**CRIJ-3302 Research Methods**

**Instructor:** Dr. Shawn Morrow  
**Office** Hardeman 211C  
**Office Hours:** T/R 8am to 12pm, M/W 11am to 12pm  
**E-mail address:** shawn.morrow@angelo.edu  
**Communication:** Communicating is key to succeed in life. If you do not communicate professors do not know if and when students have questions, comments, or concerns.

**Class Meeting Times:** On-line Starting March 19th through May 7th (8 week course)

_“ATTENTION “NOTICE”_  
This junior level course will conduct criminal justice case research concerning the juvenile justice system (as well as other topics within criminal justice system). The content of this course does have graphic and adult content. Students in this course will perform active investigations using the textbook, articles, videos, audio files, and other media on-line to gather the crucial knowledge of evidence such as death, nudity, blood, bite marks, bruises, gunshots, as well as profane language. Please note that this course contains adult and graphic content associated with the daily routines of an officer within the criminal justice system. There will be skill-building hands on projects throughout the semester. Each student is required to participate. Failure to participate the student will receive a zero. Follow ALL directions at ALL times when completing each of the assignments. Students MUST follow directions in order to become successful throughout this course as well as in the criminal justice system.

I. **Course Description:** Welcome to the CRIJ 3302 research methods course. This course covers the entire research process including: formulating research questions; sampling (probability and nonprobability); measurement; research design (experimental and quasi-experimental); data analysis; and, writing the research paper. It also addresses the major theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of research including the idea of validity in research, reliability of measures, and ethics.


III. **Exemplary Educational Objectives**  
After completion of this course you will:  
1. Be able to apply analytical thinking, critical analysis, creativity and problem solving to a wide range of Criminal Justice issues  
2. Demonstrate critical reading and critical writing skills across the spectrum of Criminal Justice subjects  
3. Demonstrate technical and analytic skills that are appropriate to Criminal Justice and applicable to your future academic and career aspirations

IV. **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
1. It’s student’s responsibility to attend and be prepared for every class to critically think, contribute, and analyze class topics. Read required articles, chapters, and other readings assigned. The required reading will provide the basic information and class discussions will enhance, clarify and expand course material.  
2. Students shall construct a minds set to learn within the university research driven environment by communicating through investigating, analytical writing, and critical thinking. This mind set is mandatory to achieve employment in the criminal justice system.  
3. Please feel free to ask questions at any time. If you are unsure of something ask questions. If no one asks questions, the instructor will move on.
4. Participate and have fun! Depending on the extent of the student’s commitment will determine the amount of knowledge and understanding they will obtain.

5. Before emailing or calling the professor go to Black-Board read all directions, announcements, and weekly post to locate the information you are seeking. If you do not locate that information AFTER looking at Black-Board then reach out through email to communicate to the professor. Overwhelmed students ask other students and get misinformation. Locating the information correctly will build professionalism, as well as saving resources.

V. Course Evaluation-Grading: Categories graded are subject to change, depending on participation of students, current events, and if any unforeseen situation occurs such as weather, or university event.

- **Two Exams (Midterm & Final exam)**
  The Professor may adjust depending on current topics and or events. There will be final exam for this class. The format for the exam may consist of some type of multiple choices questions that pertain to all of the information presented.

- **Investigative Applications**
  The Professor may adjust depending on current topics and or events. Assignments will be given out throughout the semester. Students are expected to complete each assignment and submit them on the due date. Students will write scientific method investigation research papers over criminal investigation as well as criminalistics. The research topic will be assigned to the student throughout the course. The paper will be in APA format and style containing a title page, introduction, and the body of the research, conclusion, citations, and reference page. The paper must contain in-text citations from at least four sources. Two of the sources must be research articles and the other must be our textbook. See Investigation Applications below for more.

- **Quizzes**
  The format for the quizzes will consist of multiple choices questions that pertain to the week’s information presented.

- **Discussions**
  Through the semester students will present their case through a discussion board format.

**Basics of Discussion Posts** ASU’S is face to face as well as an online learning environment; discussion postings assist as crucial methods of student participation. Discussion posts demonstrate you the student have researched, read, and thought critically about course readings. While commonly shorter in focus than a conventional essay, discussion posts should be as articulate and scholarly in nature. Discussions should be thought of as a mini-essay following APA 6th edition form and style, in which you want to have a central argument and clear evidence to support that argument. At least two or more citations with references are required to validate the evidence supporting the argument. It is important to keep length requirements in mind, limiting the scope of your response, so it will remain clear, focused, and relevant to the topic at hand.

Word count for discussions need to be 250 words or more (Unless a specific word count given) to complete.

