

RESEARCH METHODS

CRIJ/PADM 5396 & 5397 | FALL 2024 - SPRING 2025

Graduate 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 fully online. All interactions will take place on Canvas or Zoom.

DR. JENNIFER WOOLDRIDGE

Many of you have had me in other graduate classes, but I am taking over methods for the Spring 2025 semester. I will use all of Dr. Bailey's materials for consistency across the curriculum. I will be reviewing Dr. Getty's notes so that I can familiarize myself with your projects. I'm excited to learn more about your research!

I have weekly office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, both in-person and on Zoom.

Office: CAS 135

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am – 12:30pm or by appointment

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.

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Course Learning Objectives

By the completion of these courses, you will be able to:

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

Adventures in Social Research (11th edition)

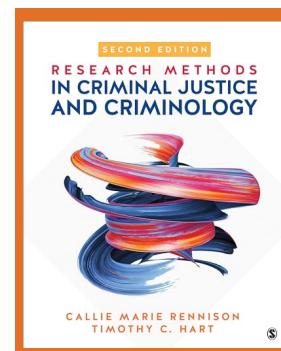
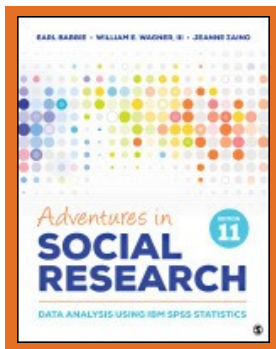
E. Babbie, W.E. Wagner III, J. Zaino Sage Publishing

ISBN: 9781544398006 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9781544397993 (E-Book)

Student Companion Website:

<https://edge.sagepub.com/babbie11e/student-resources>



Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology (2nd edition)

C.M. Rennison & T.C. Hart Sage Publishing

ISBN: 9781071815359 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9781071815373 (E-Book)

Student Companion Website:

<https://edge.sagepub.com/rennisonrm/student-resources>

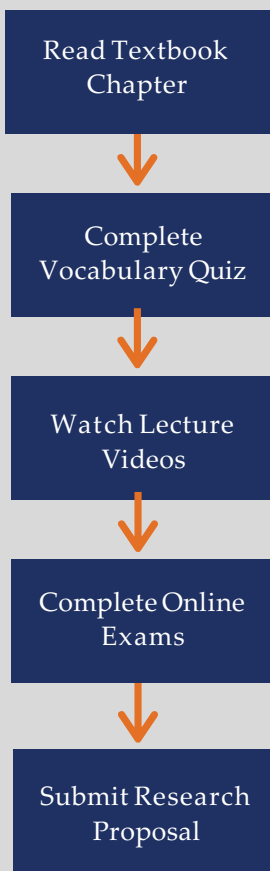
Dr. Bailey's Website

Dr. Bailey has given me permission to share her website with you all. I don't have a website, so I am going to the master for this one. Her website was developed specifically for methods students in mind, so it will be helpful as a supplemental source to this class.

<https://daniellebaileyphd.com/>



Course Assignments



Lecture Videos

Since this is an online course, all lecture material will be provided in online lecture videos. Every week, you will complete multiple video lectures focusing on different research methods' concepts.

Vocabulary Quizzes

Vocabulary quizzes are designed to help you review the important class vocabulary in each module in order to promote repetition and increase learning.

Vocabulary quizzes are timed but you may retake each quiz up to three times with only the highest score counting towards your final grade.

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 et al. textbook. To encourage mastery, you will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit lab exercises one time each semester.

Writing in the Course

This course is writing intensive. I encourage you to visit the UT Tyler Writing Center.

They offer on-campus and online appointments with trained writing tutors who can help you revise and edit your written assignments before you submit them.

Make an appointment TODAY!
uttyler.edu/writingcenter

Exams

Instead of traditional exams, each semester includes an Article Analysis assignment. This assignment requires you to analyze and critique a published research article in an essay-style response. You will have one full calendar week to complete the Article Analysis assignment.



Research Proposal Project

The Research Proposal Project is a cumulative course project that will be completed **over the course of 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

The Research Proposal Project is a continuous project that will span both the Fall and Spring semesters.

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.

