

RESEARCH METHODS

CRIJ 4322 | FALL 2023

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 meets on campus in CAS 104 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00PM - 3:20PM.

DR. DANIELLE BAILEY

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

I hold Open Office Hours on Tues/Thurs from 12:30PM to 2:00PM. During these times, I will be available in my office for student walk-in help, questions, and assistance. You can also schedule an appointment with me 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
- Construct a web-based survey to analyze the relationship between two variables
- Analyze variables using univariate and bivariate methods and illustrate your findings with correctly formatted graphs and tables

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.

Open Educational Resources

There are no required textbooks for this class!

This class is taught using Open Educational Resources (OER), meaning that you will be able to access all of the assigned readings for this course without paying anything. There are multiple OER resources used during this course. All readings are provided on Canvas as PDF files that you can download, print, and/or read online.

This course uses chapter(s) from the following OER textbooks:

- [Principles of Sociological Inquiry: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods](#) (2012), Saylor Academy.
- [Research Methods for Criminal Justice Students](#) (2022). Monica Williams
- [Research Methods for the Social Sciences: An Introduction](#) (n.d.). Valerie Sheppard

Dr. Bailey's Website

Additional instructional materials are provided for you on the Research Methods section of Dr. Bailey's website (link below). Use of Dr. Bailey's website is not required but is highly recommended for students seeking additional instruction or assistance with the course material.

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



Course Assignments

Data Analytics Certificate:

In this course, you will gain proficiency in collecting, organizing, and analyzing your own data through the Grow with Google microcertificate program. The Data Analytics certificate trains you how to use R, SQL, and Tableau to visualize, organize, and analyze data - a highly sought after skill in today's criminal justice job markets. Grow with Google certificates typically cost over \$300, but this semester UT Tyler is providing you with access to the full course for free. In addition, as a student enrolled in this course you will receive support and assistance from the UT Tyler Career Services office, ensuring you have on campus help whenever you need it!

The full Grow with Google Data Analytics certificate includes eight modules. In this course, you will be required to complete four modules. Each completed module will earn you a digital badge from Coursera that you can include on your resume and your professional social media accounts. You will also have the ability to earn extra credit and a final exam exemption by completing additional modules. I firmly believe that these modules will not only prove advantageous during this course, but will also greatly benefit you in your future professional endeavors.

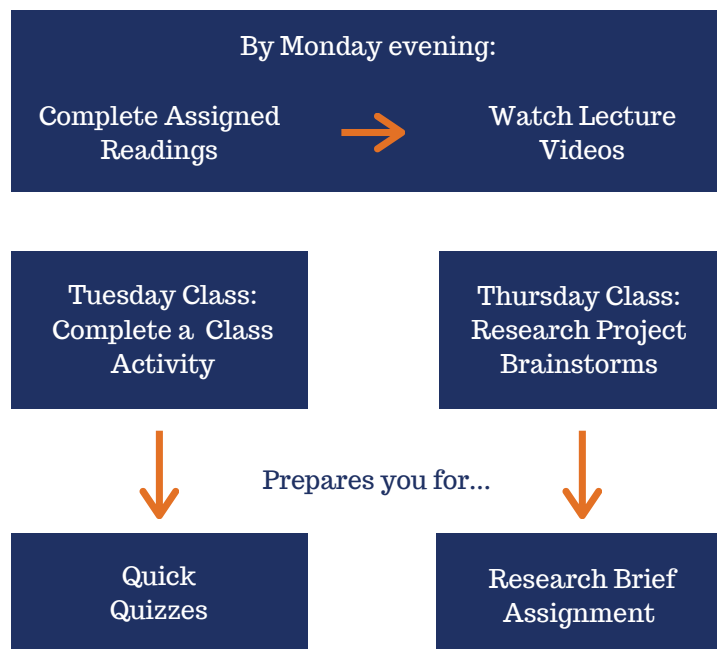


Class Assignments:

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

Class Meetings:

We will meet in person twice a week. Our Tuesday meetings will center around the class activity for that week, with the goal of preparing you to complete the weekly Quick Quiz on the module topic area. Our Thursday meetings will center around the Research Project assignment. Attendance at class meetings is required unless you have made alternative arrangements with me.





Research Project

The Research Project is a cumulative course project that is completed via a series of smaller assignments. The goal of the project is to use problem-solving procedures to design and evaluate research designs that can be used to measure a real world problem faced by East Texas citizens and/or UT Tyler students. You will then choose and implement one research design and create a Research Brief assignment sharing your results with the relevant stakeholder(s).



The Research Project assignment is a major written assignment. In order to ensure the highest quality submission, you will have the opportunity in each module to work with your group and Dr. Bailey on your research design creation and evaluation. You will also have the opportunity to work with our Social Science Librarian during the semester to gain assistance with this project.

Project Components:

The Research Project consists of the five separate components. Submission information, detailed instructions, and grading rubrics will be provided on Canvas and/or during class for each individual assignment.

- Topic Selection (15 points)
- Research Proposal Rough Draft (10 points)
- Research Proposal Peer Review (10 points)
- Research Proposal with Data Collection Instrument (50 points)
- Research Brief (100 points)

Writing in the Course:

This course is writing intensive. 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

GRADES

Research Project

Topic Selection	15 points
Research Proposal Rough Draft	10 points
Research Proposal Peer Review	10 points
Research Proposal	50 points
Research Brief	100 points

Research Project Points:

185

Individual Assignments

Criminal Justice Librarian Visit	10 points
CITI Certificate	20 points
Lecture Video Quizzes (drop lowest)	225 points
Class Activities (drop lowest)	55 points
Quiz Quizzes (drop lowest)	230 points
Research Project Workdays (drop lowest)	75 points
Grow with Google Certificates	200 points
Final Exam	100 points

Class Assignment Points:

