

Baldwin University
Criminal Justice Program
Research Methods in Criminal Justice, CJ320
Fall 2020
3 Credit Hours

Instructor- Beth Easterling, PhD

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Required Texts

The Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice, 5th edition, by Ronet D. Bachman and Russell K. Schutt ("Fundamentals") [KEEP THIS BOOK FOR CJ400!]
Other required readings will be posted on Canvas

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce Criminal Justice majors to applied, practical research in criminology and criminal justice. Students will explore the fundamentals of research, including operationalization, sampling, causation vs correlation, and research designs. The course will cover survey research, qualitative methods, and content analysis. Analyzing quantitative and qualitative data will be explored. The final project for this course will be a research proposal (through the method section). (Prerequisites: CJ 100, CJ 211, and INT 222)

COURSE FORMAT AND POLICIES

Attendance and Participation : Students are expected to attend class, participate in class discussions, and complete all assignments given. **Late assignments WILL NOT be accepted for in-class assignments.** Other late assignments will NOT be accepted unless you have made prior arrangements. **For long-term assignments (i.e. term papers and other projects) there are NO EXCEPTIONS to turning them in on time. Should an emergency arise (sudden illness, death in the family, etc.) on the day an assignment is due, you MUST turn in evidence that you have at least ½ of the assignment completed by the due date. If this is the case you may make arrangements to turn in later, but you MUST show evidence that you have been working on the project and you MUST get permission from Dr. Easterling. Late work on these projects may still lose up to 10 points per day late.**

This course will require a significant amount of reading, writing, and class discussion. It is expected that you read all material prior to class and come to class prepared to discuss and apply the material you have read. Discussion, questions, and the exchange of ideas pertaining to class material are imperative for success in this course. Students will lose points off of homework/participation for each absence after 3 unexcused absences. Students will lose points off of this grade for being late, using technology in the classroom, not turning in topics/rough drafts, and not participating in class assignments (including discussion board assignments in lieu of class).

Please be aware of the following:

1. Respect every individual in the class. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. There is a significant amount of reading in this course. It is your responsibility to keep up with the reading and other assignments. Do not wait until the last minute to start on projects. Be aware of deadlines for individual and group projects.
3. Please be advised that I utilize Canvas in order to post notes and other handouts. You are responsible for reading/printing handouts on Canvas (and text) before class. I will also send emails. If you do not regularly check your MBU email, you will want to do so

as I am NOT able to accommodate the use of outside email addresses. I generally reply to emails sent to me within 2 days. If you do not receive a reply from me within 3 days, assume that I did not receive the email and please send again or make arrangements to meet with me in person.

4. Please be respectful in email communication, just as you are respectful in person. For example, an email to a professor could begin with "Dear Dr. Easterling" but never "Wuz up Beth?" **Unprofessional emails will not receive responses.**
5. In email communication, include the course number (CJ320) in your email, preferably in the subject line.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

The final grade for the course will be determined by the following:

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| Exams-- | 150 points (30%) |
| Group project (case study)-- | 100 points (20%) |
| Research proposal-- | 150 points (30%) |
| Homework/Participation -- | 100 points (20%) |
| --- | ----- |
| TOTAL | 500 points |

| Percentage | Course Grade | Minimum Points Needed |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 93-100 | A | 462 |
| 90-92 | A- | 447 |
| 87-89 | B+ | 432 |
| 83-86 | B | 412 |
| 80-82 | B- | 397 |
| 77-79 | C+ | 382 |
| 73-76 | C | 362 |
| 70-72 | C- | 347 |
| 67-69 | D+ | 332 |
| 63-66 | D | 312 |
| 60-62 | D- | 297 |
| 0-59 | F | --- |

Exams: There will be 2 exams worth 75 points each. These exams will be based on the readings and class material.

Group project (case study): At the beginning of the semester, students will be broken into small groups and assigned a case study from the book that we will cover as a class. Each group will give a small presentation and lead a class discussion on their given case study in context of the chapter/concepts to which the case study relates. **YOU WILL NEED TO DO OUTSIDE RESEARCH/PREPARATION FOR YOUR PROJECT.** Each group should plan for a 30-minute presentation/discussion. Grades will be determined by the following: summary (15 points), explanation (15 points), analysis (15 points), and discussion of methodology (25 points) used in the case study; average of score of own work and peer grading (15 points); organization/presentation/clarity/discussion questions presented (15 points). [For online

students, these will be done independently on the Discussion Board...you will need to create a video to post to explain and discuss your project.]

