

Course Outline

COURSE: **CRCJ 3003A: Legal Research Methods**

TERM: **Fall 2016**

PREREQUISITES: Third-year standing in the B.A. Honours program in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

CLASS: Day & Time: **Mondays 8:35am – 11:25 am**
Location: **Please check Carleton Central for current room location.**

INSTRUCTOR: **Nicholas Lamb**: PhD Candidate; Law & Political Economy; Carleton U
Office: TBD
Office Hours: TBD
Email: nicholas.lamb@carleton.ca

Academic Accommodations:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;

- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University's **Academic Integrity Policy** can be found at:
<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

Course Description & Objectives

This course aims to provide students with sufficient background and competency in the fundamentals of legal/criminological research methods by exploring the principles, ethical and political issues, writing procedures, and various theoretical and methodological approaches involved in undertaking legal/criminological research. Students will also learn various data collection techniques and how to effectively organize and analyze both quantitative and qualitative information about legal/criminological phenomena. Another main objective is for students to develop and improve their critical thinking abilities when researching complex socio-legal and criminological issues/problems. Students will write a research proposal about a particular legal issue/problem that they are concerned and interested in critically investigating. The ultimate goal, therefore, is for students to develop a comprehensive and critical understanding of the theoretical, methodological, ethical, and procedural issues/tasks involved in formulating and carrying out a legal research project relevant to their particular analytical interests. In accomplishing course objectives, students should have the critical knowledge, skill set, and confidence to pursue an independent research project.

Course Material

Required Books:

The following course textbook is available for purchase at Haven bookstore located at 43 Seneca St, Ottawa..

1. Jennifer L. Schulenberg. 2016. *The Dynamics of Criminological Research*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Required Journal Articles:

Retrievable online for free by accessing MacOdrum (Carleton) library website and/or through the CULearn CRCJ3003 website

Recommended Book:

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*, 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Used copies are likely available)

Although not required, several chapters of the above book will be discussed throughout the semester. Considering the popularity of the book, both new and used copies are available at Haven bookstore or online.

Course Evaluation		
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Assignments	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Attendance	Ongoing	10
Mid-Term	Oct. 31	20
Research Proposal	Dec. 9	40
Exam	TBD	30
Total	-	100

Attendance:

Students are expected to come to class having read and ready to discuss all assigned readings. Throughout the semester, students are also expected to raise and discuss issues relating to their own respective research proposals. The ongoing evaluation is based on **%10** actual attendance in classes. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class and students must be present during this time in order to receive credit attendance that day. No credit for attendance will be given retroactively for students who forget to sign in during class time but later notify me of their attendance.

Mid-Term Exam:

The mid-term exam will take place in class on **Oct. 31st**, and students will have the entire duration of the class (3 hours) to complete it. It will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions regarding material from weeks one through five. The mid-term exam is worth **%20** of the student's final grade.

Proposal for Research Paper

Throughout the entire semester students should be thinking and developing a research proposal based on their own interests of a particular socio-legal/criminological issue/problem. The 'Research proposal' assignment should sufficiently demonstrate the progress and trajectory of the student's research interests/focus, and their comprehension of the ethical and procedural issues, methodological approaches, and theoretical perspectives relating to their proposed research project. The 'Research Proposal' will be approximately 3000 and 4000 words (11-12 font size, 12-16 double spaced pages), sources should be properly referenced (i.e. in-text citations/footnotes and bibliography), and the writing should contain little to no grammar or spelling errors. Students will submit a digital copy (in Microsoft Word format) of their paper by **11:55pm on Friday, December 9 through electronic submission via the course's CULearn webpage**. The document should include a separate title page with the date, your full name and student ID#, working title of research project, course code (CRCJ3003: Legal Research Methods) and instructor name (Nicholas Lamb). This assignment is worth **%40** of the student's final grade.

Exam:

The exam will take place during the scheduled exam period, and students will have three hours to complete it. It will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions regarding material from weeks seven through eleven. In other words, the exam is not cumulative because it only covers the second half of the semester. The exam is worth **%30** of the student's final grade.

Course Policies

Late Policy:

A late assignment will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day (including weekends). Please consult with me (not the TA) at least **three days** before the due date if you have a current or impending serious medical or personal matter that will prevent you from submitting an assignment on time. Only in exceptional circumstances, will I grant an extension less than three days prior to the due date. I will need third party documentation for all extensions.

Draft Review Policy:

Neither the TA nor I will review or provide feedback on drafts of any assignments. However, students are encouraged to pose any questions about assignments during class time and/or my office hours. Students can also email their assignment questions to the TA in order to get a brief explanation/clarification. If you are experiencing difficulties in writing composition please consult the Writing Tutorial Service provided by the Student Academic Success Centre (<https://carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/>). I strongly encourage students to familiarize themselves with on campus writing services/resources as soon as possible. In addition to excellent online resources, the Centre offers opportunities for students to develop effective writing skills and time management skills – both of which are crucial to success in university.

Intellectual Property:

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic & Subthemes	Readings & Assignments
1	Sept. 12	1. Introduction: Course description, objectives, and expectations; 2. Intellectual Responsibility & Craftsmanship	Chomsky, Noam. 2011. "The responsibility of intellectuals, redux: Using privilege to challenge the state." <i>Boston Review</i> 36, (5): 40-48 Mills, C. Wright. 1980. "On intellectual craftsmanship (1952)". <i>Society</i> 17, (2): 63-70
2	Sept. 19	What is scientific inquiry?	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapter One (pgs. 2-31)
3	Sept. 26	How Are Research Projects Structured? Ethical and Political Considerations/Implications	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapter Two (pgs. 32-62) and Appendix B (pgs. 405-409) Becker, Howard Saul. 1967. "Whose side are we on?" <i>Social Problems</i> , Vol. 14, No. 3: 239-247
4	Oct. 3	Quantitative and Qualitative Measurement	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapter Three (pgs. 64-96)
*	Oct. 10	No Class	Thanksgiving Holiday
5	Oct. 17	The Process of Finding Research Subjects	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapter Four (pgs. 97-131)
**	Oct. 24	No Class	Reading Week
6	Oct. 31	Mid-Term Exam (In class)	No assigned readings. **Study readings and lecture notes from weeks 1-5.
7	Nov. 7	Data Collection Techniques I: Surveys and Interviews	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapter Six (pgs. 165-196)
8	Nov. 14	Data Collection Techniques II:	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapter Seven (pgs. 197-226)

		Ethnographic Field Research	
9	Nov. 21	Data Collection Techniques III: Unobtrusive Methods and Secondary Data	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapter Eight (pgs. 227-259) McCarney et al. Legal Research, Writing & Analysis: Chapter Six
10	Nov. 28	1. Data Collection Techniques IV: Integrating multiple methods 2. Writing a Research Proposal 3. Proposal Assignment Instructions and Expectations	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapter Twelve (pgs. 367-397) and Appendix A (pgs. 398-404)
11	Dec. 5	1. Interpreting and Analyzing Quantitative Legal Data 2. Interpreting and Analyzing Qualitative Legal Data	Schulenberg. <i>The Dynamics of Criminological Research</i> , Chapters Nine and Ten (pgs. 261-334)
12	Dec. 9	1. Course Summary 2. Exam Instructions	Research Proposal is DUE by 11:55pm via CULearn