GRADES

Fall Semester

Class Assignments

Opening Assessment Survey	10 points
Plagiarism Certificate Practice	10 points
Article Analysis	10 points
CITI Certificate	20 points
Article Analysis #1	50 points
SPSS Laboratory Exercise (3)	60 points
Vocabulary Quizzes (6) Levels of	60 points
Measurement Quiz	10 points

Class Assignment Points:

230

Research Proposal Project

Discussion Board: Introduction	10 points
Discussion Board: Topic Selection	10 points
Discussion Board: Searching for Research	10 points
Discussion Board: Measuring Concepts	10 points
Discussion Board: Sampling Procedures	10 points
Research Consultation	10 points
Research Proposal Draft	60 points

Research Proposal Project Points:

120

Total Points Possible

350

Grading Scale

315 or more points	A
280 - 314 points	B
245 - 279 points	C
210 - 244 points Less	D
than 210 points	F

GRADES

Spring Semester

Class Assignments

Article Analysis #2	50 points
SPSS Laboratory Exercise (4)	80 points
Vocabulary Quizzes (5) Closing	50 points
Assessment Survey	10 points

Class Assignment Points: **190**

Research Proposal Project

Discussion Board: Research Proposal Progress	10 points
Discussion Board: Experimental Design	10 points
Discussion Board: Qualitative Interviews	10 points
Discussion Board: Content Analysis	10 points
Discussion Board: Mixed Methods	10 points
Discussion Board: Evaluation Research	10 points
Final Research Proposal	100 points

Research Proposal Project Points: **160**

Total Points Possible **350**

Grading Scale

315 or more points	A
280 - 314 points	B
245 - 279 points	C
210 - 244 points	D
Less than 210 points	F



Assignment Submissions

All assignments will be submitted on 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 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.

Late Assignments

I do not accept late work in this course because I believe that as graduate students you are capable of preparing for and meeting deadlines. However, I recognize that many of you have employment and family responsibilities that may influence your availability during the course. If you experience an unexpected situation that will cause substantial disruption to your ability to complete class assignments, please reach out to me and we can discuss appropriate accommodations.

*Education is for
improving the lives of
others.*

- Marian Wright Edelman

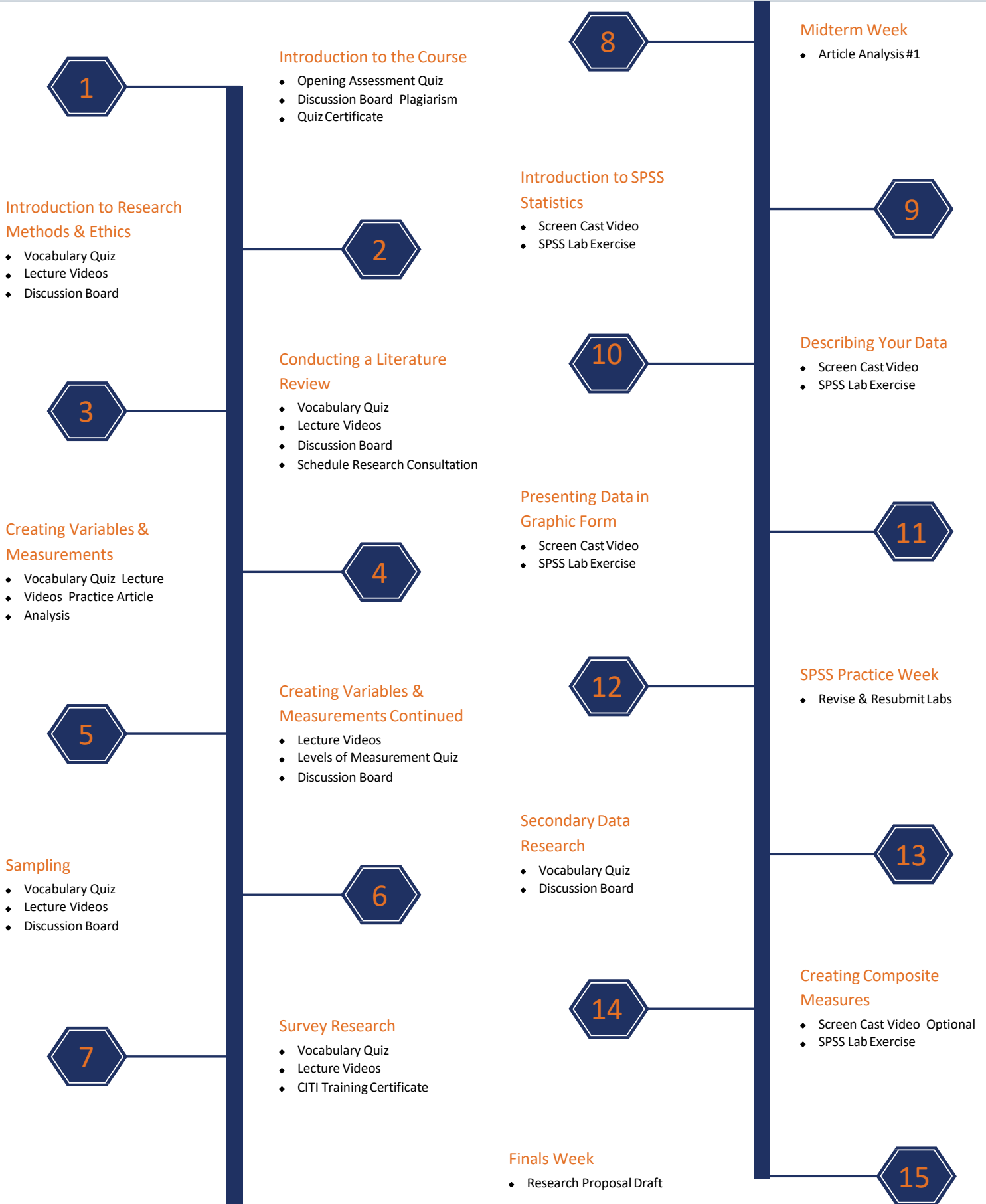
**I'm Here to Help
You Succeed**



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.

