



Syllabus

Lamar University, a member of The Texas State University System, is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters, and Doctorate degrees (more details at <http://www.lamar.edu>).

Department: Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice
Course Number: CRIJ 5331
Course Title: Quantitative Methods in Criminology
Instructor: Cheng-Hsien Lin, PhD
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

Course Materials

Required Text

- Pearson, Robert W. 2010. *Statistical Persuasion*. Sage Publication. Inc. (Required) ISBN: 978-1-4129-7496-7
- Maxfield, Michael G. and Babbie, Earl R. 2014. *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology* (7th Edition). Boston, MA: Wadsworth Publishing Company. (Required) ISBN: 978-1285067841 You may find this or earlier ebook versions on <https://books.google.com>

Optional Text

- Hartley Richard D. 2011. *Snapshot of Research: Readings in Criminology and Criminal Justice.* (Optional) ISBN: 978-1-4129-8919-0. This book is helpful for your final paper. It also includes many shorter version of published journal articles that you can use as samples for writing your final paper.

APA Resource

- The Purdue University Online Writing Lab <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Course Description

Coding and analysis of research data, the application of statistical methods common to criminology, and the presentation of research findings to policy makers.

Prerequisite: An undergraduate course in Research Methods (CRIJ 4380 or equivalent) is expected before students take this course.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

The objectives of methods class for graduate student are (1) to introduce the logic of the scientific research; (2) to discuss the application of the key elements and concepts of diverse social research; (3) to administer basic skills to conduct a research; and (4) to learn evaluation skills for others' studies in terms of the requirements of the scientific research. These outcomes should be the foundation for graduate students who prepare themselves to professional fields.

CRIJ 5331 Quantitative Methods in Criminology

In this class, the class format focus on training students as a professional in criminological career. In today's world, some common requirements for such a career track include:

- Able to classify and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the research design (specifically the "fit" among the methods, data, and argument) of sociological research both as published in refereed journals and as represented in policy/political debates in the popular press.
- Able to define, give the significance of, and use key concepts in research ethics (particularly but not exclusively research with human subjects) as they apply to research design.
- Able to choose appropriately, and describe in detail sufficient to justify to a non-specialist, a research design for a specific research project, and
- Able to develop and discipline your curiosity and passion for inquiry by converting problems and puzzles into research questions and designs for empirical research. Explain in your own words what sociologists gain – and perhaps lose – with this discipline.

Student learner outcomes will be assessed by multiple courses assignments to develop students' knowledge and skill resolving criminological inquiries. The class final project will be testing their overall learning outcomes throughout the course session.

Instructional Assistants

If an Instructional Assistant is assigned for this class, the information about Instructional Assistants will be provided through an e-mail. Instructional Assistants have been selected for their graduate academic records, their teaching experiences and accomplishments, their knowledge and expertise in this academic discipline, and their pedagogical understanding of students. Students will send course activities, assignments, questions, and correspondences to the Instructional Assistants through the courseware.

University faculty hold ultimate responsible for all assessments and final course grades. Each semester, the University faculty will conduct random reviews of materials to ensure inter-rater reliability for all Instructional Assistants.

Prerequisites

Admission to the Lamar University Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree program made available through Academic Partnerships. Prior completion of Introduction to Criminal Justice and Introduction of Sociology is strongly recommended.

Computer Requirements. Students who take distance courses via BLACKBOARD will need to be responsible to have the following

g capabilities and Software:

- Broadband connection (cable modem, DSL, or other high speed) required – courses are heavily video intensive (3 Mbps or faster)
- 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB or more preferred Computer with at least 250 mb memory
- Word processor software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader and Real Player (downloadable)
- Computer setting to be configured for youtube clips (MWV, MPEG4, MPG, MOV, AVI, and FLV)

*** Center for Distance Education may help give you advice about what you need to**

consider for good quality computer hardware and software. Please call them at 880-7849.

Blackboard Online System. The Blackboard system is usually not available from 2 am to 4 am due to backups. I do not recommend trying to turn in assignments or taking tests after midnight. Let me know of any Blackboard outages or problems that you encounter as soon as they happen.

Course Management Policies

Disability Accommodation. It is the policy of Lamar University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law, and the University's commitment to equal educational opportunities. You should contact the office for disability services at the university to request accommodation. You may also contact them online at <http://dept.lamar.edu/sfswd> or by phone at (409) 880-2225.

Academic Honesty. Students are specifically warned against all forms of cheating and plagiarism. The *Lamar University Student Handbook* states: Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Punishable offenses include, but are not limited to, cheating on an examination or academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. One aspect of the handbook's definition of cheating is, "purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm." Plagiarism is defined as, "the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or ideas into one's own offered for credit." Students seeking to avoid plagiarism should consult with the course instructor or recent handbooks such as the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6th edition). Faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences investigate all cases of suspected plagiarism. Any student who submits plagiarized work in this course will fail the course.

Students are encouraged to discuss the ideas needed for implementing programming assignments, but copying code or allowing another to copy your own source code is an act of plagiarism and will result in a zero grade on the assignments where this occurs.

Course Evaluation: Instruction as well as student performance is subject to evaluation. Procedures for evaluation will be provided near the end of this course.

myLamar Portal. Students are asked to obtain a Lamar Electronic Account username and password so they can log into the myLamar Web site. Students may get information on how to get into the myLamar Web site from the University's homepage (<http://www.lamar.edu>) by clicking on the myLamar link on the left top corner of the screen. Follow the steps to secure your myLamar username and password. Access to library resources is described on the Academic Partnership page, also available through the <http://www.lamar.edu>.

Sexual Harassment. In accordance with administrative policy, sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the university. Behavior in the course must conform to the university policy.

Online Etiquette. Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face communication with others, but most particularly when writing email and when taking part in the discussion board.

Syllabus Subject to Change. While information and assurances are provided in this course syllabus, it should be understood that content may change in keeping with new research and literature and events beyond the control of the instructor. Students will be informed of any substantive occurrences that will produce syllabus changes.

Students with Disability Policy:

"Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communications building room 105. Office staff collaborate with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

For students:

- * If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at 409-880-8347 or drc@lamar.edu to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.
- * If you are registered with DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course."

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to a hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to login to Lamar University's website's homepage (www.Lamar.edu) for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at:
<http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html>

Severe Weather

- * Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.
- * Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- * If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.
- * Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence/Active Shooter (CADD)

- * CALL - 8-3-1-1 from a campus phone (880-8311 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 9-1-1 from either a campus phone or cell phone will contact Beaumont City Police Dispatch rather than University Police.
- * AVOID- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- * DENY- Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.
- * DEFEND- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Academic Continuity Statement: In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to a hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to login to Lamar

University's website's homepage (www.Lamar.edu) for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

Grading and Evaluation

Students are required to complete assignments (including readings), take examinations, and participate in online discussion.

