CRMJ 2685 – Research Methods in Criminal Justice

Course Syllabus

Fall 2019

Course dates: Fall 2019

Meeting times: Online only, class laid out by the week

Instructor: Dr. Christine Adams

Email: csheaada@uwyo.edu / shea9778@gmail.com (Note that I have these accounts connected so emails from me may come from either depending on what device I respond with.)

Office hours: I am not on campus and cannot meet on campus or a phone. But face-to-face Zoom meetings can be scheduled, day or evening to accommodate both of our schedules. See the Zoom Information page.

Required text:

Bachman, R. & Schutt, R.K. (2020). The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice. (7e). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Recommended text:

Hacker, D. & Sommers, N. (2010). A writer’s reference. Bedford/St. Martin's.

American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication manual (6th ed.).

Washington, DC: Author. \*Be sure to get a Second or Third Printing!!!\*

\*\*\*All papers and assignments should be cited in, and will be graded for, APA style citations. See here and here and here for information on APA style and writing tips. . Not citing your sources is considered plagiarism.

Course description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the research process. By becoming more familiar with this process, you will be able to be a more informed consumer of research. For example, you will be able to interpret other research such as crime statistics, polls, or other types of research. The objectives of this course are:

To obtain a beginning knowledge of the research process and research

techniques.

To apply knowledge of the research process to the outside world. In other

words, to become consumers of research.

To apply knowledge of the research process to a topic within criminal

justice.

Class format:

Since this course is being presented in an online only format it will be laid out with weekly assignments including book chapters, power point lectures, discussions and assignments to help you understand research and develop your own study. You will conduct a computer literature search, practice writing, and interpret research results. Optional live chats can be scheduled, if needed as well as one-on-one “office hours” (see Zoom Information Page).

Communicating with me:

Because this is an online class and because I do not live in Wyoming (see my post on the Welcome Discussion Board), I do not have set office hours or a phone number for you to call me at. The best way to communicate with me is via email (csheaada@uwyo.edu). This can be done through the standard UW email system as well as through WyoCourse. I will post announcements regularly to the whole class (see the Announcements page) so be sure to check frequently.

Course Organization:

Using the Modules and Assignment pages you will see which chapters, lectures discussion boards and assignments are due each week (note that the Home page is the same as the Modules page). This will list chapters, lecture files, discussion boards and assignments as well as all dues dates for assignments, papers and exams. Since we are not meeting in a classroom or on the phone (this is an online only course) class assignments will be listed by the week. You are responsible for turning assignments in on time (see below for information on late assignments and make-up exams).

Note that ungraded assignments (e.g., lecture files and book chapters) are still given due dates to keep them in the appropriate order. Point values are provided for all graded assignments.

This course will be separated into two main sections: 1) basics of social science and 2) research methodology. Readings, lecture files, assignments, discussion groups, quizzes, and exams will be used to achieve the course objectives. Assignments will only be accepted if turned in online via WyoWeb. Assignments will not be accepted via email except under approved circumstances.

Readings: Readings will consist of chapters in the text and will be assigned throughout the semester. Optional, outside, readings may be assigned if necessary.

Lectures: Lecture files will be assigned throughout the semester. Links to these files will be provided on weekly pages.

Chapter Assignments: There will be six graded exercises during the semester. Due dates are provided for each assignment on their WyoWeb page. There will be exercises dealing with various topics throughout the semester. These exercises will serve as a way to apply the information from lecture. YOU MUST USE APA STYLE AS YOUR FORMAT FOR ALL OF THESE EXERCISES. Assignment specifics will be discussed on their assignment page and are worth 25 points each.

Discussion boards: Discussion board topics will only be added in if needed. An announcement will be posted to take notice of these additions. It is important to participate, just as if we were in an on-campus classroom.

Quizzes: An early semester quiz will be assigned to make sure you’ve read the syllabus.

Assignments:

Article Critique: This assignment provides an opportunity to apply the skills that you should have acquired throughout the semester to research in the area of criminal justice. You are expected to choose a research article and critically examine the different research components of the article. This paper is worth 75 points. The specifics of this paper will be discussed further on the assignment page. This paper will need to be 3-5 pages long. All papers must be double-spaced, typed, use Times New Roman, 12 point font, and have one inch margins. You will need to include a title and reference page. These two pages are not included in the required number of pages. For every day your paper is late, five points will be deducted from the final grade. Assignments will not be accepted via email except under approved circumstances.

Literature Review: For this assignment, you will write a complete literature review on a topic of your choice. This paper is worth 100 points. The specifics of this paper will be discussed further on the assignment page. This paper will need to be 3-5 pages long. All papers must be double-spaced, typed, use Times New Roman, 12 point font, and have one inch margins. You will need to include a title and reference page. These two pages are not included in the required number of pages. For every day your paper is late, five points will be deducted from the final grade. Assignments will not be accepted via email except under approved circumstances.

Research Presentation: Part of the requirements of this course will be to complete a research presentation. This presentation will require you to develop a research proposal on a criminal justice topic and present it to the class on video via Discussion Borad. These presentations should be recorded and uploaded onto the discussion board before the due date. Details of this assignment will be provided on the discussion board from which it is assigned. This presentation is worth 100 points.

