**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.

**Contact Information**

**Course**

: CRIJ 5330 VC01 – Research Methods

**Campus**

: WBUonline

**Term/Session**

**:** Fall 1 2025

**Instructor**

**:** Dr. Beth Durbin

**Office Phone Number**

**:** cell- 907-460-3226 (text is best)

**WBU Email Address**

**:** durbinb@wbu.edu

**Office Hours, Building, and Location**

**:** Email or text and we will schedule a time to meet

**Class Meeting Time and Location**

**:** WBU Online

**Course Information**

**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.**

**Textbook Information**

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials**

**:** Practical Research: Planning and Design. 13th ed. Leedy & Ormrod. Pearson. ISBN: Digital: 9780137871537

*The textbook for this course is part of the* ***Wayland’s Automatic eBook*** *program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore* [*Automatic eBook FAQ*](https://bookstore.wbu.edu/site_inclusive.asp) *page.*

**Optional Materials**

**:** APA Manual, 7th ed.

**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

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 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, 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 session 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.

**University Policies**

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity , and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence (GAI) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf)

1. No use of any generative AI tools permitted.
   1. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like Chat GPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
   2. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
   3. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

**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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, [hammerr@wbu.edu](mailto:hammerr@wbu.edu) or call (806) 292-9150.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

Required First Assignment on Blackboard: This assignment must be completed as the first assignment for the course – before any other coursework! This counts as attendance for WBU Online and if you do not accomplish it, they will drop you even if you have done other stuff in class. So, get it done first by Wednesday of first week of class!!!!!

**Meet and Greet Discussion Board**: So everyone can get to know each other post information about yourself by Friday of the first week of class and respond to two classmates by Sunday. 20 points

**Email Assignment:** In an effort to ensure that you are capable of communicating with me, you will be required to review the syllabus and email me from your Wayland/personal email address on or before the Sunday of first week of class by 11:59 PM. The email should simply state that the you are fulfilling the email assignment and that you have read the syllabus. You should also address whether or not you have any questions regarding the syllabus. 25 points possible.

**Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments are to be completed on time (i.e., before the corresponding assignments are due). It will be to your benefit to take notes as you read. Additionally, you should be prepared to participate in online discussions about the assigned reading.

**Discussion Boards:** There will be discussion board for each week of class. Each week a prompt will be posted. You will need to formulate an initial response to that prompt by Wednesday @ 11:59 p.m. of each week. By Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST each week, you will need to have read your classmates initial responses and reply to at least two of your classmates’ initial responses.

**Note**: You may view your peers work and postings to learn from one another, but you can’t copy their work. While there is no specific word limit, your initial post should be long enough to adequately address the prompt and all issues that are presented. Your initial post must be insightful, thorough, and show an appreciation and understanding of the issues. Your responses to your classmates’ initial posts should identify portions of the post you agree/disagree with and explain why. Additionally, your responses should supplement, contradict, question, or further discussion on the pertinent subject area. All posts should be substantiated by examples from the textbook and/or appropriate websites. **Do not forget to cite your sources**! It is also expected that all posts reflect critical thinking and good grammar.

**Assignments:** You will have 5 assignments to help you write your final research design paper, your 6th assignment. The assignments should be completed in APA.

***There will be videos to watch during some of the weeks of class. Please watch them, they have beneficial information for your paper.***

***Also, go to the gradebook and read your comments after you have turned an assignment in and I have had time to grade it. This is a full class, so it could take me a short bit to read everyone’s assignment. I will post in comments what you need to fix.***

**Research Proposal:** Students are required to submit a proposal for their research design. The proposal should be between ½ to 1-page double spaced and 12-point New Time Roman 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 or Human Services; 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. This section should have the following: Statement of problem, Purpose of the Study, Research Question(s), and the Significance of the Study.

**Brief Review of the Literature**: A literature review is a survey of scholarly sources on a specific topic. It provides an overview of current knowledge, allowing you to identify relevant theories, methods, and gaps in the existing research.

There are five key steps to writing a literature review:

1. **Search** for relevant literature
2. **Evaluate** sources
3. **Identify** themes, debates and gaps
4. **Outline** the structure
5. **Write** your literature review

A good literature review doesn’t just summarize sources—it analyzes, synthesizes, and critically evaluates to give a clear picture of the state of knowledge on the subject.

**Data and Methodology Part 1**: For this and the next assignment students will provide a thorough discussion of their research design, population/Sample, Materials/Instrumentation, Study Procedure, and Date Collection & Analysis. It is expected that you discuss and justify all concepts, the operationalization of these concepts, and measure of their concepts. Remember, in a research design you are not expected to actually collect or analyze the data, however, it is important to keep this in mind when constructing your design.

**Data and Methodology Part 2**: You are continuing this section and will thoroughly discuss Assumptions, Limitations, Delimitations, Ethical Assurance and the Next Steps in Research.

**Research Design Paper**: The cumulating assignment for this course is a full research design paper. A research design is essentially a full research project minus actually collecting and analyzing the data. Make sure to add an introduction and conclusion to your final paper.

Your final paper should be a minimum of 12 double spaced pages, 12-point New Time Roman font. Please note, your goal is to produce a quality research design. Your research question and/or 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 reference page. Students are required to use APA citation/reference format.

Your research design paper must include the following information:

* Cover Page
* Introduction
  + Statement of the Problem
  + Purpose of the Study
  + Research Question
  + Significance of the Study
* Brief Review of the Literature
* Date & Methodology
  + Research Design
  + Population/Sample
  + Materials/Instrumentation
  + Study Procedures
  + Date Collection & Analysis
  + Assumptions
  + Limitations
  + Delimitations
  + Ethical Assurance
  + Next Step in Research
* Conclusion
* References

**Course Grading Method:**

* Meet & Greet Introduction: 20 points
* Email Assignment: 25 points
* Research Proposal: 100 points
* Research Problem Statement 100 points
* Brief Literature Review 100 points
* Date & Methodology 1 100 points
* Data & Methodology 2 100 points
* Research Design Paper 300 points
* Discussion Board: 160 Points Possible 8 discussion boards/ each DB worth 20 points

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**= 1005 Points Possible**

**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, within the last week of an 8-week session, 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 16-week term or 8-week session, 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 are 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**

**Week 1 August 11 Chapter 1**

**Required First Assign. On Blackboard: Due Wed.**

**Meet & Greet Discussion Board: Due Friday @ 11:59 PM**

**Initial Discussion Board Response: Due Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Email Assignment: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 2 August 18 Chapter 2 & 3**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Research Proposal: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 3 August 25 Chapter 4 and 5**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Research Problem Statement: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 4 September 1 Chapter 6 & 7**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Start your Literature Review**

**Week 5 September 8 Chapter 8 & 9**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Brief Review of the Literature – Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 6 September 15 Chapter 10 & 11**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Data & Methodology Part 1: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM**

**Week 7 September 22 Chapter 12 & 13**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Data & Methodology Part 2 - Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 8 September 29 Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Saturday @ 11:59 PM**

**Research Design Paper - Due Saturday @ 11:59 PM**

**Additional Information**

**Census Date, last day to drop without record: August 18, 2025**

**Last day to drop with a W: September 12, 2025**

**Last day to drop with WP/WF: September 26, 2025**

<http://catalog.wbu.edu>