
Week 12 (11/10)	Surveys, continued	
Week 12 (11/10)	Probability, Distributions, and the "bell curve"	Ch. 6: pp. 136-144
Week 13 (11/17)	Elaboration Model & Contingency Table Analysis	Ch. 11: pp. 287-290

Week 13 (11/17)	Elaboration Model retrospective	
Week 14 (11/24)	Passing the baton (primer on statistical interpretation and logic of inference statistics)	Ch. 11: pp. 291-297
Week 14 (11/24)	Reading Statistics	
Week 15 (12/01)	Complete statistical table interpretation	
Week 15 (12/8)	<b>Final Exam</b>	

**A&M-Texarkana Email Address:** Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

**University Drop Policy:** To drop this course after the 12th class day, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website <http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html> or obtained in the Registrar’s Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an “approval” to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar’s office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (P. O. Box 5518, Texarkana, TX 75505) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar’s Office for processing. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned. Include the following explanation for web-enhanced and online courses.

**Student Technical Assistance:** • Solutions to common problems and FAQ’s for your web-enhanced and online courses are found at this link: <http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37> • If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: <http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php> • Blackboard Helpdesk contacts: Office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p Kevin Williams (main contact) 903-223-1356 kevin.williams@tamut.edu Frank Miller (alternate) 903-223-3156 frank.miller@tamut.edu Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu