



Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Course Outline

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| COURSE: | Quantitative Research Methods in Criminology (CRCJ 3001 B) |
| TERM: | Fall 2020 |
| PREREQUISITES: | CRCJ 1000 and third year standing in the B.A Honours program in Criminology and Criminal Justice |
| CLASS: | Day & Time: Thursdays, 2:35 pm – 5:25 pm Room: Online course with a mixture of synchronous meetings and asynchronous activities. Zoom and BigBlueButton (BBB) are the softwares that we will be using in this course. |
| INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT) | Decky Kipuka Kabongi, Ph.D |
| CONTACT: | Office: All meetings, including for office hours, will be online. Office Hrs: Thursdays, 10:45 am – 12:00 pm Telephone: TBD Email: decky.kipukakabongi@carleton.ca |

Academic Accommodation

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 Faculty of Public Affairs 20 Teaching Regulations 2020-21 as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

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 [click here](#).

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).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's

Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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 <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to provide you with an overview of basic quantitative research concepts and practices, to the aim of becoming critical consumers of research. The topics covered in this course include the followings: basic statistics, development of research questions, reading peer-reviewed journal articles, measuring, and manipulating variables, reliability and validity, sampling, experimental research designs, nonexperimental and quasi-experimental designs, and research ethics. At the end of the course, you should have the necessary skills to evaluate quantitative research and to conduct your own research.

REQUIRED TEXTS: The instructor will use both books below to meet the learning objectives of this course. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters or sections for each topic as indicated in the course schedule.

1. Maxfield, M. and Babbie, E. (2016). **Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology**, 5th Edition (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth). **A copy of this book is freely available online.**
2. **Gravetter, F. J., & Forzano, L.A. B. (2018). Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences** (6th ed.). Wadsworth-Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1-305-10413-6. **This textbook is available for purchase/rent at the University's bookstore. Students can also use the 5th edition of the book (published in 2016) but are responsible for ensuring that they are reading the assigned topics.**

EVALUATION: All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

| Term Work | % | Due Date |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| Assignment 1 | 10 % | October 1 st |
| Assignment 2 | 10 % | October 15 th |
| Assignment 3 | 15 % | November 5 th |
| Assignment 4 | 15 % | November 19 th |
| Class participation | 10 % | You are encouraged to attend the online-class meetings and participate actively in class discussions ¹ . |
| Article critique | 10 % | December 3 rd |
| Term Paper | 30 % | December 20 th |

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be 4 assignments, two will be worth 10 % each and two others will be worth 15 % each. For the due dates of these assignments, consult the above table.

¹ If a student cannot attend the online class meeting, he/she needs to notify, by email, the course instructor as soon as possible.

ARTICLE CRITIQUE: this part of the evaluation is worth 10 %. You will choose a journal article discussing a specific question in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the list that the instructor will provide. Your task will be to critique the article: research question, methodology, and the results presented by the author(s). The article critique must be submitted via CuLearn as a Word document in no more than 2 pages maximum **by 2:30 pm on the due date (Thursday December 3rd, 2020).**

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: You are strongly encouraged to do your assignments early and submit them on the due dates. Late assignments will be docked 10% per day the assignment is late, including weekends (i.e., each day of the weekend counts as a full day). If an assignment is more than 3 days late, it will automatically receive a grade of 0% (zero percent). An assignment will be considered late if it is not fully submitted to the assignment portal on CuLearn by 2:30 pm on the date it is due. Assignments that are submitted as a draft will not be accepted. The assignment must be submitted by 2:30 p.m. on the day of class in order for it to be considered on time. Assignments that are turned in **after 2:30 pm** on the due date will be considered one day late. Assignments that are turned in after 2:30 p.m. the following day will be considered two days late, and so on. Please note that assignments **will NOT** be accepted by email.

If you fail to submit an assignment (or any other term work) because of an illness, an injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond your control, you are responsible for informing the instructor as soon as possible and for making alternate arrangements to complete the missed work. In all cases this must occur no later than three (3) working days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.

If your assignment is late for medical reasons or if you seek an accommodation, you do not need to produce a doctor's note or a medical certificate. Instead, you should complete the **Medical Self-Declaration** form available on the Registrar's webpage.

