In order to access your course materials, you must agree to the following, by clicking the "Mark Reviewed" button below.

By checking the "Mark Reviewed" link below, you are indicating the following:

- You have read, understood, and will comply with the policies and procedures listed in the class syllabus, and that you have acquired the required textbook(s).
- You have read, understood, and will comply with class policies and procedures as specified in the online Student Handbook.
- You have read, understood, and will comply with computer and software requirements as specified in the Student Orientation Course.

Course Number: CRIJ/BOR 6334  
Course Title: Research Methods in Security Studies

Instructor Name: Brian L. Withrow, Ph.D.  
(620) 213-0391  
brian.withrow@txstate.edu

Course Description/Overview

Click this link for a printable version of the syllabus.

Research methods with application to intelligence, homeland security, criminal justice, and other security-related interests. (Credit may not be earned for this course and Intelligence, Security Studies, and Analysis 6305, Security Studies 6305, or Criminal Justice 6334.) CRN29453

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:


An electronic version of this textbook is available online at the course website.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.
Technical skills required for this course

As with all online courses, students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Additional technical skills are not a prerequisite for this course, however your computer must meet certain minimum requirements to operate Blackboard.

In order to complete the statistical exercises toward the end of the course you will need a calculator that can add, subtract, multiply, divide and compute square roots. As an alternative you may use Excel or another type of spread sheet software to conduct these analyses. There is no need to access or purchase sophisticated statistical software like SPSS, SAS or STATA.

Time spent on this course

Students can expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week to complete all the readings and assignments. The lessons themselves take as long as the student will require to read the materials and watch or listen to media presentations.

Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

Course Goals

Upon completion of this course the students will be able to produce and communicate information derived from independent research and analysis that is critical to the efficient and effective functioning of a criminal justice or allied agency.

Upon completion of this course the students will be able to critically evaluate the quality of research findings and information typically encountered by criminal justice and allied practitioners.

Course Objectives

Objective One: To understand the generally accepted concepts, techniques and procedures related to social research.

Objective Two: To become familiar with the most commonly used information gathering techniques (i.e. research methods) in social science.

Objective Three: To gather, organize, summarize and effectively communicate prior research findings relevant to a research question or hypothesis.

Objective Four: To create a negotiable research prospectus that includes an introduction, literature review and proposed method for gathering data/information that would be responsive to a research question.
**Objective Five:** To develop a general understanding of the basic techniques used to analyze quantitative and qualitative data or information.

**Learning Outcomes**

In general, these should be statements which describe desired knowledge, skills or attitudes of the students. When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Independently conduct research that will produce information relevant to a criminal justice or allied agency’s efficient and effective administration of its mission.
2. Using generally accepted research methodological principles, critically analyze the quality of research or information typically encountered by criminal justice or allied professionals.

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of written assignments and active participation in the cohort discussions established through discussion board questions each week.

**Grading Policies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Application Exercises</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Weekly, unless otherwise stated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Weekly, unless otherwise stated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher’s Notebook Project</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>At the end of each learning module.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grades**

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage of the number of points earned during the semester.

A = 90 – 100 %
B = 80 – 89 %
C = 70 – 79 %
D = 60 - 69 %
F = 59 % and below.
Writing Guidelines

This course requires the completion of fifteen research article reviews and one (semester long) research project. Together the research article reviews constitute 25 percent of the grade. Students will be provided a research article and asked to respond to questions regarding the methods used by the researchers. The typical length of these assignments is less than one page.

The semester long research project includes five writing assignments or varying length from one to ten pages. Ultimately, the final product will be a negotiable research prospectus. Collectively, this assignment counts for 50 percent of the semester grade.

Formal academic writing uses standardized styles and citation formats. The preferred format is the APA style. To access the APA writing guidelines go to this link: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/.

Papers should have 1-inch margins all around. You are expected to use a standardized font - preferably Times New Roman, 12 point. Cite your references in EVERY instance and include a properly formatted reference list and cover page with every assignment. An abstract is not necessary in this class.

Every writing assignment should be submitted as a WORD or PDF document. If you do not have Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat, then copy the text you have written directly into the assignment section of Blackboard during the appropriate week. Do NOT submit writing assignments in Word Perfect, Microsoft Works, or some e-mail format. They will not be accepted.