- **Exams. (42 percent of final grade or 210/500 points).** There are 7 Topic throughout the course session and you will take 1 Topic exams in each Topic folder. Do not miss an exam unless it is an absolute emergency (subjects to the instructor's discretion and additional notice is sent to your assigned IA). Please note that you may take your exam up to 2 times but the last one is your earned grade. **YOU WILL NOT KNOW YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT GRADE UNTIL THE TEST DATE/TIME IS DUE.** Each test will be available until **Tuesdays**. Exams adopt **Ture/Fales, Multiple-Choice** (single answer), and **Multiple Answers** (multiple correct answers should be selected) which cover assigned readings while some questions can be applied ones evolved from the chapter text.
- **Final Paper. (20 percent of final grade or 100/500 points).** Your final project in this class will be to assemble a packet of materials for submission (as if you would submit it to the Institutional Review Board). This includes all required paperwork, consent forms, and most of all a research 'protocol' or description of your research design, the contribution you hope to make to social knowledge, and the protections for research with human subjects appropriate to your proposed project. During the final session of the semester, you will present your IRB proposal to the group. The final written version of this work is due at the last day of Topic 7. You are strongly recommended to submit a draft of your materials to another class participant for comments ahead of time so you can refine it before submitting to the class site. This is your opportunity to present your own proposal and demonstrate that you have met the appropriate learning goals. Your paper will go through Blackboard plagiarism examination and any main text (while references are normal since many others may cite same articles you cite in yours) found plagiarized content is subjected to penalty. Quatations are not welcomed in the final paper. Please rephrase and cite them instead.
 - * **Topic-related Suggestions for Final Paper (TSFP).** In each Topic folder, there is Topic-related ideas that could help you to work ahead on your final paper. The ideas include descriptions that could guide your final paper writing on the session that is related to the Topic, and guiding questions that help examine your developing research process ideas. For example, your final paper should include a session of your research sample subjects. The TSFP in the Topic Sampling folder will provide some questions and directions that you may consider to develop your sampling plan for your final paper.
- **Research Paper Review. (14 percent of final grade or 70/500 points).** Each student is expected to review/evaluate a research paper. I will provide one or more published papers and you will write an appreciation and critique on the paper(s) with regards to the research design for the research inquiry, sampling, literature review coverage, hypotheses, and chosen examination methods presented in the research. Look at this assignment as your opportunity to demonstrate the extent to which you have by that point met the relevant learning goals. In your review, not only should you criticize the paper's strengths and weaknesses, you are asked to provide professional opinions how to improve the research (which should be reasonable and workable from the authors' perspective). You may examine its context, key concepts, and controversies related to its approach or problem in research design. Your paper will go through Blackboard plagiarism examination and any main text (while references are normal since many others may cite same articles you cite in yours) found plagiarized content

is subjected to penalty. Quatations are not welcomed in the final paper. Please rephrase and cite them instead.

• **Class Online Discussion. (24 percent of final grade or 120/500 points).**

Before each Saturday, submit your resposes to questions for others to view. Provide enough contexts that your classmates and I can understand your points, and try to direct us to a specific passage in the text that forced you to articulate your question most sharply. Distributed over through Blackboard in a timely manner is expected. These questions will not only help you organize your responses to the readings but will also serve as a learning tool for all in the class.

You will participate in SIX online class discussions. Keep these guidelines in mind:

1. Discussions are due on **Mondays** at 11:59pm.
2. Write in simple, effective, straightforward, standard English. Avoid slang.
3. Don't write an essay. Limit each post to fewer than 200 words but make sure your first post responds to the discussion questions as comprehensive as possible.
4. Write directly in response to the questions. You are expected to post at least 3 times that include two posts responding to your classmates' posts.
5. Refer to comments by previous students when applicable, and **DON'T** simply repeat what someone else has already written. The later you post, the harder it will be for you to write something original.
6. When responding to your peer's posting, don't just say "I agree" or "I disagree." Truly respond to the post.
7. Proofread your post carefully before submitting it, and follow the rules of netiquette: <http://www.otal.umd.edu/~probinso/online/netiquette.html>
8. As an instructor, I will examine but not always respond to everyone's posts. Howeve, I will post my responses when the ongoing discussion appears to be going in the wrong direction.

Grading Policy

SEVEN Examinations	210 Points (30 point per exam)
SIX Online Discussions	120 Points (20 points per board)
ONE Paper Review Assignment	70 Points
ONE Final Paper	100 Points

Total: 500 points

Grading Scale (graduate students should receive a B or higher to pass this course)

- A: 90-100% (450-500 points)
- B: 80-89% (400-499 points)
- C: 70-79% (350-399 points)
- D: 60-69% (300-349 points)
- F: Below 60% (299 points or less)

Participation

Active ongoing participation is required throughout the duration of the course period and may be considered when making borderline final grade decisions.

Drop Dates

This course adheres to the add/drop standards for each term as stated by Lamar University. For more details, refer to the Lamar Web site: <http://www.lamar.edu>.

