**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**CRMJ 2685- 01**

**RESEARCH METHODS**

**3 credit hours**

**Professor:** Dr. Clair White **Class Location:** Arts &Sciences 210

**Phone:** 307-766-2919 **Semester/Year:** Spring 2019

**Email:** [cwhite41@uwyo.edu](mailto:cwhite41@uwyo.edu) **Class Day/Time:** MWF 11-11:50am

**Office:** Arts & Sciences 310 **Start Date:** 1/28/2019

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10-11:30am **End Date:** 5/15/2019

Wednesdays 1-2:30pm

### Or by appointment

### **Teaching Assistant:** Karlee Provenza

**Email:** [kprovenz@uwyo.edu](mailto:kprovenz@uwyo.edu)

**Office:** Biological Sciences #136

**Office Hours: TBD**

**Availability:**  Email is the easiest way to get ahold of me with a question or set up a time to talk. I typically respond to emails within 4 hours. If you email me after 5pm, I may not get back to you until the next morning. If you haven’t received a response within 24 hours, please email me again, unless I let you know I am sick or out of town. I typically do not respond to emails over the weekend, which means that if you email me at 6pm on a Friday, you will not hear from me until Monday morning.

\*\*\*Please use Wyo email for all correspondence

**Required Text:**

Bachman, Ronet & Russell K. Schutt. (2017). The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice. *7th ed.* ISBN: 9781544339122

*Textbook Online Resources:* <https://edge.sagepub.com/bachmanprccj6e>

Supplemental required articles available on WyoCourses

**WyoCourses:** As a resource for this class, a WyoCourse site is available to you. This site provides the opportunity to have all of the course materials in one place that is accessible to everyone. Assignments and announcements will be posted to this site and written assignments will be submitted through WyoCourses. As part of the requirements for this class, you are expected to check and use this site regularly. **Make sure to check your UWyo email as this is the address that will be utilized for any posted announcements.**

If you have difficulties with WyoCourses at any time during the semester, use the technical support available by calling 307-766-3726 or emailing [wyocourses@uwyo.edu](mailto:wyocourses@uwyo.edu).

**University Catalog Description:**

Introduces students to fundamental issues associated with the application of scientific methods to criminal justice problems. Students examine research designs involving ethnographic, archival, historical, and quantitative methods and how they relate to criminal justice issues. Prerequisite: enrollment limited to criminal justice majors.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is an introduction to social science research as applied to Criminology and Criminal Justice. The course will consist of readings, lectures, examinations, group exercises, a written analysis paper, and group presentation on a proposed research project. In addition, this course will help you to develop skills and tools which will help you succeed in the criminal justice job market. The skills and information learned in a social research course could prove to be the most useful you acquire in college. After completion of this course, you will know about and be able to do the following:

1. Understand the importance of research findings those in the field of criminology, lawyers and for informed citizens.
2. Students should know about ethical issues in social science research.
3. Students should be able to construct a testable hypothesis based on theory and previous research.
4. Students should be able to read a published research article and identify

a. The research problem/hypotheses.

b. How the data were gathered to test the hypotheses (methods information).

c. Major findings from the research.

1. Students should be able to generally describe the goal of probability sampling and be able to demonstrate they understand simple random sampling and cluster sampling techniques.
2. Causality is an important methodological issue. Students should know the criteria for causality and the difficulties involved with determining causality.
3. Students should understand reliability and validity including ways to examine reliability and validity.
4. Since survey methods are the most frequently used data gathering methods, students

should be able to describe the four types of survey data gathering techniques, know what the response rate is and why it is important, and have general knowledge about issues surrounding measurement.

1. Students should be able to judge if a finding is an actual finding or due to randomness (statistical significance and sampling error). This includes being able to make sense of a public opinion poll and deciding if the findings are important given the sampling error.