Exams: There will be a total of two exams worth 100 points each (questions will be multiple choice, true/false and short answer). Exams are scheduled over a week with availability beginning at 12am on the Monday that it is assigned a closing at 11:59pm of the same week.

Exams are non-proctored but will be limited to 120 minutes (two hours) from the time that you start. The questions are presented one at a time and once you answer a question you will be unable to return earlier questions that you have already provided an answer for, so please take your time and make sure you have chosen the best answer.

Exams will be automatically graded with correct answers available after closing.

Make-up exams will be given only if there are special circumstances that are approved to be appropriate by the instructor.

Exams and Quizzes can be found here.

Course Requirements/Point Values:

Assignment Points each Total points

It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to track due dates. See the Assignment page for more information.

Book Chapters 0 points

Reading is your responsibility. As an online course this is completely self-motivated.

Content will be included on Discussion Boards and exams and will be needed for your paper.

Note that there are a few weeks with multiple chapters assigned and that chapters may be assigned out of order.

Lecture Power Point Files 0 point

Reading PowerPoint files are your responsibility. They will correspond with but not copy book chapters. It is important to read both!

Content will be needed for questions on Discussion Boards and exams and will be needed for your paper.

Note that there are a few weeks with multiple chapters assigned.

Chapter Assignments 25 each 150 total

These assignments are meant to teach you how to develop a research question, how to correctly write questions, how to conduct a literature review and how to put it all together in a research proposal.

Virtual library tour and TIPS exam. 25 points

Topic development 25 points

Research questions and hypothesis 25 points

Ethics 25 points

Conceptualization and Operationalization 25 points

Survey Exercise 25 points

Quiz 10 points

The initial quiz is simply meant to make sure you read the syllabus.

No proctor is need for the quiz and you can use the syllabus to answer the questions.

Two exams 100 each 200 total

There will be two non-cumulative exams.

Exams will open at 12am on the Monday of the week they are assigned and will close that same week on Friday at 11:59pm

They will each be assigned over an entire week at the end of each section. You will have a week to take the exam but once you begin you will have two hours to complete the exam and it cannot be retaken.

Questions will be shown one at a time and once they are answered you can not go back to them.

See the the Home/Modules page to see when each exam will occur.

Study guides will not be provided, use your book and your notes. Also, chat with one another and send me questions.

Assignments

Article Critique 75 total

Literature Review 100 total

Research Presentation 100 total

Total Points Possible in Semester 635

Grading Procedure

Grades will be assigned on a straight percentage; no curving of grades will be done. Final grades will be awarded as follows:

A (90-100%)

B (80-89%)

C (70-79%)

D (60-69%)

F (59% or below).

Netiquette for Discussion Posts

Stay on topic. Don’t post irrelevant links, comments, thoughts, or pictures.

Never type in all caps because it looks like you are screaming.

Don’t write anything that sounds angry or is sarcastic even as a joke, because without hearing your tone of voice, your peers might not realize you are joking.

Also remember to say “please” and “thank you” when soliciting help from your classmates.

Respect the opinion of your classmates. If you feel the need to disagree, do so respectfully and acknowledge the valid points in your classmate's argument. If you reply to a question from a classmate, make sure your answer is accurate!

If you ask questions, many people respond. Summarize all answers and post that summary to benefit your whole class.

Be brief. If you write a long dissertation in response to a simple question, it's unlikely that anyone will spend the time to read through it all.

If you refer to something your classmate said earlier in the discussion, quote just a few key lines from their post so that others won't have to go back and figure out which post you're referring to.

Give credit where credit is due. If you quote a classmate or refer to anything (written or verbal) that is not your own original thought, cite that source.

Before asking a question, search the Internet to see if the answer is obvious or easy to find.

Check the most recent comments before you reply to an older comment.

Be forgiving. If your classmate makes a mistake, don't badger him or her for it. Just let it go.

Run a spelling and grammar check before posting anything to the discussion board. Edit your comments as well.

Policy on late assignments and make-up exams:

It is your responsibility to turn assignments in on time and to make sure you’ve contributed to the online discussion boards. For every day your assignment is late, five points will be deducted from the final grade. Assignments are considered late if not received at the beginning of class on the due date.

No make-up assignments or exams will be offered so don’t ask. The only exception to this rule will be if your absence is officially excused by the Office of Student Life, 128 Knight Hall, 307-766-3296.

\*\*\*\*In addition, NO EXTRA CREDIT will be offered. Please don't ask for it. \*\*\*\*

Special needs:

Students with special needs should contact me and/or of the main Outreach office about possible accommodations within the first week of class.

Statement of academic honesty:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Anyone found to participate in these activities will receive an F for the assignment and quite possibly the course. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University guidelines. In addition, grade appeals will be handled according to these same guidelines. These guidelines can be found in the University Regulations.

For a listing of additional responsibilities and rights of students (and faculty) in the

College of Arts and Sciences please go to:

http://www.uwyo.edu/as/\_files/current/students%20and%20teachers%20working%20together.pdf

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time.