

# RESEARCH METHODS

CRIJ 4322 & SOCI 3396 | FALL 2020

## Undergraduate Course Syllabus

**Research is formalized  
curiosity. It is poking and  
prying with a purpose.**

- Zora Neale Hurston



*This syllabus was created to provide you with an overview of the learning expectations for this course. You can find additional details about class assignments and course policies on Canvas.*

**This course is taught full  
online. All interactions will  
take place in Canvas.**

### **DR. DANIELLE BAILEY**

My office is in the College of Arts & Sciences building, Office 134. You can reach me at [dbailey@uttyler.edu](mailto:dbailey@uttyler.edu) or 903.566.7432. My personal Zoom Meeting room ID is my office phone number.

I hold Online Open Hours on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. During these times, I will be available in my personal Zoom meeting room and in my campus office. You can also schedule a virtual or on-campus appointment as needed. Please email appointment requests.

### Course Description

This course provides a basic introduction to the principles, methods, and techniques of empirical social research. Topics include the fundamentals of the scientific method and scientific inquiry, ethical considerations in research, basic methods of quantitative and qualitative data collection, and strengths and weaknesses of various data collection methods. The course is designed to make you a more informed consumer of scientific research through discussion, analysis, and hands-on practice.

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## Course Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Apply ethical guidelines to research proposals to identify potential risks such as harm to participants, lack of informed consent, and voluntary participation concerns
- Create a real-world measurement by conceptualizing and operationalizing an abstract concept into a specific survey measure
- Explain why research designs often deviate from ideal standards, including use of non-probability sampling, non-random assignment, lack of control groups, etc.
- Evaluate the reliability and validity of a research study based on its research design, sampling methods, data collection instrument, and analysis technique
- Design a web-based survey to analyze the relationship between two variables
- Analyze variables using univariate statistics and illustrate your findings with correctly formatted graphs and tables
- Conduct a qualitative research study using participant observation

## Student Learning Outcomes

*This course is a required course for the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at UT Tyler. Criminal Justice majors will be tested over the contents of this course during CRIJ 4355 (Senior Seminar), with the expectation that you can interpret and evaluate published research data as well as design and implement survey research on your own. For this reason, I recommend keeping all notes, readings, and assignment materials as future study aids.*

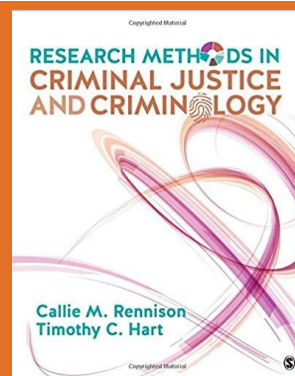
## Course Textbook

### Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology (1st edition)

C.M. Rennison & T.C. Hart  
Sage Publishing  
ISBN: 9781506347813 (Paperback)  
ISBN: 9781544317854 (E-Book)



Callie  
Rennison



Timothy  
Hart

## Supplementary Materials

Additional instructional materials are provided for you on the Research Methods section of Dr. Bailey's website (link below). These materials include open source e-textbooks, informational videos, and other online materials that may be helpful for you as you go through this course. Use of Dr. Bailey's website is not required but is recommended for students seeking additional instruction or assistance with the course material.

<https://sites.google.com/view/daniellebaileyphd>



## Course Assignments

### Exams:

There are three online exams given during the semester worth 100 points each. Online exams are not cumulative, but they will cover all material from the included modules, including information learned from assigned readings, class lectures, and module activities.

You will complete a Practice Exam before you take Online Exam #1. The Practice Exam includes five questions taken from the Online Exam #1 test bank. The goal of this assignment is to help you identify your level of preparation for the exams early enough to allow you to make changes to your study habits, notetaking processes, and other skills to ensure that you can be successful on the exams and the methods course overall.

### Writing in the Course:

This course is writing intensive, so you will complete reflective and/or research-related writing assignments every week. For larger writing assignments, I encourage you to visit the UT Tyler Writing Center. They offer on-campus (CAS 202) or online appointments with trained writing tutors that can help you revise and edit your written assignments before you submit them.