**Course Organization and Requirements:** The course objectives will be achieved by readings, lectures, group exercises, exams, written assignments, and a research proposal

1. **Attendance (40 points):**

Since active and fully prepared participation in classroom lectures and exercises is critical to both the success of the class and your own performance, I expect you to attend all classes. Daily attendance is worth 1 point for a total of 40 points, so you have two “freebies” over the semester that will not count against your grade (there are 42 classes). Regardless of the reason for missing class, all students are responsible for knowing the material covered in class, including material from class lectures, group assignments, discussion and all announcements made in class. I suggest becoming acquainted with someone in the class so they can provide you with information if you miss a class.

1. **Readings**:

Readings will consist of chapters in the text and supplemental readings. Reading assignments appear on the tentative course outline and it is expected that you will have read the assigned readings prior to class. The material presented in lectures and discussion sections assumes that students are acquainted with the material in the textbooks.

Please note that there is more material in the texts than will be covered in lectures and classroom discussions. Students are responsible for *all* of the assigned material regardless of whether or not it is discussed in class. If you are having trouble with some of the material in the book, please bring your questions to the my attention during class, office hours or by e-mail.

1. **Lectures**: Much of the topic areas will be dealt with in lecture.
2. **Group exercises** (100 points):

There will be 10 in-class group exercises (10 points each) during the course of the semester. The dates of these exercises is not scheduled and their requirements will be discussed in class as they are assigned. Many of these assignments will build towards your group research proposal (see below). Points for these in-class assignments cannot be earned when a student is absent, unless the student presents the instructor with a valid University excuse by the next class session. Students are responsible for making sure they did not miss any in-class assignments during their excused absence.

1. **Analysis paper** (50 points):

An analysis paper will be assigned over spring break to apply concepts discussed in class to real life problems and practice research methods. The paper is 3-4 pages in response to a prompt I will provide prior to the assignment. More details will be provided when the assignment is released

1. **Human subjects research basic training (10 points)**

Conducting research on human subjects raises special ethical problems for researchers. Early in the course, some of these ethical issues will be discussed in the text and in lectures. In order to help ensure compliance with ethical codes regarding human subject research, University of Wyoming has developed an on-line training program with a consortium of other schools. Students must complete the **Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (**CITI training program) and submit their completion certificate to WyoCourses. Instructions on how to complete this training may be found on WyoCourses under the CITI training assignment.

1. **Group presentation** (50 points): Groups consisting of 3-4 students will have allotted class time to work on in-class activities that will build towards a final research proposal to examine a proposed research question on a selected topic. During finals week your group will give a 10-minute presentation about your research proposal. More assignments details will be provided.
2. **Quizzes**: I reserve the right to implement quizzes if I feel that the class is unprepared for class period. Quizzes may cover material from assigned readings or previous lectures. If I feel that people are coming to class prepared, I will not need to use quizzes. Points for these quizzes cannot be earned when a student is absent. Students miss class for a legitimate reason should notify me via email prior to missing class and provide a valid University excuse by the next class session. Students are responsible for making sure they did not miss any quizzes during their excused absence. Make-up quizzes will be in the format of short-essays—a 500-word summary and analysis paper on a research article.
3. **Exams**: There will be a total of three exams. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. A scheduled exam missed due to an unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero. In order to be permitted to make up an exam, the absence must be due to an authorized excuse.

**Make up exams will only be given to those students who have discussed their absence with the instructor and have a legitimate excuse.** Legitimate excuses do not include sleeping in, leaving early for breaks, work schedule, and other such excuses. Make-up exams will need to be scheduled with me and will need to be completed within one week of the excused absence.

**University Excuse**: In order to be excused from an examination, a valid University excuse is required. University policies on excused absences as outlined in [UW Regulation 2-108 (Student Attendance Policy)](http://www.uwyo.edu/regs-policies/_files/docs/regulations-2018/uw_reg_2-108_approved_7-12-18.pdf). These excuses must be for the class date and must state that you were unable to attend the class period that day. Excuses need to be presented to me by the class period following the excused absence to be accepted.