Research proposal: The final project for this course will be a research proposal that tests a criminological theory. Students must design an original research project in preparation for their senior thesis or senior seminar project. The research proposal must be a minimum of 7 pages. It must include an annotated bibliography (in preparation for your literature review in CJ400/401), research question, hypothesis, and method section. A minimum of 8 academic resources must be utilized. APA style must be utilized. Rubric: minimum requirements (page number, sources, good grammar) met 25 points, annotated bibliography (appropriate, peer reviewed sources, APA formatting, and excellent summaries) 50 points, research question 10 points, hypothesis 10 points, method section (appropriate methodology chosen and articulated, step-by-step method of plans for data collection and analysis, correct terminology used) 65 points.

Homework/Participation/In-class assignments (HW): Students will have homework projects assigned regularly. These will largely consist of progress reports for your research proposal. Additionally, you will lose points for multiple unexcused absences, lateness, being on cell phones, sleeping, or other disruptive/disrespectful class behavior. (Extra credit built in if you successfully complete all assignments.) [For online students, the assignments will be done on the discussion board.]

General Guidelines- Out-of-class writing assignments must be typed and double-spaced using 12 point font and must have 1 inch margins. All sources must be appropriately cited in APA formatting. Handwritten assignments WILL NOT be accepted for out-of-class assignments. In-class written assignments must be legible to receive points.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for keeping your work/actions from having even the appearance of plagiarism or cheating. Examples of plagiarism include copying the work of someone else (an author, someone who is taking/has taken the class, or anyone else) and turning it in as your own work or looking at someone else’s exam to get answers. Any evidence of academic dishonesty on a paper/exam will result in a zero for that assignment and possible failure of the course.

*****Note: This is a TENTATIVE syllabus/timeline.**

The instructor reserves the right to change/modify this syllabus (including assignments and due dates) with ample notice to all students.***

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

| | Reading Assignment | Assignments Due |
|--|---|-----------------|
| <p><u>Weeks 1 and 2:</u> August 24-30 and August 31-September 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 1 - Introduction to the course—Social research and APA format | <p>Chapter 1 in Fundamentals</p> <p>Evaluations: CUP and EDIP</p> | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEPT 2: Zoom Guest, Dr. Grant Tate at 1:00 | | |
| <p><u>Week 2:</u> September 7-13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 2 - The process of research in CJ - Wednesday—in-class activity (come prepared) | Chapter 2 in Fundamentals | <p>In-class activity #1 (5 points)</p> <p>Homework--Chapter 1 (#1, 2, 3, p. 21) Developing a Research Proposal (Sunday) (10 points)</p> |
| <p><u>Week 3:</u> September 14-20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 3 - Operationalization - Ethics in Research | <p>The High Cost of Bad Sleep (on Canvas)</p> <p>EXPERIMENTS in Social Research (on Canvas) and http://www.asanet.org/about/ethics.cfm online</p> <p>Chapter 3 in Fundamentals</p> <p>Chapter 4 in Fundamentals</p> | Homework--Chapter 2 (#1, p. 42) Developing a Research Proposal (20 points) (Sunday) |
| <p><u>Week 4:</u> September 21-27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 4 - Sampling - Data Entry | <p>Finish Chapter 4 (in-class activity)</p> <p>Chapter 5 in Fundamentals</p> | In-class activity #2 (5 points) |
| <p><u>Week 5:</u> September 28-October 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 5 - Research design - CITI Training DUE THIS WEEK! - SEPT 30: Zoom Guest: Dr. Tate at 1:00 | | <p>In-class activity #3 (10 points)</p> <p>CITI Training completed (20 points) (Sunday)</p> |
| <p><u>Week 6:</u> October 5-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exam—Monday - Case study preparations – Wednesday (Apple Day 10/6) | | Exam Monday (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) |
| <p><u>Week 7:</u> October 12-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case study discussions | | <p>Case study: Police Decision Making (p. 35)</p> <p>Case study: Inmate</p> |

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| | | Misconduct (p. 75) |
| Week 8: October 19-25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 6 - Causation vs correlation and | Explore: https://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/ Chapter 6 in Fundamentals | Case study: Media Violence and Violent Behavior (p. 123) Case study: Life in a Gang (p. 190) In-class activity #4 (10 points) |
| Week 9: October 26-November 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 7 - Survey Research | Chapter 7 in Fundamentals | |
| Week 10: November 2-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 8 - Qualitative Methods | Chapter 8 in Fundamentals | In-class activity #5 (10 points) Homework: Rough draft of research proposal (rough draft) due Sunday (20 points) |
| Week 11: November 9-15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 9 - Podcast: Descend into the Particular, Season 4, Episode 7 - Workshop | | |
| Week 12: November 16-22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 10 - Analyzing Quantitative and Qualitative Data | | Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 7, 8, analysis) |
| Week 13: November 23-29 Week 14: November 30-December 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Proposal | | Research Proposal Due December 2 by 11:59 pm |

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| Due | | |
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