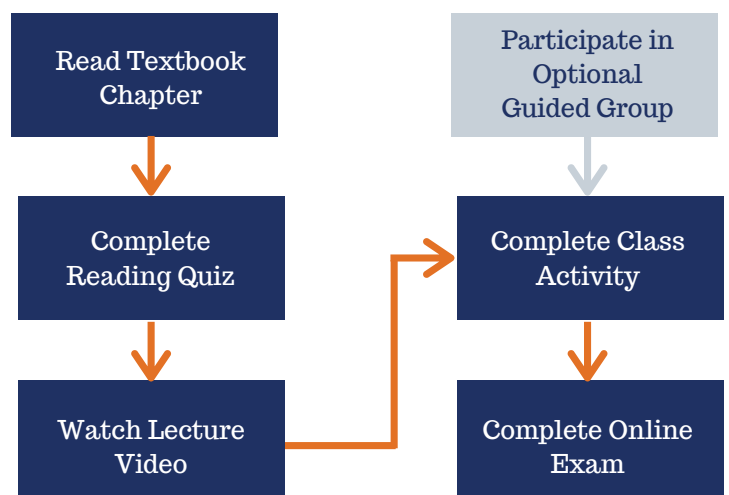
**Make an appointment TODAY!**  
[uttyler.edu/writingcenter](http://uttyler.edu/writingcenter)

### Asynchronous Assignments:

You will complete a variety of individual assignments during this course. Vocabulary quizzes and lecture video quizzes are designed to help you reflect on the assigned course materials. Each module features a class activity, with a variety of different activities used to help you learn the diverse real-world applications of research methods.

### Guided Group Meetings:

You can complete a majority of the course asynchronously, meaning that you can do it on your own whenever you want so long as you submit it by the end of the module. However, I want to ensure that you still have opportunities to ask questions, engage with your peers, and create a strong online class community. Weekly Guided Group meetings will use Zoom breakout rooms to facilitate small group discussions. By the end of Guided Group, you will have a completed class activity that you can submit on Canvas. These sessions are optional but highly encouraged.





## Research Projects

### Online Survey Project:

One of the more common research methodologies used in today's world is the online survey. For the Online Survey project, you will work with a partner to create a 20 question survey on Google Forms. Your online survey can be on any topic of interest to you. It will not be distributed in any way during the course, but you are encouraged to consider implementing your survey for presentation at the UT Tyler Lyceum.



### Fieldwork Project:

Another common methodology used in social sciences is qualitative fieldwork. For this project, you will work 3 - 4 peers to conduct a fieldwork research study of your own design. This research project will require individual data collection and group data analysis. Data analysis will be facilitated through synchronous meetings on Zoom with your group and Dr. Bailey at several points during the semester. Fieldwork projects conclude in a Research Poster Presentation that includes a short oral presentation and an online poster. Poster presentations will be shared virtually with the UT Tyler campus.

### Group Member Responsibilities:

I expect you to adhere to the following conditions during group activities:

- 1. Notify me and your group members as early as possible if you are unable or unwilling to participate in any part of the group activity.*
- 2. Participate in your group to the best of your ability. You should expect to meet outside of class time (in person or virtually) to complete group assignments.*
- 3. Split group work evenly between all group members so that all group members contribute equally to the final product.*
- 4. Provide all requested contributions to your group before the assignment due date so that the group activity can be compiled, edited, and finalized together.*
- 5. Do not wait until the deadline to bring concerns to your group members and/or the professor.*
- 6. Bring your best self to your group.*

**Group activities include both individual and group grade components. Based on group feedback, I reserve the right to adjust the group grade for any individual member.**

# GRADES

## Exams

Practice Exam	10 points
Online Exam #1	100 points
Online Exam #2	100 points
Online Exam #3	100 points

Exam Points:

**310**

## Class Assignments

Welcome Module Scavenger Hunt	20 points
Plagiarism Certificate	10 points
CITI Certificate	20 points
Vocabulary Quizzes (10)	100 points
Lecture Video Quizzes (14)	140 points
Class Activities (14)	140 points

Class Assignment Points:

