

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2025 Syllabus
CJUS 5303-0072: Research Methods

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| Department of | Criminal Justice | School of | Liberal Arts and Sciences |
| Instructor Name: | Julie Siddique, PhD | | |
| Office Location: | FH 200D | | |
| Office Phone: | 972-338-1835 | | |
| Email Address: | julie.siddique@untdallas.edu | | |
| Office Hours: | Wednesday 11am-1pm | | |
| Virtual Office Hours: | Tuesday/Thursday 12pm-1pm | | |
| Classroom Location: | Online | | |
| Class Meeting Days & Times: | Online | | |
| Course Catalog Description: | This course prepares students in the application of research methodology in criminal justice and other social science disciplines. | | |
| Prerequisites: | This course assumes students have completed an undergraduate research methods course and have a foundational understanding of research methods and design. | | |
| Required Text: | Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology by Michael G. Maxfield, Earl R. Babbie 9th Edition Copyright 2025 ISBN: | | |
| Access to Learning Resources: | UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-1616 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library email: library@untdallas.edu UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com | | |
| Supported Browsers: Chrome 67 & 68 Firefox 60 & 61 Flash 29, 30 (for audio/video) Internet Explorer 11 Edge 41, 42 Respondus Lockdown Browser Safari 10, 11 Supported Devices: iPhone Android Chromebook <i>(Tablet users can use the Canvas app)</i> | Getting Help with Canvas: Canvas 24/7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634 Canvas Help Resources: Canvas Student Guide For additional assistance, contact Student Assistance (Distance Learning): Founders Hall, Rm 124 phone: (972)338-5580 email: distancelearning@untdallas.edu <i>If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, make sure to keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress.</i> <i>If you have a course-related issue (course content, assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact me by email.</i> | | |

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| Screen Readers: VoiceOver (Safari) JAWS (Internet Explorer) NVDA (Firefox) <i>Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome</i> | |
| Course Overview: | |
| Quantitative and qualitative methods of gathering and analyzing data on crime and the justice system, with special attention devoted to evaluation methods and critiquing research. | |
| Course Learning Objectives: | |
| 1 | Describe the importance of research to the field of criminal justice |
| 2 | Distinguish between various research methodologies |
| 3 | Conduct a basic literature review |
| 4 | Prepare a research proposal |

Online Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Canvas announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, Any changes will be noted in class announcements and via university email.

| TIMELINE | COURSE TOPICS | ACTIVITIES | DUE |
|----------|---|---------------------------------------|------|
| Week 1 | Chapter 1. Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry Chapter 2. Foundations of Criminal Justice Research | Assignment 1, Discussion 1, Quiz 1 | 3/23 |
| Week 2 | Chapter 3. Ethics and Criminal Justice Research Chapter 4. General Issues in Research Design | Assignment 2, Discussion 2, Quiz 2 | 3/30 |
| Week 3 | Chapter 5. Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement Chapter 6. Measuring Crime | Assignment 3, Discussion 3, Quiz 3 | 4/6 |
| Week 4 | Chapter 7. Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs Chapter 8. Sampling | Assignment 4, Discussion 4, Quiz 4 | 4/13 |
| Week 5 | Chapter 9. Survey Research Chapter 10. Qualitative Interviewing | Assignment 5, Discussion 5, Quiz 5 | 4/20 |
| Week 6 | Chapter 11. Field Observation Chapter 12. Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data | Assignment 6, Discussion 6, Quiz 6 | 4/27 |
| Week 7 | Chapter 13. Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis Chapter 14. Interpreting Data | Assignment 7, Discussion 7, Quiz 7 | 5/4 |
| Week 8 | Research Proposal | Research Proposal | 5/10 |

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Quizzes – Students will demonstrate cumulative knowledge of course concepts.

Discussion Board – Students will express their ideas and thoughts, engage in academic dialogue, and interact with fellow students.

Assignments – Student's will engage with and apply course content in a variety of activities.

Research Proposal – Students will compose a research proposal demonstrating a working knowledge of research design and methodologies.

Grading Policies and Guidelines

GRADING MATRIX

| Instrument | Value (points or percentages) | Total |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Quizzes | 7 quizzes @ 5 points each | 35 points |
| Discussion Board | 7 discussions @ 2 points each | 14 points |
| Weekly Assignment | 7 assignments @ 3 points each | 21 points |
| Research Proposal | 30 points | 30 points |
| Total: | 100 points | 100 points |

GRADE DETERMINATION:

A = 90% or better

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = less than 60%

Late work will not be accepted unless there is a documented emergency.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students:

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may contact **Section 504 Coordinator, Cynthia Suarez, at 972-338-1777 or email cynthia.suarez@untDallas.edu.**

Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. [Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is also provided.](#)

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: The instructor reserves the right to reduce points or refuse any coursework that is submitted late. Late work may be accepted without penalty for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook) and with the instructor's consent. As general rule, I will accept late work that is up to one week late, but your grade will be reduced by one letter grade.

Exam Policy: (Online exams and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor's discretion). NOTE: Online exams may be proctored on campus per instructor's discretion or meet ADA compliance.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to [UNT Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity](#) for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Statement Regarding Artificial Intelligence

The UNT-Dallas department of Criminal Justice and Sociology acknowledges the evolving capabilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and their various effects on student writing and content creation. The department and its' programs take a use-with-permission approach to AI. Students are only permitted to use AI technology in the creation of any course content if permitted by the course instructor. If the use of AI technology is detected, without specific instructor permission, the student will be deemed in violation of the plagiarism policy (see Student Code of Conduct).

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Canvas classroom and on campus meetings is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in group project and discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Canvas, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing group project. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to [UNT Dallas' Registrar](#) for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Instructor Communication Policy:

It is student's responsibility to ensure that you have access to your official UNT-Dallas email and course site. Course related correspondence will be sent by email or posted in Canvas announcements. Please keep emails academic and professional in nature. All questions regarding the course shall be sent through your UNT Dallas email.

Response Time: Although, I try to respond as quickly as possible, please allow up to 48 hours. Please do not send additional emails until after the allotted response time.

Online "Netiquette":

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to [UNT Dallas Student Code of Conduct](#). Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Assistance: In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the first page of the syllabus.

If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor.

If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- [UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements](#)
- [Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems](#)