

CRCJ 2510: Research Methods

Nicholas Vietto

Fall 2023

Instructor: Nicholas Vietto
Contact: nvietto@unomaha.edu
Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom
Class Meeting Times: NA
Classroom: NA

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.

Textbook and Resources

- **Required Textbook:** Ronet Bachman & Russell K. Schutt (2015). Fundamentals of research in criminology and criminal justice (3rd Ed.). Sage (ISBN: 978-1-4833-3345-8).
- **Supplementary Resources:** Will be uploaded to the course page on Canvas

Assignments, Exams, and Grading

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. Additionally, there will be writing and group assignments periodically throughout the semester.

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

Grading scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (0-59).

Policies

- **Attendance:** Attendance in this course is considered an integral part of the learning experience and contributes to your overall success. Engaging in class discussions, group activities, and participating in hands-on experiences are essential for a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
- **Late Work:** If you miss an assignment due to your own illness (including mental health) or the illness of a family member or close friend, please let me know within 48 hours (use email provided above). Depending on circumstances, I may allow you to make up an assignment within one week of the due date or to submit an additional assignment in lieu of a missed assignment. If some circumstance arises

during the semester that may require you to miss several activities or assignments, please let me know as soon as possible.

- **Academic Integrity:** Maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity is crucial for fostering a fair and ethical learning environment. I take academic dishonesty and lack of integrity seriously and will follow all procedures that are stated by the University of Nebraska-Omaha's [academic integrity policy](#).
- **Accommodations:** Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Accessibility Services Center (ASC) and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact ASC (Location: 104 H&K, Phone: 402.554.2872, Email: unoaccessibility@unomaha.edu). In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) are free and confidential for enrolled students. For more information, contact CAPS at 402.554.2409, H&K 101, Monday – Friday, 8a.m. - 5p.m. Please also visit our [website](#) to learn more. If you are in crisis or dealing with thoughts of suicide, please call 402.554.2409 (and press “2” after-hours) to speak to a counselor immediately.

Schedule

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be communicated to students.

Week 1, 08/21-08/26

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

Week 2, 08/28-09/01

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

Week 3, 09/04-09/08

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

Week 4, 09/11-09/15

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

Week 5, 09/18-09/22

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

Week 6, 09/25-09/29

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

Week 7, 10/02-10/06

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

Week 8, 10/09-10/13

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

Week 9, 10/16-10/20

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

Week 10, 10/23-10/27

- Tuesday: Chapter 8 - Qualitative methods and data analysis
- Thursday: **Exam 2**

Week 11, 10/30-11/03

- Tuesday: Chapter 9 - Analyzing content
- Thursday: Chapter 10 - Analyzing content

Week 12, 11/06-11/10

- Tuesday: Chapter 10 -Evaluation and policy analysis
- Thursday: Chapter 11 - Evaluation and policy analysis

Week 13, 11/13-11/17

- ASC Conference (No Class)

Week 14, 11/20-11/24

- Tuesday: Chapter 11 - Mixing and comparing methods
- Thursday: Thanksgiving Vacation

Week 15, 11/27-12/01

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

Week 16, 12/04-12/08

- Prep Week - Study, study, study. . . . and sleep

Week 17, 12/11-12/15

- Tuesday: **Exam 3**
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