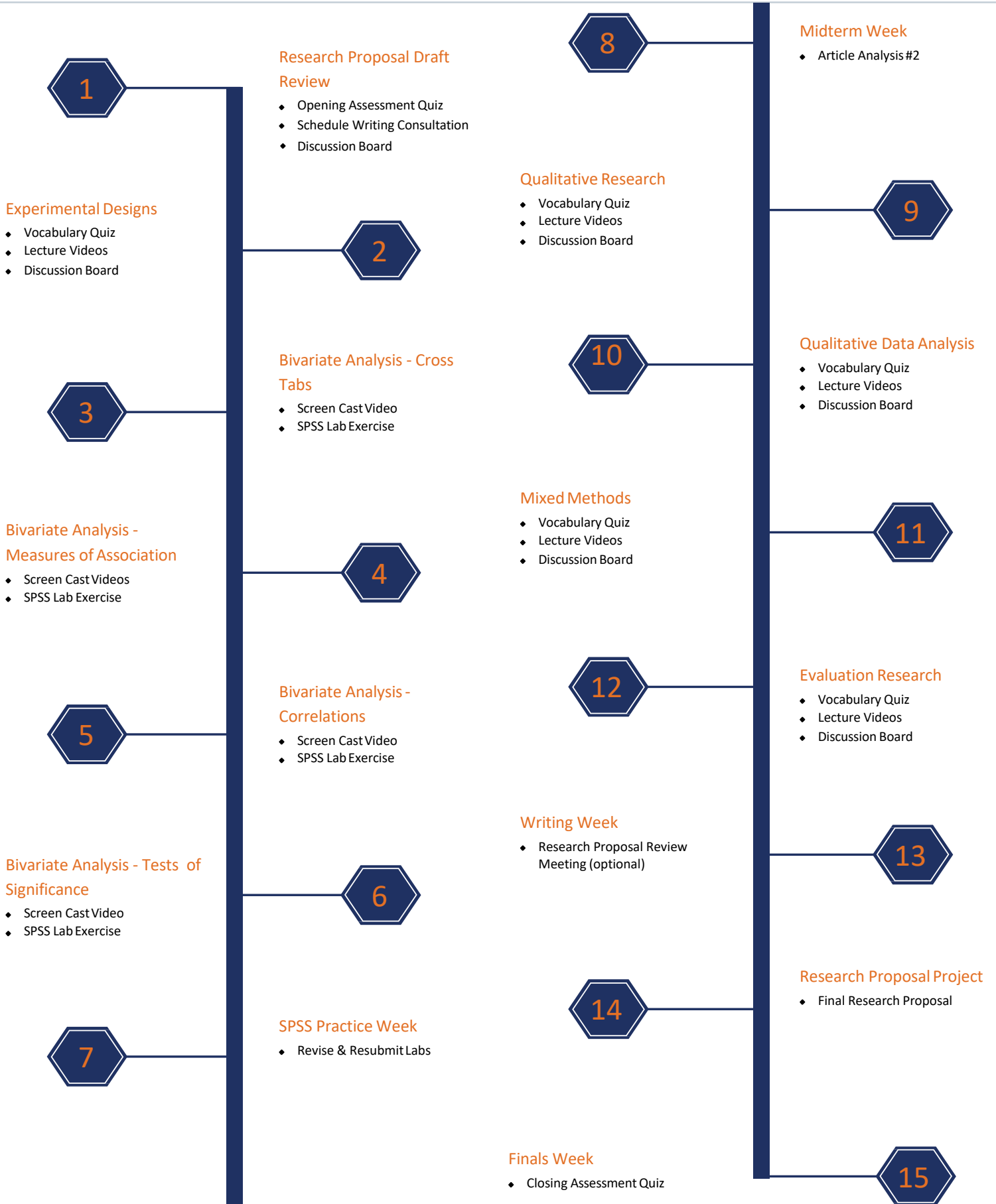
CLASS SCHEDULE

Fall Semester



CLASS SCHEDULE

Spring Semester





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
patriotpantry@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





UT Tyler Policies (as of Fall 2024)

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

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 <https://www.uttyler.edu/offices/human-resources/wellness/tobacco-cessation/students/>.

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 catalogue. 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 [this link](http://www.uttyler.edu/sar), 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
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, 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 in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give an 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 instructor 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.