

Research Methods in Criminal Justice
CRMJ 2685
Spring 2017

Mon. / Wed. / Fri. 3:10pm – 4:00pm, CR 103

Final exam is on Wednesday, May 10th, 3:30pm – 5:30pm, in the classroom

Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wyocourses/>

Instructor: John H. Boman, IV, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Mondays, 1 – 3pm
Wednesdays, 12 – 1 pm
Or by appointment

* Please note that my last name has no “W”

Course Overview:

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the application of research methods used in criminology. With a focus on interpretation and application of research findings, topics will include data collection, survey design, dataset usage, historical analyses, qualitative and quantitative analysis. Students will learn how to apply and interpret research findings based on real examples in criminological studies.

Requirements:

Recommended Text: Bachman, Ronet and Russell K. Schutt. 2014. *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Fifth Edition*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

The textbook is recommended. There will be required readings that I will post online. On each day you are expected to have done the required readings, be ready for the in-class assignments, and be prepared for the topics that are discussed that day. Since this class is discussion based, it is imperative that you prepare for class each day. Without this level of preparation, success in this class will be incredibly difficult.

Students Rights and Responsibilities:

Please inform yourself about your rights and responsibilities, including academic honesty guidelines, formal and informal procedures for hearing academic dishonesty cases, the student appeals procedure, and confidentiality of student records.

The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect, and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Teachers or students should report suspected violations of standards of academic dishonesty to the instructor, department head, or dean. Other university regulations can be found at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/>.

The rules that govern the life and activities of the University of Wyoming are outlined in the University Regulations, known as the UW Regs. These documents are available for review at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/new-regulatory-structure/index.html>.

Academic honesty is of the utmost importance to both the University of Wyoming and me. If you are caught cheating, plagiarizing, etc., you will automatically receive a '0' on the assignment without question. You will also be subject to referral to the Department Head of Criminal Justice and/or the Dean's office. I take academic dishonesty very seriously. See generally: <http://www.uwyo.edu/as/student-appeals/academic-dishonesty.html>. See also: <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/files/docs/uw-reg-8-30.pdf>. See also: <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/files/docs/uw-reg-6-802.pdf>.

Additionally, familiarize yourself with the College of Arts and Sciences documents about students and instructors working together. These can be found at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/AS/files/current/Students%20and%20Teachers%20Working%20Together.pdf>

This paragraph is *extremely* important: I would like to additionally note that the papers that you turn in will be examined for plagiarism. ***PLAGIARISM INCLUDES MATERIAL THAT YOU COPY AND PASTE FROM THE INTERNET IF YOU DO NOT CITE IT. Copying and pasting from anywhere (including the internet) without a citation is plagiarism and 1) will automatically result in a 0 on the assignment and 2) possible referral to the Department Head or the Dean of Students.***

Student records are confidential in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). If your parent(s) (or anyone) contact(s) me about your grade, attendance, or any information that is not "UW directory information," I will ask them to contact you.

It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You must register with and provide documentation of your disability to the University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall.

Communications:

Email is the most effective way of getting in touch with me. In order to contact me, email me at jboman@uwyo.edu. You may also call me at my office (307) 766-2992.

To email me, use your University of Wyoming account. I will not reply to emails sent from third party (e.g., Gmail, Yahoo) systems.

Sent messages are not completed communications until they are received. If you send an important email, follow up to make sure it has been received. I expect people to be in class so I will not automatically reply to students who ask for a rehash of what was said in class.

Grading and Assignments:

Below are a list of the assignments and values that are assigned through the semester. Please make sure you are familiar with this list. Pending changes in the syllabus, this schedule could change.

Exam 1: Exam 1 will follow the material covered in Chapters 1, 2, and 3 in the text. It will cover posted readings and associated lectures covering this material. It is graded out of 100 points.

Exam 2: Exam 2 will follow the material covered in Chapters 4, 6, 8, 12, and 13 in the text. It will cover posted readings and associated lectures covering this material. It is graded out of 100 points.

Exam 3 (Final Exam): The final will follow the material covered in Chapters 5, 7, and 9 in the text. It will cover posted readings and associated lectures covering this material. It is graded out of 100 points.

Major Project: For the major project, you must plan and design a research study. I will provide you with a dataset through which you will be working. Based on the data, you will construct a research question and develop an analytical strategy to test this research question. You will not actually analyze data.

This will be graded in 2 parts.

Part 1: After I provide you with a dataset, you will develop a research question and you will compile literature that is related to your research question. Your research question must be clearly answerable based on the data provided. For Part 1, you will turn in two things: 1) A research question that is clearly answerable based on the data provided, and 2) Ten research article summaries that are in peer reviewed journals that are centrally focused on what you are researching. These summaries should be just that – summaries – and in no case should be more than one page. You will write the summaries in a template that I provide. If you turn in more than 10 summaries, I will only grade the first ten pieces of paper. Part 1 is worth 60 points.

Part 2: For part 2, you will write a basic research paper. You will turn in an introduction section, literature review section, current study section, a measures section, and a section that describes your proposed analysis to answer your research question. This should be somewhere from 8 (minimally) to 10 pages in standard university format (1" margins, 12 point Times New Roman, double spaced). You will be evaluated on correctness, clarity, and overall quality of your work. Part 2 is worth 100 points.

For both parts of the major project, you will have a choice to either: 1) work alone, or 2) work with one partner. This is up to you. If you choose to work together, each part of the paper will be graded as one entity and you will both be bound to the same grade.