**Grading Scales and Policies:** In addition to attendance, group exercises, exams and written assignment, the total number of points available will depend on the number of quizzes/additional in-class activities. The points for these assignments will add to the total number of points in the class and are ***NOT*** extra credit.

Points will be divided between assignments as follows:

Attendance (40) 1 pt 40 pts.

Group Exercises (10) 10 pts 100 pts

Exams (3) 50 pts 150 pts.

Analysis paper 50 pts

CITI Training 10 pts

Group Presentation 50 pts

*Syllabus quiz (Extra Credit) 5 pts*

***TOTAL:*** 400 points + any quizzes or extra activites

***Grading Scale*:**

A+ 97% – 100%

A 90% – 96%

B+ 87% – 89%

B 80% – 86%

C+ 77% – 79%

C 70% – 76 %

D 60% - 69%

F 59% or less

*\*\*Final grades will be rounded up if the final percentage is X.6% or higher*

**Late Work: Due dates for assignments are noted on the course calendar. These due dates are firm. All assignments will be lowered five points each *day* (not class period) they are late. This practice will be strictly enforced.**

**Classroom Behavior Policy:**

At all times, treat your presence in the classroom and your enrollment in this course as you would a job. Act professionally, arrive on time, pay attention, complete your work in a timely and professional manner, and treat all deadlines seriously. You will be respectful towards you classmates and instructor. Spirited debate and disagreement are to be expected in any classroom and all views will be heard fully, but at all times we will behave civilly and with respect towards one another. Personal attacks, offensive language, name-calling, and dismissive gestures are not warranted in a learning atmosphere. As the instructor, I have the right to dismiss you from the classroom, study sessions, electronic forums, and other areas where disruptive behavior occurs.

Electronic devices such as mobile phones should be (left in bags, set to silent, turned off). Laptops are allowed for note-taking purposes. No video or audio recording during class is allowed to protect the privacy of your fellow students.

**Classroom Statement on Diversity:**

The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning.

**Disability Support**:

The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, and would like to request accommodations in this course due to your disability, , please register with and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or [udss@uwyo.edu.](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu) It is in the student’s best interest to request accommodations within the first week of classes, understanding that accommodations are not retroactive. Visit the DSS website for more information at: [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

**Academic Dishonesty Policies**:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated in accordance with UW Regulation 2-114. The penalties for academic dishonesty can include, at my discretion, an “F” on an exam, an “F” on the class component exercise, and/or an “F” in the entire course. Academic dishonesty means anything that represents someone else’s ideas as your own without attribution. It is intellectual theft – stealing - and includes (but is not limited to) unapproved assistance on examinations, plagiarism (use of any amount of another person’s writings, blog posts, publications, and other materials without attributing that material to that person with citations), or fabrication of referenced information. Facilitation of another person’s academic dishonesty is also considered academic dishonesty and will be treated identically.

**Duty to Report:**

UW faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University’s non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty member MUST report information you share about the incident to the university’s Title IX Coordinator (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may find info about UW policy and resources at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit>

You do not have to go through the experience alone. Assistance and resources are available, and you are not required to make a formal complaint or participate in an investigation to access them.

**Substantive changes to syllabus**:

All deadlines, requirements, and course structure is subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified verbally in class, on our WyoCourses page announcement, and via email of these changes.

**Student Resources:**

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES: [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu), 766-3073, 128 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

COUNSELING CENTER: [uccstaff@uwyo.edu](mailto:uccstaff@uwyo.edu), 766-2187, 766-8989 (After hours), 341 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/ucc](http://www.uwyo.edu/ucc)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: 766-4286, 312 Old Main, [www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs](http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs)

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE: [dos@uwyo.edu](mailto:dos@uwyo.edu), 766-3296, 128 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/dos](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos)

UW POLICE DEPARTMENT: [uwpd@uwyo.edu](mailto:uwpd@uwyo.edu), 766-5179, 1426 E Flint St, [www.uwyo.edu/uwpd](http://www.uwyo.edu/uwpd)

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT WEBSITE: [www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct)