

CRCJ 2510: Research Methods

Dr. Justin Nix

Spring 2024

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Grad Assistant (GA): ***

Office Hours: ***

Office: ***

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GA's Email: ***

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

Ronet Bachman & Russell K. Schutt (2020). *Fundamentals of research in criminology and criminal justice* (5th Ed.). Sage (ISBN: 9781544374055).¹

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

Office Hours

I have office hours immediately following 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.

¹Note you may be able to obtain Version 3 or 4, or an electronic version, at lower cost.

Homework Assignments

There will be 5 [homework assignments](#) over the course of the semester. They will require you to seek out and read social science research and do some basic data analysis in [JASP](#), among other things. Collectively, the homework assignments will account for the remaining 25% of your final grade.

Grades

- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%
- Exam 3: 25%
- 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.

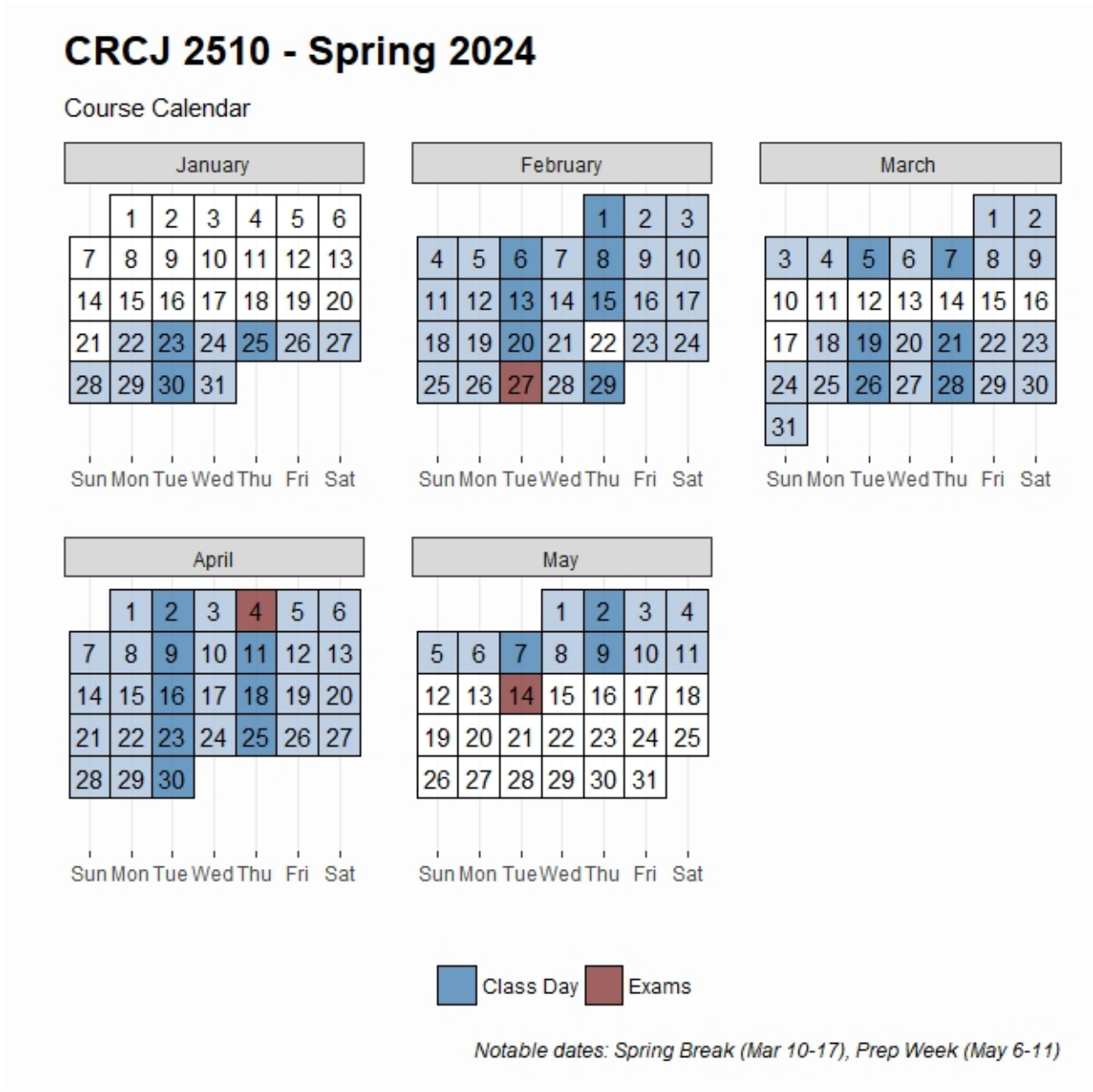
Academic Integrity

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 Needs

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



Week 01, 01/22 - 01/26

- Tuesday: Intro / Review syllabus
- Thursday: Chapter 1 - Science, Society, and Research Related to Criminal Justice and Criminology

Week 02, 01/29 - 02/02

- Tuesday: Chapter 1 - Science, Society, and Research Related to Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Thursday: Chapter 2 - The Process and Problems of Research Related to Crime and Criminology

Week 03, 02/05 - 02/09

- Tuesday: Chapter 2 - The Process and Problems of Research Related to Crime and Criminology
 - (Assignment #1 due)
- Thursday: Chapter 3 - Ethical Guidelines for Research

Week 04, 02/12 - 02/16

- Tuesday: Chapter 3 - Ethical Guidelines for Research
- Thursday: Chapter 4 - Conceptualization and Measurement

Week 05, 02/19 - 02/23

- Tuesday: Chapter 4 - Conceptualization and Measurement
- Thursday: **No class**

Week 06, 02/26 - 03/01

- Tuesday: **Exam 1**
- Thursday: Chapter 5 - Sampling

Week 07, 03/04 - 03/08

- Tuesday: Chapter 5 - Sampling
 - (Assignment #2 due)
- Thursday: Chapter 6 - Causation and Experimentation

Week 08, 03/11 - 03/15

- **Spring Break - No class**

Week 09, 03/18 - 03/22

- Tuesday: Chapter 6 - Causation and Experimentation
- Thursday: Chapter 7 - Survey Research

Week 10, 03/25 - 03/29

- Tuesday: Chapter 7 - Survey Research
- Thursday: Chapter 8 - Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis

Week 11, 04/01 - 04/05

- Tuesday: Chapter 8 - Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis
 - (Assignment #3 due)
- Thursday: **Exam 2**

Week 12, 04/08 - 04/12

- Tuesday: Chapter 9 - Analyzing Content and Police Data
- Thursday: Chapter 9 - Analyzing Content and Police Data

Week 13, 04/15 - 04/19

- Tuesday: Chapter 10 - Evaluation and Policy Analysis
- Thursday: Chapter 10 - Evaluation and Policy Analysis
 - ([Assignment #4](#) due)

Week 14, 04/22 - 04/26

- Tuesday: Chapter 11 - Mixing and Comparing Methods
- Thursday: Chapter 11 - Mixing and Comparing Methods

Week 15, 04/29 - 05/03

- Tuesday: Chapter 12 - Summarizing and Reporting Research
- Thursday: Chapter 12 - Summarizing and Reporting Research
 - ([Assignment #5](#) due)

Week 16, 05/06 - 05/10

- Tuesday: Review for Final
- Thursday: **No class**

Week 17, 05/13 - 05/17

- Tuesday: **Final Exam at 12PM**