**430**

## Research Projects

Synchronous Scheduling (2)	10 points
Fieldwork Planning Meeting	25 points
Field Notes (2)	50 points
Fieldwork Debriefing	50 points
Fieldwork Poster Presentation	75 points
Online Survey	50 points

Survey Research Project Points:

**260**

Total Points Possible

**1,000**



## Grading Scale

- A 900 or more points
- B 800-899 points
- C 700-799 points
- D 600-699 points
- F Less than 600 points



## Online Open Office Hours

I hold online office hours each week. During these times, I can go over assignments, discuss quizzes/exams, and answer any questions about course material. If you are unable to visit me during my scheduled office hours and need help, please feel free to contact me via email and set up an appointment. I can set up on-campus or video-conferencing appointments as necessary.

## Professor Response Time

I try to respond to all emails and voicemails within one business day. I do not regularly check emails on weekends, holidays, and school breaks, so response time may be longer at these times. I try to grade all assignments, activities, and exams within two weeks of the due date. Much of the time you will be able to see grades sooner than the times listed. However, there are times when it takes longer to grade assignments, so please be patient if you do not see your grades immediately.

## Make-Up Assignments

You will be given the opportunity to make-up missed quizzes, exams, and assignments for excused absences only. Excused absences include documented emergencies (e.g. doctor's note, subpoena) or school-related activity. Vacations, regularly scheduled doctor's appointments, and work schedules do not qualify as exceptional reasons and will not be accepted as an excused absence. There are multiple extra credit assignments available that can be used to make up points lost during unexcused absences.

## Assignment Submissions

All assignments must be submitted by time/date listed on the course schedule. No late assignments will be allowed unless there are emergency situations and documentation is provided. I highly encourage you to start working on your assignments early. This ensures you have time to contact the appropriate person(s) if unforeseen technological issues impact your ability to complete the assignment. Technical problems, even if they are not your fault, do not automatically qualify you for an extension or a "do-over" for the assignment.

**It always seems  
*impossible* until it's  
done. - Nelson Mandela**

## COVID-19 Notice

I understand that the COVID-19 pandemic may affect your ability to complete the coursework and/or meet class deadlines. During the course, if you experience any illness or other concerns relating to COVID-19, please reach out to me by email to discuss your situation. My goal is to help you be successful in the course, so I am happy to discuss alternative options if it becomes necessary.

# CLASS SCHEDULE





# RESOURCES

## Academic Advising Center

University Center (UC) 440  
903.565.5718  
advising@uttyler.edu

## Bookstore

University Center (UC)  
903.566.7070  
bookstore@uttyler.edu

## Campus Activities

University Center (UC) 3400  
903.565.5796  
getconnected@uttyler.edu

## Campus Computing & Technology Support

Ratcliff Building North (RBN) 3022  
903.565.5555  
itsupport@uttyler.edu

## Muntz Library

Robert R. Muntz Library (LIB)  
903.566.7342  
library@uttyler.edu

## Military & Veterans Success Center

University Center (UC) 3440  
903.565.5972  
mvsc@uttyler.edu

## Student Accessibility Office

University Center (UC) 3150  
903.565.7079  
saroffice@uttyler.edu

## Student Health & Wellness

University Health Clinic (UHC) 147  
903.565.5728  
wellness@uttyler.edu

## University Counseling Center

University Center (UC) 3170  
903.565.5746 (for appointments)

## UT Tyler Police Department

University Service Center (USC) 125  
903.566.7300  
police@uttyler.edu

## Writing Center

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) 202  
903.565.5995  
writingcenter@uttyler.edu

## One Stop Service Center

Stewart Hall (STE) 230  
903.566.7180  
enroll@uttyler.edu or cashiers@uttyler.edu  
One Stop Service Center includes:

- Cashier's Office
- Enrollment Services
- Financial Aid
- Student Business Services

**Crisis Help Line**  
**Available 24/7**  
**903.566.7254**







# UT Tyler Policies

## UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

## Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

## Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

## UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

## Grade Replacement / Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

1. Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
2. Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
3. Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
4. Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
5. Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

## State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

## Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

## Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

## Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

## Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

## Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services

## UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

## UT Tyler Resources for Students

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable to a third party, or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

"Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.