VI. Assignments (Discussions, Quizzes, Applications)
Technical issues or computer problems are NOT considered valid reasons for late assignment submissions. NO EMAILED Assignments will be accepted. NO late work accepted. If the instructor cannot open an assignment in the drop box area, it will be considered a ZERO. If your assignment opens as a blank document, it will also be considered a grade of ZERO. Given these rigorous grading policies, please utilize your time wisely. To avoid any unforeseen circumstances, it is always good practice to complete & submit assignments and discussions posts as early as possible. Failure to follow directions within any of assignments including not following APA 6th edition form and style will be considered a ZERO.

**Investigation Applications:** There will be Research APA style 6th edition “Investigation Applications” The Investigation Application are REQUIRED to be at least “Six” double spaced pages or length required by the professor following APA 6th edition form and style. Each of these Investigation applications pulls together your REQUIRED readings from the textbook, case files, peer-to-peer articles, websites, social media sites, and any content given in class by the professor. The paper must include the following in APA format and Style as mentioned above in order to be graded. Failure to comply will be automatic zero. In the criminal justice system there’s no such thing as redo’s. If we fail to complete a report or case file the criminal case as well as the criminal could have their charges dropped. Building the necessary skills and knowledge...
1. Title Page: Title of the paper, your name, and course name using APA 6th.
2. At least 6 Pages or required length by professor written (or number of pages directed by professor): Title page & Reference page do not count toward 6 pages of original writing. Double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font. Use 4 or more citations correlated to the references all using APA 6th.
3. Reference Page with Four or More (4) references: APA format 6th edition
4. Saved as a Microsoft Word Document: Save it as .docx or .doc file. Save the document using your last name, first, and the name of the course. Example: MorrowShawn_IntroductionCriminalJustice if not saved correctly it will not be graded.

The student is responsible for using the APA template, APA resources provided in writing resources tab on Black Board, and if needed the ASU’s Writing Center. Following directions including APA writing is the student’s responsibility. The Investigation Applications will be assigned and given 2 weeks for completion. Methods for delivering of Investigation Applications will be on Blackboard Drop box. The Investigation Application must be completed BEFORE the date & time assignment or the assignment is a ZERO. No Emailed assignments accepted.

**APA Style:**

Papers that you write in your program of study must follow the guidelines set by the American Psychological Association. ([http://apastyle.apa.org/](http://apastyle.apa.org/))

Long Island University: ([http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm](http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm))

Purdue Online Writing Lab: ([http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/))

Visit the Online Writing Lab (called OWL) whenever you have an APA question.

**APA Tutorial** ([http://www.apastyle.org/learn/](http://www.apastyle.org/learn/)) This tutorial teaches how to write using the APA format.

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism**

In the learning environment, professional attitude begins in the classroom. For that reason, students and faculty will not tolerate or commit any form of academic dishonesty.

Any form of deception in the completion of assigned work is considered a form of academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying work from any source.
- Assisting, or allowing another to assist you, to commit academic dishonesty.
- Any attempt to share answers whether during a test or in the submittal of an assignment.
- Any attempt to claim work, data or creative efforts of another as your own.
- Resubmitting graded assignments for use in multiple classes (recycling your work).
- Knowingly providing false information about your academic performance to the college.
- To avoid plagiarism, do not "copy and paste" into assignments without using quotation marks and citing, in APA format, the source of the material.

**Plagiarism**

- Papers that you write in your program of study must follow the guidelines set by the American Psychological Association (APA). Using another’s intellectual
creation without permission or without giving appropriate credit is the academic equivalent of theft.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism
All violations of academic policy are documented and made a part of the student's academic record. When academic dishonesty is confirmed, the student will immediately be notified of the incident, which may result in one or more of the actions listed below:

- Reduction in grade on the assignment on which the violation occurred
- No credit on the assignment, paper, test, or exam on which the violation occurred
- A failing grade for the course
- Suspension or dismissal from the college

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Categories</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Exams (Midterm &amp; Final) 40% of grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Investigative Applications 30% of grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes 15% of grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions 15% of grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments subject to change based on events during semester. Professor will announce if changes occur.</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
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Class rules

- **Attendance**
The requirement to attend class should not be taken lightly. Attendance is considered an important part of the course. Excessive unexcused absences will negatively impact on the classroom participation grade as well.

- **Make-ups**
Students who have scheduling conflicts with an exam are expected to make arrangements with instructor in advance. The make-up date and time will be announced by the instructor. There is no make-up on the final exam.

- **Student Conduct**
Students are responsible for knowing the regulations of the department, college, and university with regards to topics such as withdrawals, incomplete grades, student conduct, and academic misconduct (those who engage in any form of academic dishonesty will fail this course).

