



Department of Social Sciences
Research Methods PADM/CRIJ 5396
Fall 2025
Online

Professor: Beatriz Amalfi Wronski, PhD

Office: CAS 133

Telephone: (903)565-6582

Email: bwronski@uttyler.edu (email is the best way to reach me)

Office Availability: Pre- and post-class periods AND by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Materials:

Babbie, E., Wagner III, W.E., Zaino, J. (2022). Adventures in Social Research (11th Edition). Sage Publishing. ISBN: 9781544398006 (Paperback) / ISBN: 9781544397993 (E-Book).
Student Companion Website: <https://edge.sagepub.com/babbie11e/student-resources>

Rennison, C.M., & Hart, T.C. (2022). Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology (2nd Edition). Sage Publisher. ISBN: 9781071815359 (Paperback) / ISBN: 9781071815373 (E-Book).
Student Companion Website: <https://edge.sagepub.com/rennisonrm/student-resources>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the first course in the two-course methods/statistics sequence. In this course, students will learn the basic research methods and statistical analyses commonly used in social science research. During the semester, students will learn the fundamentals of the scientific method and scientific inquiry, ethical considerations in research, and quantitative data collection methods. Students will also be introduced to IBM SPSS statistical software and basic univariate and bivariate statistics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to complete the following:

1. Compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative data collection methods
2. Identify gaps in research through reviews of existing research
3. Evaluate the validity and reliability of different research methodologies
4. Summarize and critique the methodological processes used in published research articles
5. Develop new research questions and hypotheses
6. Identify the appropriate statistical analysis technique for a given set of variables and/or research questions
7. Interpret published quantitative research in the social sciences
8. Analyze qualitative data using thematic coding and grounded theory
9. Describe the advantages and process of mixed methods research in social science
10. Create a dataset in IBM SPSS
11. Compute descriptive statistics, create graphs, and test hypotheses using IBM SPSS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Actual Points</i>	<i>Grading Scale</i>
Opening Assessment Survey	10		A = 315 – 350 B = 280 – 314 C = 245 – 279 D = 210 – 244 F = Below 210
Plagiarism Certificate	10		
Practice Article Analysis	10		
CITI Certificate	20		
Article Analysis	50		
SPSS Laboratory Exercise #1*	20		
SPSS Laboratory Exercise #2*	20		
SPSS Laboratory Exercise #3*	20		
Vocabulary Quiz #1	10		
Vocabulary Quiz #2	10		
Vocabulary Quiz #3	10		
Vocabulary Quiz #4	10		
Vocabulary Quiz #5	10		
Vocabulary Quiz #6	10		
Levels of Measurement Quiz	10		
Discussion Board: Introduction	10		
Discussion Board: Topic Selection	10		
Discussion Board: Searching for Research	10		
Discussion Board: Measuring Concepts	10		
Discussion Board: Sampling Procedures	10		
Research Consultation	10		
Research Proposal Draft**	60		
Total Points	350		

*SPSS Lab Exercises → To help you gain hands-on practice with the IBM SPSS software, you will complete a series of lab exercises. IBM Statistics can be accessed for free via the UT Tyler virtual desktop (<https://one.uttyler.edu/>). Lab exercises can be found at the end of each chapter in your Babbie and colleagues' textbook. To encourage mastery, you will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit lab exercises one time each semester.

** Research Proposal Project → The Research Proposal Project is a cumulative course project that will be completed **over the full year in 5396/5397**. The goal of the proposal is to develop a feasible research study that can be implemented in your Capstone Seminar course. The final proposal will include a 10-page proposal, your data collection instrument, and a completed IRB application. The Research Proposal Project is designed to help you practice the steps necessary to begin a research study in the real world. For that reason, proposals must be feasible and take into account the project's budget and personnel constraints.

Project Timeline:

- Fall Semester: During the **Fall** semester, you will brainstorm your research proposal through a series of discussion board assignments. These discussions allow you to refine your ideas using feedback from me and your classmates. You will also attend a research consultation with the Social Science Librarian. At the end of the Fall semester, you will submit a Research Proposal **Draft**.
- Spring Semester: In the Spring semester, you will finalize your Research Proposal through feedback and a writing consultation with the UT Tyler Writing Center. The Final Research Proposal will be submitted during Module 14 of the Spring semester.

LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP POLICY

Students are not allowed to submit late assignments in this course. Similarly, there will be no make-up exams, unless in specific extenuating circumstances. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any expected absence during an exam or in-class activity so that the proper arrangements can be made. Students who wish to request an extension must email the instructor **before** the original assignment deadline and provide a **copy of their assignment** in its current state. If the student has made sufficient progress until that point, the instructor will provide an alternative timeline for the completion of the project. Do not wait to start assignments at the last possible minute.

CONTACT POLICY

The best way to contact me is via my university email (bwronski@uttyler.edu). If you have **any** questions, feel free to contact me. You can expect a response within 24 hours on a weekday or within 48 hours on the weekend.

