

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**<<INSERT CAMPUS NAME>>**

Wayland Mission Statement:Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Course Title, Number, and Section: CRIJ 5330 VC01 - Research Methods

Term:Spring 2018

Instructor:Dr. Colleen Mruzik

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address: (314) 881 -8308

Office Hours, Building, and Location:On-line via Blackboard, Announcements, and Discussion Board. I will answer e-mails within 24 hours. I am available by phone MThF 9am - 5pm CST, T 8am - 12pm, and Sa 1pm - 6pm.

Class Meeting Time and Location: Virtual Campus

Catalog Description: Examines research and methodology specifically designed for criminal justice applications as tools to develop and implement basic research.

**There is no prerequisite for this course.**

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Material(s) : *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology*, Hagan, Pearson, 10th ed., 2018, ISBN: 9780134558912

Optional Materials: NA

Course Outcome Competencies:Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Discuss and demonstrate an understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry and the importance of research to the field of criminal justice.
* Analyze and apply the concepts of multiple methods of collecting, analyzing, interpreting and reporting research results.
* Identify and describe the basic quantitative statistical analyses found in criminal justice.
* Discuss and explain the ethical considerations in conducting criminal justice research.
* Outline and discuss the major steps in empirical research in criminal justice
* Discuss and explain the language of search utilized in criminal justice and criminology research.
* Describe and discuss the experimental design model and its variations as it relates to research in criminal justice.
* Identify and discuss the alternative data-gathering strategies and their relationship to Uniform Crime Reports, Geographic Information Systems and the Crime Index.
* Explain and discuss sampling techniques, survey research techniques, participate observation and case studies.
* Describe and discuss the unobtrusive measures, secondary analysis and uses of official statistics in criminology and criminal justice.
* Discuss the ways of determining validity, reliability, and the weaknesses of validation studies in criminal justice.
* Explain the use of measurement, scaling procedures and the variety of scales used in research investigations.
* Discuss and explain the challenges of data management and efficient data gathering, coding and data presentation.
* Explain and discuss the steps in evaluation research, the obstacles to criminal justice research and government policy analysis.
* Outline and describe the important steps in writing and effective research report.

Attendance Requirements:

WBUonline (Virtual Campus)

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

Disability Statement:In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university.  The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765.  Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

Daily access to computer, internet, e-mail and use Microsoft Word (doc) word processing software for all assignments. All communications and assignments are to be done online via the online course and/or e-mail.

**A. Discussion Boards:** There will be a discussion topic each week of class, with the exception of week 11. All first posts must be done by Wednesday @ 11:59 p.m. CST of each week, and the remaining 2 posts must be in by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST each week

**Note:** Posting all your discussions answers on Bb is a major requirement of this course. In this context, Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any way (Wayland Baptist University Policy on Dishonesty). You may view your peers work and postings to learn from one another, but you can’t copy their work. Students who have circumstances which prevent them from participating or completing an assignment on time must communicated with me in order to find reasonable accommodations to complete the required course work.

There are specific assignments that must be completed each week. Your individual responses must be insightful, thorough, and interesting. These responses should demonstrate an understanding of the assigned readings and should be substantiated by two or more examples from the textbook and/or appropriate websites.

Each response to your classmates should be substantive. Participation is measured on the student’s interaction and contribution with the course and other students as demonstrated through active involvement on the virtual classroom discussion board. A student’s contribution must add value to the course. A discussion board posting is determined to be of substance by containing information that supplements, contradicts, questions, or furthers discussion on a subject area contained in the course. Additionally, it is expected that student participation reflect critical thinking and good grammar.

**B. Course Exam and quizzes:** You will have weekly quizzes and a final. Both exam and quizzes will be open book/open note. They will be timed and will cover the material extensively. Quiz questions may consist of multiple choice and true/false. Exam questions may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer.

**C. Final Project:**  Students will be required to write a paper. The topic of the paper will be given in Week 1. The text of the paper must be a minimum of eight pages (Maximum of fourteen). Papers must be submitted in APA and Legal Citation format (to be explained during the course). Plagiarism shall result in disciplinary action. Late papers will receive lower grades unless the instructor determines that there is a satisfactory reason for the late receipt.

**Means of Assessment:**

Assessment % Final Grade

Discussion Board/Participation 40

Weekly Quizzes 15

Final Exam 20

Final Project 25

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student Grade Appeals:

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule**: Pending**

Additional Information: **NA**

[**http://catalog.wbu.edu**](http://catalog.wbu.edu)