Make-up Exam

Make-up exams must be pre-approved, except in the case of an unexpected emergency. Also, the excuse will require a electronic or hard copy proof submitted to the course assistant within a week.

Late assignments

Late written assignments may subject to grade penalty. Late assignments may receive late grade.

Course Content Outline

Course Content and Assignments	
<p>Topic 1 Oct. 25 - 31</p>	<p>Introduction of Research Methods and the Foundation</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Letter • Syllabus • Important Class Work Deadlines (Schedule Table) • Topic 1 Introduction • Maxfield & Babbie, Chapters 1-3 • Pearson, Chapter 1 • Hartley, Chapters 1 (<u>This chapter provides a clear description of research process that should benefit your construction of your final paper project</u>) • Topic 1 PPT slide Overview Files • Topic 1 Commentary <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 1 (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 30th</i>) <p>Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Paper Assignment (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5th</i>) • A beginning point for your final paper <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1 Exam (<i>Available until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31st</i>)
<p>Topic 2 Nov. 1 - 7</p>	<p>Research Design</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 2 Introduction • Maxfield & Babbie, Chapters 4 & 7 • Pearson, Chapter 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hartley, Chapter 2 • Topic 2 PPT Slide Overview Files • Topic 2 Commentary <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 2 (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 6th</i>) <p>Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Paper Assignment (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5th</i>) • Work ahead, another step to completion of your final paper <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 2 Exam (<i>Available until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7th</i>)
<p>Topic 3 Nov. 8 - 14</p>	<p>Conceptualization and Measurement</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 3 Introduction • Maxfield & Babbie, Chapters 5 & 6 • Pearson, Chapters 3 & 4 • Hartley, Chapter 4 • Topic 3 PPT Slide Overview Files • Topic 3 Commentary <p>Discussion</p> <p>Discussion Board 3 (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13th</i>)</p> <p>Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Paper Assignment (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5th</i>) • Work ahead, some suggestions to your consideration of your final paper research variable conceptualization and measurement <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 3 Exam (<i>Available until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14th</i>)
<p>Topic 4 Nov. 15 - 21</p>	<p>Sampling</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 4 Introduction • Maxfield & Babbie, Chapter 8 • Pearson, Chapter 8 • Hartley, Chapter 5 • Topic 4 PPT Slide Overview Files • Topic 4 Commentary <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 4 (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 20th</i>)

	<p>Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Paper Assignment (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5th</i>) • Work ahead, consideration of your sampling methods and justification for the final paper project <p>Assessment</p> <p>Topic 4 Exam (<i>Available until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21st</i>)</p>
<p>Topic 5 Nov. 22 - 28</p>	<p>Survey and Qualitative Interviewing</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 5 Introduction • Maxfield & Babbie, Chapters 9 & 10 • Hartley, Chapter 7 • Topic 5 PPT Slide Overview Files • Topic 5 Commentary <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 5 (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27th</i>) <p>Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Paper Assignment (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5th</i>) • Work ahead, consideration of your survey/interviewing process: obstacles/challenges and solutions <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 5 Exam (<i>Available until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28th</i>)
<p>Topic 6 Nov. 29 - Dec. 5</p>	<p>Evaluation Research</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 6 Introduction • Maxfield & Babbie, Chapter 13 • Pearson, Chapters 5 & 10 (Statistics as Relationship). • (You may read Chapter 5 in advance, if Chapter 10 is not as comprehensible as expected) • Hartley, Chapter 11 • Topic 6 PPT Slide Overview Files • Topic 6 Commentary <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 6 (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4th</i>) <p>Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Final Paper (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5th</i>) • Course Completion Survey

	<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 6 Exam (<i>Available until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5th</i>)
<p>Topic 7 Dec. 6 - 12</p>	<p>Data & Interpretations</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 7 Introduction • Maxfield & Babbie, Chapter 14 • Pearson, Chapters 7 & 14 • Topic 7 PPT Slide Overview • Topic 7 Commentary <p>Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research paper review (<i>Due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9th</i>) <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 7 Exam (<i>Available from 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12th</i>)