

CRCJ 2510: Research Methods

Justin Nix

Spring 2023

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Office Hours: ***

Office: ***

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Class Hours: ***

Class Room: ***

Course Description

The primary goal of this course is to facilitate your growth as both consumers and producers of research. We will explore a variety of methodologies (e.g., survey research/self-report, official stats/secondary data, quasi-experimental design, etc.) used in criminological and criminal justice research. Further, we will evaluate these methodologies within the context of design concerns such as: research purpose, operationalization, validity, reliability, and ethics.

Required Readings

Ronnet Bachman & Russell K. Schutt (2015). *Fundamentals of research in criminology and criminal justice* (3rd Ed.). Sage (ISBN: 978-1-4833-3345-8).

Additional readings may be uploaded from time to time to our course page on Canvas.

Office Hours

I have office hours immediately preceding our class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can drop in during this time if you have questions or concerns about the course, your grade, etc. If these times don't work for you, email me to set up an appointment.

Communication Etiquette

Email is the best way to reach me with questions or concerns. Please include the course name in the subject, begin all emails with a greeting, describe your concern or specific question(s), and conclude with your full name.

Assignments

Exams

There will be three exams over the course of the semester, comprised of multiple choice and short-answer questions drawn from the assigned readings and class discussions. You will have the entire class session to complete each exam. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

Other Assignments

Periodically, you will be required to complete reading quizzes, writing assignments, or group activities. Collectively, these will account for the remaining 25% of your final grade.

Grades

- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%
- Exam 3: 25%
- Other Assignments: 25%

These weighted scores will be added up at the end of the semester to generate your overall grade in the course:

Letter Grade	Score
A+	97 - 100
A	93 - 96
A-	90 - 92
B+	87 - 89
B	83 - 86
B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79
C	73 - 76
C-	70 - 72
D+	67 - 69
D	63 - 66
D-	60 - 62
F	0 - 59

Makeup Policy

Barring a family emergency or sickness, missed exams or assignments may not be made up. If either of these situations do arise, please contact me immediately so that we can make arrangements.

Academic Integrity

Don't cheat. Students should familiarize themselves with the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the [policy on academic integrity](#). Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable. Instances of academic dishonesty will, at a minimum, result in a failing grade for that assignment, and a record of academic dishonesty will be placed in the student's academic file that is maintained by the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Instances of academic dishonesty may also be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