A word of caution: If you choose to work with another person and that person drops the class, you automatically become solely responsible for the completion of all parts of this project.

Please make certain that you are not plagiarizing anything during the project. If you do plagiarize (accidentally or intentionally) on any part of that project, you will not only get a 0 on that part, but you will be subject to referral to the Dean of Students' office. IN NO INSTANCE MAY YOU PASTE IN TEXT FROM SOMETHING YOU DID NOT WRITE WITHOUT QUOTES AND AN IN TEXT CITATION. Pasting in text is plagiarism, and will be treated as such. If you are working in a group of two, you are both responsible for any plagiarism on the project.

Attendance and Makeups:

Class Participation & Attendance: Individual participation is crucial in a class that is based on discussion. I do not post my slides or notes online.

I will not formally require attendance. However, attendance will both indirectly and directly affect your grade. If you do not attend this class, it will be very difficult to pass.

During the semester, on five random days, I will take attendance. Not being there can result in loss of points off your overall average. You have a grace for a miss – you will not be penalized for your first non-attendance on a day I take attendance. Past the one grace, I will *deduct* one point from your overall final average (that is, a 90 becomes an 89). If you are in attendance all five days where I take attendance, I will *award* one point onto your final average (an 89 becomes a 90).

Make Ups: Class attendance is mandatory on test days and days when papers are due. If you do not attend on the day of an exam, you will automatically receive a 0 on that exam. If you fail to turn a paper/non-exam assignment in on time, you will lose 10 points for each 24 hours it is late.

All make up tests will be 100% short-answer and essay. Make up tests have no multiple choice on them. If you are going to miss a test, you must inform me at least 72 hours in advance to the scheduled assignment (although I would prefer to know as soon as you know). If you don't inform me within this time frame, it will be treated as an unexcused absence. Documentation for your absence is required. I will award a 0 to any unexcused absence during an exam/assignment.

University sponsored absences are cleared through the Office of Student Life (OSL). Students with official authorized absences will be permitted to make up work without penalty in classes missed. In order to be excused from an examination or class, a valid University excuse or doctor's excuse must be obtained. University excuses can be obtained from the OSL (Room 128 Knight Hall). The OSL will provide the excuse, provided the students' absence meets the criteria for an authorized absence. For further information on obtaining an excused absence, contact the OSL. Make up exams will be given only under the following conditions:

1. Participation in organized school activity.
2. Death in the immediate family.
3. Illness (with doctor's written excuse).
4. Special circumstances that are approved at least 72 hours in advance by the instructor.

For each of these excuses, you must have documentation to make up your exam. Make up exams will only be given to those students who have discussed their absence with the instructor and have a legitimate excuse.

Doctor's excuses must be obtained from your attending physician. These excuses must be for the exam or class date and must state that you were unable to attend the class period that day. Doctor's appointments do not constitute an excused absence. Excuses need to be presented to the instructor by the class period following the excused absence to be accepted.

Assignment	Point Value	Total Percentage of Grade	Date of Assignment / Assignment Due On:
Exam 1	100	22%	Friday, February 24
Exam 2	100	22%	Monday, Apr. 10
Exam 3 (Final Exam)	100	22%	Wed. May 10 th , 3:30 – 5:30, in classroom
Major Project Part 1	60	13%	Friday, March 31
Major Project Part 2	100	22%	Friday, April 28
Total	460	100%	

Letter Grade	Total Points	Percentage
A	414 +	90 – 100
B+	400 – 413	87 – 89
B	368 – 399	80 – 86
C+	354 – 367	77 – 79
C	322 – 353	70 – 76
D	276 – 321	60 – 69
F	275 or less	Below 60

Course Schedule:

The schedule is tentative, and could change based on what is accomplished in class on a daily basis. These changes will be announced in class. Note: B&S is Bachman and Schutt, and they are recommended. Other required readings will be posted online and announced by me in class.

Week	Week	Topics Covered	Assignments & Things that are Due	Readings
1	Jan. 22	Class intro; Intro to Research Methods	None	Ch. 1 B&S
2	Jan. 29	Intro to Research Methods	None	None
3	Feb. 5	Process of Research	None	Ch. 2 B&S
4	Feb. 12	The Process of Research; Ethics	None	Ch. 3 B&S
5	Feb. 19	EXAM WEEK	Exam Review (Wednesday) EXAM 1 (FRIDAY)	None
6	Feb. 26	Conceptualization and Measurement	None	Ch. 4 B&S
7	Mar. 5	Conceptualization and Measurement	None	None
8	Mar. 12	Spring Break	Have fun	Be safe
9	Mar. 19	Quantitative Data Analysis	None	Ch. 12 & 13 B&S
10	Mar. 26	Interpreting Quantitative Data Analysis; Causation	Major Project: Part 1 Due Friday	Ch. 6 B&S
11	Apr. 2	Survey Research and Design; Exam Review	Exam Review (Friday)	Ch. 8 B&S
12	Apr. 9	EXAM WEEK ; Writing a research study; Sampling	EXAM 2 (MONDAY)	Ch. 5 B&S
13	Apr. 16	Sampling; Experimental Design	None	Ch. 7 B&S
14	Apr. 23	Experimental Design	Major Project: Part 2 Due Friday	None
15	Apr. 30	Qualitative Methods; Exam Review	Exam Review (Friday)	Ch. 9 B&S
16	May 7	EXAM WEEK	Wed. May 10 th , 3:30 – 5:30, in classroom	None