



CRJU 3213 Research Methods
Spring 2025

Contact Information

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Course Description

As per the course definition, CRJU 3213 examines “methods 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 or newer Edition. Pearson, 2018.

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given).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	%
Discussions (13)	20
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	20
Exam 3	20
Exam 4	20

Grading Scale

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

Exams

4 exams will be taken online. These will consist of multiple choice, true false, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and/or essay questions.

Discussion Answer Guidelines

13 Discussions will be completed in D2L (One for each Chapter). Each discussion will consist of two or more questions from the Chapter.

Be sure to meet ALL the minimum requirements if you would like to earn an "A" on your discussions.

Discussion answers for EACH question must be a MINIMUM of 150 words. This is only the minimum. If you only complete the minimum, you are unlikely to receive full credit for the discussion. Thus, more than 150 words is highly encouraged.

Discussion answers must be posted (typed or pasted) directly to the discussion forum. If you prefer to type your answers in Microsoft Word, you must copy and paste your answers from Word to the Discussion Forum. Do not upload a Microsoft Word Document as you would an attachment in an email. If you do not post directly to the forum, you will not receive any credit for the discussion.

Your initial post must include your Discussion answers. You cannot see your classmates' posts until after you have posted your own answers.

A good discussion answer offers insight that goes beyond simply restating a few sentences directly from your textbook. **In order to receive full credit for any given discussion you must provide a substantial comment/reply to at least 2 of your classmates' discussion posts for that week.** This will help you gain a more thorough understanding of the content. Make an effort to expand the dialogue by reflecting on the topic with your thoughts, opinions, experiences, etc. The idea is to answer the questions in a manner that fosters

discussion amongst your classmates. Replies such as "Good job!! I completely agree with your answer" are not substantial.

The most important element of a good Discussion answer is that it specifically addresses all parts of the questions at hand.

See the "Calendar" for Discussion Due Dates/End Dates. Late submissions will receive a score of ZERO...no exceptions.

Discussions

Discussions as a whole count 20% of your final grade. See D2L Calendar for discussion due dates.

Exam 1

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (40 questions). 55 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Exam 2

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (40 questions). 55 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Exam 3

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (40 questions). 55 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Exam 4

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (40 questions). 55 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:	January 19
Deadline to file for graduation:	February 12
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"	March 25 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) exist 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 discussion due dates.**

WEEK or MODULE	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Reading
Week 1 (Jan. 21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CJ Research: Theory and Method • Discussion 1 	Ch. 1
Week 2 (Jan. 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics in CJ Research • Discussion 2 	Ch. 2
Week 3 (Feb. 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimental Model & Variations • Discussion 3 	Ch. 3
Week 4 (Feb. 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Crime Report & Sampling • Discussion 4 	Ch. 4
Week 5 (Feb. 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #1 (Ch. 1-4) due Feb. 23 	
Week 6 (Feb. 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey Research: Questionnaires • Discussion 5 	Ch. 5
Week 7 (Mar. 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey: Interviews and Telephone • Discussion 6 	Ch. 6
Week 8 (Mar. 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRING BREAK WEEK 	
Week 9 (Mar. 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Observation Case Study • Discussion 7 	Ch. 7
Week 10 (Mar. 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #2 (Ch. 5-7) due Mar. 30 	
Week 11 (Mar. 31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unobtrusive Measures, Secondary Analysis, Uses of Official Statistics • Discussion 8 	Ch. 8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validity, Reliability, Triangulated Strategies • Discussion 9 	Ch. 9
Week 12 (Apr. 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaling and Index Construction • Discussion 10 	Ch. 10
Week 13 (Apr. 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #3 (Ch. 8-10) due Apr. 20 	
Week 14 (Apr. 21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Analysis and Evaluation • Discussion 11 	Ch. 11
Week 15 (Apr. 28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Management: Coding • Discussion 12 	Ch. 12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analysis: Using Statistics • Discussion 13 	Ch. 13
Week 16 (May 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #4(Ch.11-13) due May 13 	