**ADA Statement:** Any student who requires special accommodations due to a documented disability under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act should notify the instructor the first week of class.

**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.
This syllabus may be subject to updating and changes & will be done ONLY by the Professor

Course Outline

In Lesson 1, an introduction to Social Science Research, we will cover

· the importance of social science research
· the characteristics of scientific knowledge
· ways to acquire scientific knowledge
· obstacles impeding the scientific study of politics
· the use of theory to investigate the scope of politics
· traditional methods used to investigate the scope of politics
· modern methods used to investigate the scope of politics
· the composite research process
· the scientific research process
· ways to decide on a research topic
· the search for related literature
· the nuances of topic selection

In Lesson 2, The Literature Review, we will cover

The purpose of the literature review
How to begin the literature review
How to write the literature review

In Lesson 3, Causality and Measurement, we will cover the following concepts:
causal explanations
· theory
· concepts
· variables
· hypotheses
· other elements applicable to causality
· the requirements for causality
· multiple causation
· the theory of measurement
· the level of measurement
· measurement validity
· measurement reliability

In Lesson 4, The Research Design, we will:
· cover the basics of research designs
· cover pre-experimental designs
· cover classic experimental designs
· cover other types of experimental designs
· cover non-experimental designs
· cover other types of research designs
· cover obstacles to a successful research effort
· compare research designs

In Lesson 5, Data Collection and Input, we will
· identify primary data
· identify secondary data
· understand the basics of sampling
· differentiate between probability and non-probability sample designs
· understand the rudiments of determining an adequate sample size
· identify sources of errors associated with surveys
understand the rudiments of coding
understand the basics of data input

**In Lesson 6, Descriptive Statistics, Statistical Inference, and Bivariate Relationships, we will cover**

- the role of statistics in social science research
- the limitations of statistics in social science research
- frequency distributions
- graphic presentations
- measures of central tendency
- measures of dispersion
- rudiments of association
- contingency tables
- measures of association for nominal data
- measures of association for ordinal data
- choosing the appropriate measure of association
- statistical significance and hypothesis testing
- the chi square statistic
- measures of association for metric data

**In Lesson 7, Multivariate Analysis, we will cover**

- the nature of control
- cross-tabulation to control for the effect of an antecedent variable
- cross-tabulation to control for the effect of an intervening variable
- the disadvantages of cross-tabulation procedures
- partial correlation
- multiple regression
- ways to determine the relative importance of coefficients

**In Lesson 8, Putting it all Together, we will cover**

- theoretical implications of the analysis
- policy implications based on the analysis
- tips on writing the final report

*Keep Scrolling to the end of this document to make sure you have read the entire syllabus.*
Research Paper

You are required to write a research paper that must include each of the following sections. Introduction: In this section you must identify and succinctly state the research problem you will study state the purpose of your study state the importance of the study present a brief overview of the problem that you will analyze in your paper

**Literature Review: In this section you must include**
- A historical overview of the problem
- A review of research that deals with the problem area you are studying
- A discussion of possible factors contributing to the problem
- A preliminary bibliography

**Research Design: This section must include**
- Statements about the source of your data and how the concepts are measured
- A complete conceptual and operational definition for the concepts
- A properly stated hypothesis that expresses the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable
- A properly stated null hypothesis
- **Statements:** (based on your literature review) that explain why you expect to find the hypothesized relationship

**Data Analysis: This section must include**
- Tables or graphics depicting the distribution of the dependent variable and the independent variable
- A brief discussion describing the distributions and appropriate statistics
- The appropriate bi-variate tool [cross tabulation table, scatterplot, simple regression, map, ANOVA] that presents the relationship between the variables
- An interpretation of the measure of association and significance level of the relationship

**Conclusion: This section must include**
- A brief summarization of the research purpose
- A discussion of the theoretical and policy implications of the study
- A discussion of further research efforts based on the findings of your study

**Bibliography: You must include a bibliography in your paper.**

Present your research paper: In a APA 6th edition term paper format that follows ALL directions in the investigation application section of the syllabus. Double-space your paper, and limit it to no more than 10 pages [cover page and bibliography do not count as part of the page count]. Must meet minimum requires to be graded. Click on the following link for guidance in preparing your paper [http://owl.english.purdue.edu]. Your proposal is due-------

Possible Research Questions: Following are some examples of possible research questions to analyze in your proposal.

- Why do some states have higher incidences of violent crime than do other states?
- Why do some states have higher incidences of property crime than do other states?
- Why do some states have higher incidences of hate crime than do other states?
- Why do some states have more people on death row than do other states?
- Why do some states have a higher number of capital executions than do other states?
- Why do some states have a higher percentage of gun owners than do other states?
- Why do some states have a higher number of police officer felonious deaths than do other states?