



Course: EPPS 6310 Research Design I
Professor: Tomislav Kovandzic
Term: Spring 2013
Meetings: Tuesday, 4:00-6:45 pm
Classroom: JSOM 2.902

Professor's Contact Information

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Email Address: tkovan@utdallas.edu
Office Location: GR 2.116
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3:00 pm, at other times by appointment

Course Description & Objectives

This is a graduate-level introduction to social science research methods as they are applied in criminology. The general objective of the course is to familiarize students with the wide variety of research methods used to study crime and criminal justice, so that students will know what tools are available for doing research of their own, whether as degree candidates working on a thesis, as academic researchers, or as employees of criminal justice agencies and related private companies.

The course should also help students to critically assess other peoples' research, so that they do not have to accept it on faith or judge its validity on the basis of personal or ideological/political biases. It should deepen students' understanding of the research results reported in their other courses, so they have some technical foundation for judging the quality of empirical support for the theories and hypotheses presented therein.

Required Textbooks

- (B) Babbie, Earl R., *The Practice of Social Research*, 12th edition. Wadsworth, Belmont CA. (2010).

Required Readings

- (D) Dillman, Don. Mail and Telephone Surveys. N.Y.: Wiley (1978).
- (HS) Hirschi, Travis, and Hanan Selvin. "False Criteria of Causality." Ch. 8 from Delinquency Research: An Appraisal of Analytic Methods. Free Press (1967).
- (TBA) To be announced

Course Schedule

The schedule can be changed or altered at the instructors' discretion – it is the student's responsibility to keep track of any modifications to the schedule. Students should do the assigned reading before coming to the class in which the topic is scheduled to be discussed, since I will assume you have read the material and will discuss the topic accordingly.

Approximate Dates	Topics	Reading Assignment
January 15	Purposes of Research; Scientific Explanations vs. Others; Determinism; Good Explanations; Personal Values in Research; Peculiarities of Research on Crime;	None
January 22	What is a cause? Units of Analysis; Ecological fallacy; Internal & External Validity	B: Ch. 1, Ch. 4, pp. 92-104, Ch HS: Ch. 8
January 29	Nonexperimental, Experimental, and Quasi-experimental Research Designs	B: Ch. 4, pp.106-112, Ch. 8 TBA
February 5	Nonexperimental, Experimental and Quasi-experimental Research Designs	B: Ch. 8 TBA
February 12	Measurement; Indexes & Scale	B: Ch. 5-6
February 19	Measurement; Indexes & Scale	B: Ch. 5-6
February 26	Exam #1	
March 5	Sampling	B: Ch. 7
March 12	Spring Break	
March 19	Sampling	B: Ch. 7
March 26	Survey Research	B: Ch. 9 D
April 2	Survey Research	B: Ch. 9 D
April 9	Data Analysis; Establishing Causation; Reading Tables; Direction of Relationships; Measuring Association; Statistical Significance	B: Ch. 14
April 16	Elaboration Model Research	B: Ch. 15
April 23	Research presentations	
May 30	Research presentations	
May 7	Exam #2	

Grading Policy

The course grade will be based on total points accumulated over the semester, with the points distributed as follows:

2 exams, 100 points each	200 points
Research proposal	90 points
Class presentation of research proposal	<u>10 points</u>
Course Total	300 points

Be sure to bring exam blue books to class when exams are scheduled.

Course Policies

Make-up exams

A student must have a compelling reason to miss an exam. Documentation of the reason (e.g., doctor's note) is needed. A student who cannot make it to an exam needs to either e-mail or call and leave a voice message for the instructor before the exam is held. In case of an emergency, when prior notification is not possible, the absence must be discussed with the instructor immediately after the missed exam. There will be a single make-up (date and time to be decided later) for those who have missed an exam (for a compelling and documented reason).

Class Attendance

Students should attend class every day and are encouraged to ask questions. They should be in their seats by the scheduled beginning of class and plan to stay until the scheduled end, rather than five minutes early. Please do not disturb the class by leaving early. If you have planned a vacation, business trip, family reunion, wedding, etc that will require more than two absences you should take the class when your schedule permits. Do NOT enroll and tell me this after the fact! I do not consider any of these warranted absences.

Classroom Citizenship

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off before class, and audio equipment may not be played during class, with or without headphones. Tape recorders are not permitted during lecture.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Field Trip Policies / Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address

http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response

provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **E**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)
disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.