



WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES
WBU Online

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 - Research Methods

Term: Winter 2019 (11/11/2019 - 2/15/2020)

Instructor: Dr. Morris Thompson

Office Phone Number: 806-291-3406

WBU Email Address: thompsonm@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Office Hours are scheduled by appointment; Gates Hall, Room 011

Class Meeting Time and Location: Online

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:

Hagan, Frank E., *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology* (10th edition), Pearson; 10 edition (March 18, 2017)

ISBN-10: 013455891X

ISBN-13: 978-0134558912

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: Grading Scale:

| Assignment | Grading Weight |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Discussion Board Posts | 10% |
| Research Proposal Topic | 10% |
| Research Problem Statement | 10% |
| Data & Methodology Paper | 15% |
| Research Design – Draft 1 | 15% |
| Research Design – Final Draft | 40% |

A = 90-100%, D = 60-69%
B = 80-89%, F = 59 and below
C = 70-79%, I = Incomplete

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.

Course Assignments:

Discussion Board Posts: Students will be required to participate in weekly discussion boards throughout the semester. Each student will be required to respond to discussion topics/questions with at least a 250 word post. This is to be completed by Monday, 11:59 PM of that week. Each student must also respond to at least one other student with a 150 word response by Thursday, 11:59 PM of that week.

Research Proposal: Students are required to submit a proposal for their research design. The proposal should be between ½ -1 page double spaced 12-point font. The paper should explicitly state the research question; why you want to explore this question; why you think this question will make a positive contribution within the field of Criminal Justice and the study of Criminology; and any other points that support your research as being valuable within the field.

Research Problem Statement: For this assignment students should present their research question. Your question should be framed in the literature, which should include evidence of why your question is important, how it fits the current understanding of the topic, and how your study will add to the field (1-2 pages, double spaced, 12-point font). Your problem statement should also include a brief (3-4 pages, double spaced, 12-point font) literature review on the topic. Your total assignment should not exceed 6 double spaced pages. Please consult the appropriate learning modules for additional information on research questions, framing the literature, and writing literature reviews. Please include proper in-text citations and a work cited page. Students are required to use APA citation format.

Data and Methodology Paper: For this assignment students will provide a thorough discussion of their variables, data, data collection, and potential methods of evaluation. It is expected that you discuss and justify all concepts, the operationalization of these concepts, and measures of these concepts. Additionally, your paper should include a discussion of your data collection protocol along with justification as to why your proposed data is sufficient to answer your research question. Please include any shortcomings related to your data. Finally, your paper should include a brief discussion of potential methods for evaluating your proposed data. Remember, in a research design you are not expected to actually collect or analyze data; however, it is important to keep this in mind when constructing your design. Please consult the appropriate learning modules for additional information on research questions, framing the literature, and writing literature reviews. Your total assignment should not exceed 6 double spaced pages. Please include proper in-text citations and a works cited page. Students are required to use APA citation format.

Research Design: The culminating assignment for this course is a full research design. A research design is essentially a full research project minus actually collecting and analyzing the data. Students are required to turn in two drafts, a First Draft and a Final Draft (both will be graded). Please use the format below for your Research Design.

Your paper must be a minimum of 12 double spaced pages, 12-point font. Please note, your goal is to produce a quality research design. Your research question and/or the complexity of your study will dictate your final page count. Remember, there is no such thing as a perfect research design. Rather, a good researcher clearly states everything up front, highlights methodological choices, and provides sound and compelling justification/evidence for such choices. Include proper in-text citations and a work cited page. Students are required to use APA citation format.

Your research design must include the following information:

- Introduction (1-2 pages*)
 - Research question
 - Hypothesis
 - The significance of the research question
- Literature review (5-7 pages)
- Data and Methods (4-6 pages)
 - Concepts
 - Operationalization
 - Measurements
 - Data source
 - Sampling method
 - Possible method for data analysis

- Discussion (1-3 pages)
 - Address weaknesses of your design
 - Next steps for your research
- Conclusion (1-2 pages)

**Page numbers are meant to serve as a guide*

Tentative Schedule:

| Date | Topic | Assignment Due |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| November 11th | Introduction to Research Methods: Theory & Method | Discussion Board Read Chapter 1 in RMCJC |
| November 18th | Ethics in Criminal Justice Research | Research Proposal due Read Chapter 2 in RMCJC |
| November 25th | Research Design: The Experimental Model and its Variations | Discussion Board Read Chapter 3 in RMCJC |
| December 2nd | The Uniform Crime Reports & Sampling | Research Problem Statement due Discussion Board Read Chapter 4 in RMCJC |
| December 9th | Survey Research: Questionnaires | Discussion Board Read Chapter 5 in RMCJC |
| December 16th | Survey Research: Interviews & Telephone Surveys | Data & Methodology due Discussion Board Read Chapter 6 in RMCJC |
| December 23rd | NO CLASS – Christmas | No assignments due |
| December 30th | NO CLASS – New Years | No assignments due |
| January 6th | Participant Observation & Case Studies | Discussion Board Read Chapter 7 in RMCJC |
| January 13th | Unobtrusive Measures, Secondary Analysis, & the Uses of Official Statistics | Research Design – Draft One due Discussion Board Read Chapter 8 in RMCJC |
| January 20th | Validity, Reliability, & Triangulated Strategies | Discussion Board Read Chapter 9 in RMCJC |
| January 27th | Scaling & Index Construction | Discussion Board Read Chapter 10 in RMCJC |
| February 3rd | Policy Analysis & Evaluation Research | Discussion Board Read Chapter 11 in RMCJC |
| February 10th | Data Management & Data Analysis | Research Design – Final Draft due Discussion Board Read Chapter 12-13 in RMCJC |

Additional Information:

<http://catalog.wbu.edu>