While I do not enforce a strict policy on grammar, I do reserve the right to stop reading your paper if spelling errors, sentence construction, or grammar is below the minimum for a graduate course. If I stop reading a particular paper you have written, for reasons listed above, the paper will be returned to you with a failing grade.

Rubrics

Discussion forums and writing assignments will be graded using rubrics that are provided with each assignment. It is recommended that you be familiar with these grading criteria and keep them in mind as you complete the writing assignments.

Final Exam

This course does not require a comprehensive final examination.

Course Organization: This course is organized into five learning modules. Within each learning module there are several ungraded and graded activities. Student performance is not assessed by the ungraded activities. These are intended to communicate the scope of material upon which assessment is based. Student performance is assessed by the graded activities.
Ungraded activities include;
- Completing worksheets and reviewing demonstrations relating to the Researcher’s Notebook Assignments,
- Reading from the required textbook and articles associated with the Research Application Exercises, and
- Reviewing the PowerPoint slides.

Graded activities include;
- Completing the Research Application Exercises and/or participating in a research project
- Completing the Weekly Quizzes, and
- Completing the Researcher’s Notebook Assignments.

Assessment

The Research Application Exercises (RAE’s) – 25 percent of the grade
During the semester fifteen Research Application Exercises will be assigned, generally one per week. Each of these assignments will require the student to read a published research article (provided by the professor) and answer questions relating to the method(s) used by the researchers. The Research Application Exercises and their associated articles will be located in the Assignments section of the TRACS site. Generally, the Research Application Exercises will be available at 8:00 AM on Mondays and due on or before 11:55 PM on Fridays, unless otherwise stated.

Students may earn up to 10 points for each Research Application Exercise for a total of 150 points.

The Weekly Quizzes – 25 percent of the grade
During the semester fifteen weekly quizzes will be assigned, generally one per week. The quizzes are multiple choice and will be taken online through the TRACS site. There is a one hour time limit for each quiz so they must be started at least one hour before their due date/time. The material for these exams will come from the required textbook. The Weekly Quiz number corresponds to the textbook chapters. For example, the questions on Weekly Quiz #1 come from Chapter 1 in the required textbook. The exception to this is Weekly Quiz #15, the final quiz. The material for this Weekly Quiz will be provided independently by the professor. Generally, the Weekly Quizzes will be available at 8:00 AM on Mondays and due on or before 11:55 PM on Fridays, unless otherwise stated.

Students may earn up to 10 points for each quiz for a total of 150 points.

The Researcher’s Notebook Assignments (RNA’s) – 50 percent of the grade
The Researcher’s Notebook is a series of five assignments that, when complete, will produce a viable research proposal, commonly called a prospectus. THIS ASSIGNMENT IS NOT A TRADITIONAL ‘RESEARCH PAPER’. The final document will include an introduction, a literature review and a proposed plan for collecting the data responsive to the research question. Students will not be required to actually collect data and complete a final research report. The Researcher’s Notebook Assignments and other related instructions can be found in the
Assignments section of the TRACS site. They will be available on the first day of each learning module and due on the last day of each learning module, unless otherwise stated.

Students may earn up to 25 to 100 points (see below) for each of the Researcher’s Notebook exercises for a total of 300 points (See the following table for more information on point values).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher’s Notebook Exercise</th>
<th>Primary Tasks</th>
<th>Point Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Preliminary Topic Selection and Introduction Outline</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Preliminary Outline and Bibliography</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Annotated Outline and First Draft of Literature Review</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Revised Research Question, Methods Outline and First Draft of Methods Proposal</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Final Prospectus</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final semester grades will be based on the total number of points earned for completing the Research Application Exercises (150 points), the Weekly Quizzes (150 points) and the Researcher’s Notebook Assignments (300 points). There are a total of 600 points available. Letter grades will be based on the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points earned</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>540-600</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>480-539</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420-479</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360-419</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 360</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Learning Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Modules</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Ungraded Activities</th>
<th>Graded Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 28 – September 8, 2017</td>
<td><strong>Read</strong> Chapters 1-2 in the required textbook.</td>
<td><strong>Complete</strong> on or before 11:55 pm, Friday, September 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Review</strong> the PowerPoint slides for Chapters 1-2.</td>
<td><strong>Weekly Quiz #1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Read</strong> the articles associated with Research Application Exercises (RAE) #1 and #2.</td>
<td><strong>RAE #1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Complete or review</strong> the worksheets and demonstrations relating to Researcher’s Notebook Assignment (RNA) #1.</td>
<td><strong>Complete</strong> on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, September 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Weekly Quiz #2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>RAE #2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>RNA #1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| II        | September 11-22, 2017 | **Read** Chapters 3-4 in the required textbook. | **Complete** on or before 11:55 pm, Friday, September 15th  
- Weekly Quiz #3  
- RAE #3  