Term Paper: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic related circumstances, this term paper will be considered as the final exam and will be worth 30 %. You will have to write a research proposal on a specific topic related to criminology and criminal justice. **The term paper must be your own work (see the statement on plagiarism below).** The term paper should discuss the following points: i) the research question, ii) the research hypothesis (no more than 2 hypotheses), iii) the research design you would consider to address the research question, iv) how you would select the research participants including ethical issues (3 ethical issues max), and v) a brief literature review presenting the summary of two scholarly articles relevant to the research question you have identified. Students will submit this term paper online via CuLearn. The term paper should be no more than 5 pages max, double-spaced, Times New Roman /12 font size. **If you plan to miss the term paper or to request a deferral, you must contact the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice or the Registrar's Office.**

GRADING SYSTEM: Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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| A+ = 90 -100 | B+ = 77 - 79 | C + = 67 -69 | D + = 57 -59 |
| A = 85 -89 | B = 73 -76 | C = 63 -66 | D = 53 -56 |
| A- = 80 -84 | B- = 70 - 72 | C - = 60 -62 | D - = 50 -52 |
| F = 0 – 49 = complete failure, no academic credit. | | | |

STATEMENT ON 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.

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).

COURSE SCHEDULE: This schedule serves as a guide and may be subject to change. The textbooks' chapters will help you to better understand the lecture materials. You are expected to have read the corresponding chapter(s) prior to the class period for which it is assigned. Two days before the meeting, the instructor will send guiding questions for the topic (s) that will be discussed during the class meeting. You must read the assigned chapter(s) and find the right answers to the questions to better participate in the class discussion. Anything covered in the lectures, readings, and assignments will potentially be a quiz question. In the schedule below, **GF** indicates the book by **Gravetter and Forzano (see first book on page 2)** and **MB** indicates the second book (by **Maxfield and Babbie**).

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Dates | Topics | Required readings |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Week 1 September 10, 2020 | Course Overview Knowledge /Scientific Method | GF, chapter 1, pages 1-28 MB, chapter 1, pages 3-29 |
| Week 2 September 17, 2020 | Research Ideas and Hypotheses | GF, chapter 2, pages 29-50 MB, chapter 2, pages 30-49 |
| Week 3 September 24, 2020 | Defining and Measuring Variables Measuring Crime | GF, chapter 3, pages 51-80 MB, chapter 5, pages 116-140 MB, chapter 6, pages 144-175 |
| Week 4 October 01, 2020 | Ethics in Research Research Participants | MB, chapter 3, pages 51-79 GF, chapter 4, pages 81-108 GF, chapter 5, pages 109-126 |

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| Week 5 October 8, 2020 | Research Strategies and Validity | GF, chapter 4, pages 81-103 MB, chapter 6, pages 130-137 |
| Week 6 October 15, 2020 | Experimental Design: Between Subjects Design | MB, chapter 7, pages 177-209 GF, chapter 8, pages 185-209 |
| Week 7 October 22, 2020 | Experimental Design: Within Subjects Design | GF, chapter 9, pages 211-231 MB, chapter 7, pages 177 - 209 |
| October 26 – 30: Fall break – All courses are suspended | | |
| Week 8 November 5, 2020 | Nonexperimental and Quasi-Experimental Strategies | GF, chapter 10, pages 237-264 MB, chapter 7, pages 193- 207 |
| Week 9 November 12, 2020 | Correlational Research Strategy Causality versus Correlation | GF, chapter 12, pages 295-312 MB, chapter 4, pages 81-90 |
| Week 10 November 19, 2020 | Descriptive Research Strategy | GF, Chapter 13, pages 313-340 MB, chapter 9, pages 244-275 |
| Week 11 November 26, 2020 | Modes of Observation and Statistical Analysis of Data | MB, chapter 8, pages 212-242 MB, chapter 13, pages 396 – 440 |
| Week 12 December 3, 2020 | Statistical Analysis of Data | MB, chapter 13, pages 396 – 440 GF, Chapter 15, pages 373-420 |
| Week 13 (Last class) December 10, 2020 | Writing the Research Report | Chapter 16, pages 421-47 |