FALL 2025

Fall Module 1

08/25 – 08/31

Introduction to the Course

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Complete Opening Assessment Quiz (10 points)
- ☐ Post Once on Discussion Board: Introductions (10 points)
- ☐ Complete Plagiarism Quiz and Upload Certificate in Canvas (10 points)

Fall Module 2

09/01 – 09/07

Introduction to Research Methods & Research Ethics

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Rennison & Hart, Chapters 1 & 2
- ☐ Complete RH Chapters 1/2 Vocabulary Quiz (10 points)
- ☐ Watch Lecture Videos:
 - ☐ Why are Research Methods Important?
 - ☐ A Brief History of Research Ethics
 - ☐ Modern Research Ethics
 - ☐ How to Start a Research Study
- ☐ Post Twice on Discussion Board: Topic Selection (10 points)

Fall Module 3

09/08 – 09/14

Conducting a Literature Review

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Rennison & Hart, Chapter 3
- ☐ Complete RH Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz (10 points)
- ☐ Watch Lecture Videos:
 - ☐ What is a Literature Review?
 - ☐ Identifying Good Sources
 - ☐ 6 Steps to a Literature Review
- ☐ Post Twice on Discussion Board: Searching for Research (10 points)
- ☐ Schedule Research Consultation with Social Science Librarian (10 points)

Fall Module 4

09/15 – 09/21

Creating Variables & Measurements

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Rennison & Hart, Chapter 4
- ☐ Complete RH Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz (10 points)
- ☐ Watch Lecture Videos:
 - ☐ Quantitative versus Qualitative

- ☐ Measurement in Social Science
- ☐ Conceptualization and Operationalization
- ☐ Creating a Hypothesis
- ☐ Submit Practice Article Analysis (10 points)

Fall Module 5

09/22 – 09/28

Creating Variables & Measurements Continued

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Watch Lecture Videos:
 - ☐ Defining Attributes
 - ☐ Levels of Measurement Practice
 - ☐ Evaluating Measurements
- ☐ Complete Levels of Measurement Quiz (10 points)
- ☐ Post Twice on Discussion Board: Measuring Concepts (10 points)

Fall Module 6

09/29 – 10/05

Sampling

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Rennison & Hart, Chapter 5
- ☐ Complete RH Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz (10 points)
- ☐ Watch Lecture Videos:
 - ☐ Populations and Census Studies
 - ☐ Sampling from Populations
 - ☐ Sampling Error
 - ☐ Probability Sampling
 - ☐ Nonprobability Sampling
- ☐ Post Twice on Discussion Board: Sampling Procedures (10 points)

Fall Module 7

10/06 – 10/12

Survey Research

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Rennison & Hart, Chapter 7
- ☐ Complete RH Chapter 7 Vocabulary Quiz (10 points)
- ☐ Watch Lecture Videos:
 - ☐ How to Conduct a Survey Research Project
 - ☐ Survey Questions
 - ☐ Survey Wording Errors
 - ☐ Survey Questionnaire
 - ☐ Quantifying Survey Questions

- ☐ Survey Codebooks
- ☐ Submit CITI Training Certificate (20 points)

Fall Module 8

10/13 – 10/19

Midterm Week

- ☐ Submit Article Analysis #1 (50 points)

Midterm assignments will be available from 12:00AM on Monday, October 14th to 11:59PM on Sunday, October 20th.

Fall Module 9

10/20 – 10/26

Introduction to SPSS Statistics

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Babbie, Wagner & Zaino, Chapter 4
- ☐ Watch BWZ Chapter 4 Screen Cast Video
- ☐ Submit SPSS Statistics Lab Exercise 4.1 (20 points)

Fall Module 10

10/27 – 11/02

Describing Your Data

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Babbie, Wagner & Zaino, Chapter 5
- ☐ Watch BWZ Chapter 5 Screen Cast Video
- ☐ Submit SPSS Statistics Lab Exercise 5.1 (20 points)

Fall Module 11

11/03 – 11/09

Presenting Data in Graphic Form

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Babbie, Wagner & Zaino, Chapter 6
- ☐ Watch BWZ Chapter 6 Screen Cast Video
- ☐ Submit SPSS Statistics Lab Exercise 6.1 (20 points)

Fall Module 12

11/10 – 11/16

SPSS Practice Week

No new assignments this week.

OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT - Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Revise & Resubmit SPSS Statistics Lab Exercise 4.1, 5.1 or 6.1

Fall Module 13

11/17 – 11/23

Secondary Data Research

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Rennison & Hart, Chapter 9

- ☐ Complete Chapter 9 Vocabulary Quiz (10 points)
- ☐ Watch Lecture Videos:
 - ☐ Why use Secondary Data?
 - ☐ Sources of Secondary Data
 - ☐ Secondary Data & Crime Mapping
- ☐ Post Twice on Discussion Board: Secondary Data Sources (10 points)

Thanksgiving Break No Class	11/24 – 11/30
--	----------------------

Fall Module 14 Creating Composite Measures	12/01 – 12/07
---	----------------------

Complete by 11:59PM on Sunday:

- ☐ Read Babbie, Wagner & Zaino, Chapter 8
- ☐ Watch BWZ Chapter 8 Screen Cast Video
- ☐ **OPTIONAL** Submit SPSS Statistics Lab Exercise 8.1 (10 points extra credit)

Fall Module 15 Finals Week	12/08 – 12/12
---	----------------------

- ☐ Submit Research Proposal Draft (60 points)

REQUIRED POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Withdrawing from Class

Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal.

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing

before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. **For this course, AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required.** This course has specific assignments where artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or Copilot) are permitted and encouraged. When AI use is permissible, it will be clearly stated in the assignment directions, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. Using AI tools outside of these parameters violates UT Tyler's Honor Code, constitutes plagiarism, and will be treated as such.

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special

arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances

that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the Registrar's Form Library.

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

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 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 the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at

<https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy 5.2.3. The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for University Events or Activities as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 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>