**Review** the PowerPoint slides for Chapters 3-4.  

**Read** the articles associated with Research Application Exercises (RAE) #2 and #3.  

**Complete or review** the worksheets and demonstrations relating to Researcher’s Notebook Assignment (RNA) #2.  

| III       | September 25 – October 20, 2017 | **Read** Chapters 5-8 in the required textbook. | **Complete** on or before 11:55 pm, Friday, September 29th  
- Weekly Quiz #5  
- RAE #5  

**Review** the PowerPoint slides for Chapters 5-8.  

**Read** the articles associated with Research Application Exercises (RAE) #4 - #7.  

**Complete or review** the worksheets and demonstrations relating to Researcher’s Notebook Assignment (RNA) #3.  

| IV        | October 23 – November 17, 2017 | **Read** Chapters 9-12 in the required textbook. | **Complete** on or before 11:55 pm, Friday, October 27th  
- Weekly Quiz #9  
- RAE #9  

**Review** the PowerPoint slides for Chapters 9-12.  

**Complete** on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, October 6th  
- Weekly Quiz #6  
- RAE #6  

**Complete** on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, October 13th  
- Weekly Quiz #7  
- RAE #7  

**Complete** on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, October 20th  
- Weekly Quiz #8  
- RAE #8  
- RNA #3  

**Complete** on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, October 13th  
- Weekly Quiz #7  
- RAE #7  

**Complete** on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, October 20th  
- Weekly Quiz #8  
- RAE #8  
- RNA #3  

**Complete** on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, October 20th  
- Weekly Quiz #8  
- RAE #8  
- RNA #3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| November 20 – December 11, 2017 | *Read* Chapters 13-14 in the required textbook.  
*Review* the PowerPoint slides for Chapters 13-14.  
*Read* the articles associated with Research Application Exercise (RAE) #13-#15.  
*Complete or review* the worksheets and demonstrations relating to Researcher’s Notebook Assignment (RNA) #5. |
| Complete on or before 11:55 pm, Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> |  
- Weekly Quiz #13  
- RAE #13 |
| Complete on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> |  
- Weekly Quiz #14  
- RAE #14 |
| Complete on or before 11:55 PM, Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> |  
- Weekly Quiz #15  
- RAE #15 |
| Complete on or before 11:55 PM, Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> |  
- RNA #5 |
Administration

Communication

Because of the online nature of this class, traditional face to face office hours will not be provided. Instead, students are encouraged to contact the instructor via email at brian.withrow@txstate.edu. Email inquiries are normally responded to before the end of the next class day.

For more immediate concerns students may contact the instructor via his cell phone at 620-213-0391. Please refrain from calling after 5:00 PM or before 8:00 AM on class days or during the weekend, if possible.

The instructor will communicate regularly to students via the course management system (i.e. Blackboard) supported by Angelo State University. Students are strongly encouraged to regularly check message and announcement boards for pertinent course information.

Effective learning occurs best in an environment of mutual respect. The instructor is committed to encouraging the free flow of ideas in a manner that is respectful to all parties involved.

Attendance

This is an online course and attendance is not taken.

Late Work

As a general rule, late work will not be accepted. If your assignments are not submitted by the posted deadline, you will receive a zero for that assignment. Assignments and examinations are typically provided well in advance of their due dates in order to allow sufficient time for completion.

Incompletes

The University policy on grades of "Incomplete" is that the deficiency in performance must be addressed satisfactorily by the end of the next long (16 week) semester or the grade automatically becomes a "F". Grades of "Incomplete" will only be awarded to students who have demonstrated sufficient progress to earn the opportunity to complete the course outside of the normal course duration. The award of an "Incomplete" will only be made in rare circumstances, with the concurrence of the student and the professor on what specific tasks remain and when they are due for the grade to be changed to a higher grade. The determination of the need to award an "Incomplete" is entirely up to the professor's personal judgment.

University Policies
Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

Accommodations for Disability

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs
University Center, Suite 112
325-942-2047 Office
325-942-2211 FAX

Student absence for religious holidays

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.