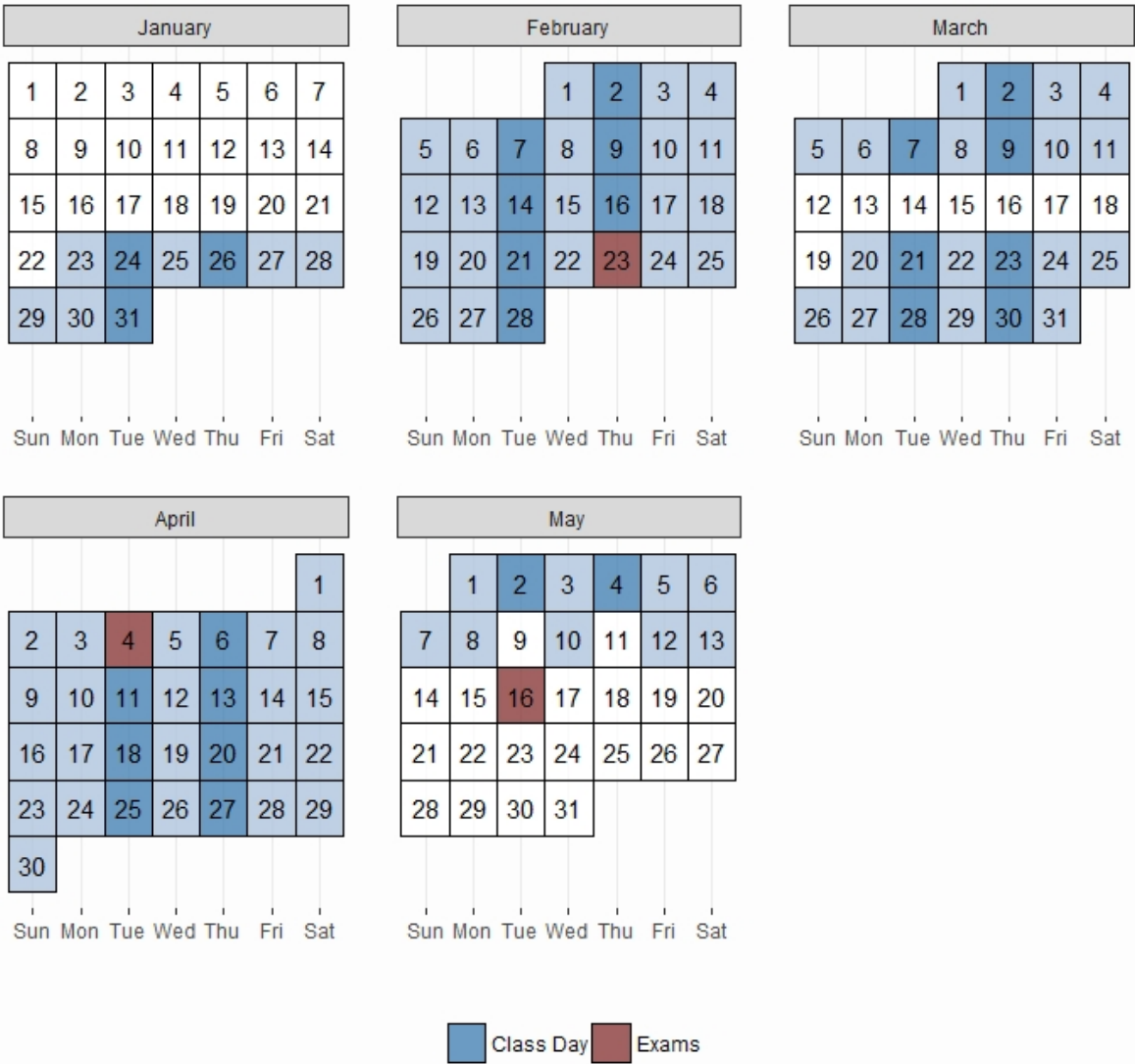
Students with Accessibility Issues

Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with the Accessibility Services Center and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact the Accessibility Services Center (MBSC 126, Phone 554-2872, TTY 554-3799, or visit their [website](#)).

Tentative Class Schedule

CRCJ 2510 - Spring 2023

Course Calendar



Notable dates: Spring Break (Mar 13-19), Prep Week (May 8-13)

Week 01, 01/23 - 01/27

- Tuesday: Intro / Review syllabus
- Thursday: Chapter 1 - Science, society, and criminological research

Week 02, 01/30 - 02/03

- Tuesday: Chapter 1 - Science, society, and criminological research
- Thursday: Chapter 2 - The process and problems of criminological research

Week 03, 02/06 - 02/10

- Tuesday: Chapter 2 - The process and problems of criminological research
- Thursday: Chapter 3 - Research ethics and philosophies

Week 04, 02/13 - 02/17

- Tuesday: Chapter 3 - Research ethics and philosophies
- Thursday: Chapter 4 - Conceptualization and measurement

Week 05, 02/20 - 02/24

- Tuesday: Chapter 4 - Conceptualization and measurement
- Thursday: **Exam #1**

Week 06, 02/27 - 03/03

- Tuesday: Chapter 5 - Sampling
- Thursday: Chapter 5 - Sampling

Week 07, 03/06 - 03/10

- Tuesday: Chapter 6 - Causation and research design
- Thursday: Chapter 6 - Causation and research design

Week 08, 03/13 - 03/17

- **Spring Break - no class**

Week 09, 03/20 - 03/24

- Tuesday: Chapter 7 - Survey research
- Thursday: Chapter 7 - Survey research

Week 10, 03/27 - 03/31

- Tuesday: Chapter 8 - Qualitative methods and data analysis
- Thursday: Chapter 8 - Qualitative methods and data analysis

Week 11, 04/03 - 04/07

- Tuesday: **Exam 2**
- Thursday: Chapter 9 - Analyzing content

Week 12, 04/10 - 04/14

- Tuesday: Chapter 9 - Analyzing content
- Thursday: Chapter 10 - Evaluation and policy analysis

Week 13, 04/17 - 04/21

- Tuesday: Chapter 10 - Evaluation and policy analysis
- Thursday: Chapter 11 - Mixing and comparing methods

Week 14, 04/24 - 04/28

- Tuesday: Chapter 11 - Mixing and comparing methods
- Thursday: Chapter 12 - Reporting research results

Week 15, 05/01 - 05/05

- Tuesday: Chapter 12 - Reporting research results
- Thursday: Review for final

Week 16, 05/08 - 05/12

- **Prep Week - no class**

Week 17, 05/15 - 05/19

- Tuesday: **Final Exam**