



CRJU 3213 Research Methods

Fall 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Ben Atkins, Ph.D.

Office: #MA101

Office hours: M 9-11 Tu 8-930 & 11-12 Th 8-930 (email for appointment)

Office phone: (940) 397-6295

E-mail: ben.atkins@msutexas.edu

Course Description

As per the course definition, CRJU 3213 examines “[m]ethods and techniques of research in the behavioral sciences; historical development of psychological and social research; techniques and problems.” The Student should gain and retain the skills and abilities to integrate and synthesize the basic elements of research methodology and statistics for the purposes of conducting criminal justice and criminological research. Student will gain the knowledge to read and interpret the findings of scholarly research articles published in Criminal Justice/Criminology journals.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Frank Hagan, “Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology,” 9th Edition or newer.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Grading

Percentage Breakdown

Assignments	%
Quizzes	25
Research Proposal	25
Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25

Grading Scale

Grade	%
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Quizzes

Quizzes have specified time limit and will be taken online. Quiz questions may be in Multiple Choice, True-False, Short Answer, Fill-in-the-blank, and/or short essay.

Research Proposal

The research proposal will count 25% of your final grade. A research proposal (a.k.a. research prospectus) is considered the "term paper" for the course. For your research proposal you will formulate the proper research methodology on the basis of a full literature review of your topic, utilizing one of the research methodologies discussed in the course and textbook readings.

As each section of the proposal is completed the student is invited to turn it in to the professor for editorial review. The Student is strongly encouraged, but is not required, to re-write the section for the possibility of an improved grade per the editorial comments made by the professor.

The required referencing style is APA. Guidelines for APA referencing are available at The Purdue Online Writing Lab:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Papers must be:

1. Double-spaced,
2. Use Times New Roman,
3. Use 12-point font, and
4. Maintain 1-inch margins.
5. A minimum total length of 6-8 pages of narrative text , and a the following 3 pages: Title Page, Abstract Page, and References Page

The proposals required pages & sections (i.e., Title page, abstract page, Introduction section, literature review section, research design section, conclusion, and references page).

1. **Title Page** will be graded by examining format and the presence of required information as indicated in the example title page.
2. **Abstract page** will be graded on the ability of the student to succinctly relate the proposal's content in *less than 250 words* (but more than 100).
3. **Introduction section** will be graded on the ability of the student to express the relevance of the research to be proposed.
4. **Literature Review section** will be graded on the ability of the student to demonstrate to the instructor that s/he has performed a thorough and comprehensive review of the literature regarding the proposal's topic, utilizes APA in-text referencing of SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES, is free of grammatical and spelling errors, and is succinct.
5. **Research Design/Methodology section** will be graded on the ability of the student to demonstrate that s/he is cognizant of the best method to perform the research, and the limitations thereunto, and can the utilize research terminology to convey to the instructor the research methodology.
6. **Conclusion section** will be graded on adequately recapping the research proposal and discussing future directions to expand upon the research proposed and if relevant any policy implications of the research. The references page will be graded on being formatted in APA and the inclusion of all pertinent information according the source type.

Exam 1

25% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (50 questions) and Essay (2 question) formats. 60 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Exam 2

25% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (50 questions) and Essay (2 question) formats. 60 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is not accepted

Late Work

Late work will receive a grade of F unless a prior agreement exists between the student and Dr. Atkins

Make Up Work/Tests

This is an online course, make-ups not allowed. Missed assignments will automatically receive a grade of F unless a prior arrangement exists between Dr. Atkins and the student or the student missed for a University approved excusable absence.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 28
 Deadline to file for graduation: Sept. 22
 Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Nov. 24 by 4:00pm
 Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Coursework will be completed online.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the

tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule: See following page...

Course Readings and Exam Schedule

***See the D2L Calendar for weekly discussion and chapter quiz due dates.**

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	
Week 1 (Aug. 25)	- Intro to CJ Research Methods: Theory and Method - Quiz 1	Ch. 1
Week 2 (Sept. 1)	- Ethics in CJ Research - Quiz 2	Ch. 2
Week 3 (Sept. 8)	- Research Design: The Experimental Model and its Variations - Quiz 3	Ch. 3
Week 4 (Sept. 15)	- The Uniform Crime Reports and Sampling - Quiz 4	Ch. 4
Week 5 (Sept. 22)	- Survey Research: Questionnaires - Quiz 5	Ch. 5
Week 6 (Sept. 29)	Survey Research: Interviews and Telephone Survey Quiz 6	Ch. 6
Week 7 (Oct. 6)	Participant Observation and Case Studies Quiz 7	Ch. 7
Week 8 (Oct. 13)	Exam #1 (ch. 1-7) Due by 11:30pm on Sunday Oct. 19	Exam #1
Week 9 (Oct. 20)	Unobtrusive Measures, Secondary Analysis, and the Uses of Official Statistics Quiz 8	Ch. 8
Week 10 (Oct. 27)	Validity, Reliability, and Triangulated Strategies Validity, Quiz 9	Ch. 9
Week 11 (Nov. 3)	Scaling and Index Construction Quiz 10	Ch. 10
Week 12 (Nov. 10)	Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research Quiz 11	Ch. 11
Week 13 (Nov. 17)	Data Management: Coding, Tabulation, Quiz 12	Ch. 12
Week 14 (Nov. 24)	- Data Analysis, Using Statistics - Quiz 13	Ch. 13
Week 15 (Dec. 1)	Exam #2 (ch. 8-13) Due Tuesday Dec. 9	Exam #2
	Research Proposal Due in Dropbox by Friday Dec. 5	Research Proposal