915

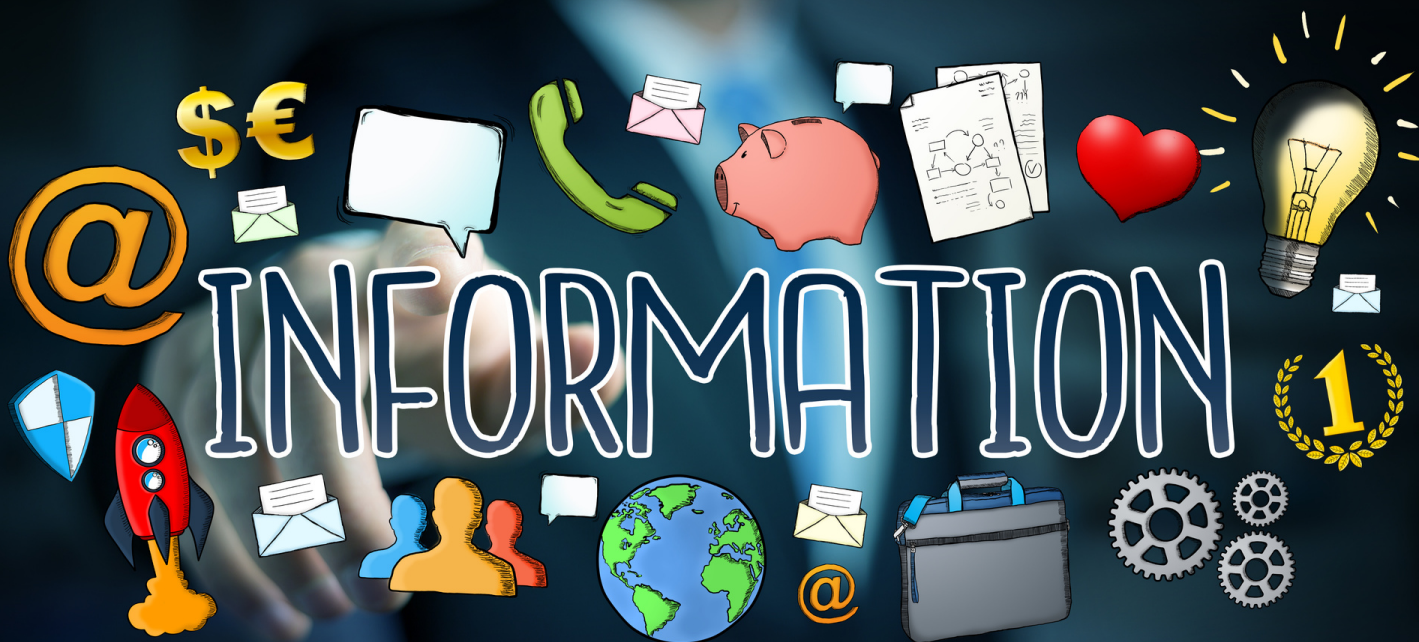
Total Points Possible

1,100

Grading Scale

990 or more points	A
880 - 989 points	B
770 - 879 points	C
660 - 769 points	D
Less than 660 points	F





Assignment Submissions

All assignments will be submitted during class or Canvas. Due dates for all assignments are provided in the detailed Course Schedule, available in the Welcome Module of the Canvas course. I encourage you to use the Canvas Calendar to keep track of the course assignments and upcoming deadlines.

My Response Time

I try to respond to all emails and voicemails within one business day. I reserve weekends, holidays, and school breaks for my family, 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.

Open Office Hours

I hold Open Office Hours each week. During these times, I can go over assignments, discuss quizzes/exams, and answer any questions about course material. When I am holding Open Office Hours, I will be available in my campus office (CAS 134) unless I have informed you otherwise. 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.

Late Assignments

I do not accept late assignments in this course. However, I recognize that life sometimes interferes in your plans, so there are multiple assignments that can be dropped without penalty. Canvas will automatically drop the lowest lecture video quiz and quick quiz score as well as the lowest class activity and Research Project workday grade as well. This means you can miss up to two class periods (one week of class) without a reduction in points.

If life circumstances arise that will cause substantial disruption to your workload beyond these accommodations, please reach out to me to discuss possible alternatives.

**It always seems
impossible until it's done.**

- Nelson Mandela

**I'm Here to Help
You Succeed**



During the course, if you experience any situation that impacts your physical, mental, or emotional health, please reach out to me by email. 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



1

Creating Your Research Question

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Social Science Librarian Visit
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday
- Topic Selection

3

Sampling

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday

5

Measurement

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday
- Google Data Analytics certificate

7

Introduction to Research Methods

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday

2

Research Ethics

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday
- Google Data Analytics certificate

4

Data Collection Strategies

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday

6

Survey Research

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday
- CITI Certificate

8

Qualitative Research

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday
- Google Data Analytics certificate

10

Research Publications

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday
- Research Proposal

12

Data Visualizations

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday

14

Finals Week

- Final Exam (Exemption Possible)

9

Experimental Designs

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday

11

Unobtrusive Research

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday

13

Quantitative Data Analysis

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Class Activity
- Quick Quiz
- Research Project Workday
- Google Data Analytics certificate

15

Literature Reviews

- Lecture Video Quizzes
- Research Project Workday
- Research Brief



RESOURCES

College of Arts & Sciences Advising

College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) 215
903.565.7389
advising@uttyler.edu

Bookstore

University Center (UC)
903.566.7070
bookstore@uttyler.edu

Campus Computing & Technology Support

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

Muntz Library

Robert R. Muntz Library (LIB)
903.566.7343
library@uttyler.edu

Military & Veterans Success Center

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

Patriot Pantry

Muntz Library (LIB) 223
patriotspantry@uttyler.edu

Student Accessibility Office

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

Student Counseling Center

903.565.5746 (online appointments available)
counselingandwellness@uttyler.edu

University Health Clinic

University Health Clinic (UHC)
903.939.7870
wellness@uttyler.edu

UT Tyler Police Department

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

Writing Center

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) 212
uttyler.mywconline.com (online scheduling)
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

