

Technical College of the Lowcountry
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CRJ 126
CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the language and methods of research used by criminal justice practitioners and policy-makers. This course includes the basics of research design, data gathering and interpretation of findings in criminal justice. Prerequisite: CRJ 101, ENG 101.

3 Cr (3 lect/pres, 0 lab, 0 other)

Course Focus

Student will be introduced to the methods and reasons for research in criminal justice.

Text and References

Kraska & Neuman (2010). *Criminal Justice and Criminology Research Methods (2)*. Prentice Hall/Pearson, Upper Saddle, NJ. ISBN #10:013512008x

<http://libguides.tcl.edu/cat.php?cid=21717>

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

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/>

Course Goals

The following list of course goals will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives. (*designates a CRUCIAL goal)

1. Define criminal justice/criminology research.
2. Summarize the major objects of study in our field.
3. Summarize who conducts crime and justice research both in and relevant to our field.
4. List the nine main specific research methods covered in this book.
5. Investigate why we conduct research by looking at the basic/applied research dichotomy.
6. investigate why we conduct research by examining the four purposes of research: exploratory, descriptive, explanatory, and evaluative.
7. Understand how research is relevant to students.
8. Comprehend the alternatives to research-based knowledge.
9. Discover how social science works.
10. Understand Thomas Kuhn's ideas about the progression of knowledge.
11. Understand the seven basic steps in quantitative research.

12. Understand the basic steps in qualitative research.
13. Understand the role of time in social scientific research.
14. Appreciate the relationship between science and politics.
15. Understand the philosophy of science literature and ideas.
16. Explain Positive Social Science (PSS).
17. Explain Interpretive Social Science (ISS).
18. explain Critical Social Science (CSS)
19. Recognize the concept of theory.
20. Present the basic concepts and ideas in conducting research that revolve around theory.
21. Explain the difference between inductive theorizing and deductive theorizing.
22. Explore the different levels of analysis.
23. Become familiar with the area of ethics in crime and justice research.
24. Understand the concepts of plagiarism, research fraud, and scientific misconduct.
25. Understand and appreciate the history of unethical research in the sciences and social sciences.
26. Understand the notions of physical harm, psychological abuse, and legal jeopardy as they relate to conducting ethical research.
27. Become familiarize with the issues of informed consent, covert observation, deception, privacy, and confidentiality.
28. Develop an understanding the importance of literature review research, the different types of literature reviews, and their different purposes.
29. Learn specific techniques used to conduct thorough literature research.
30. Understand survey research in the context of criminology/criminal justice.
31. Understand the logic and various four purposes of survey research.
32. Learn the basic principles in constructing a quality questionnaire.
33. Practice the nine principles of good question writing.
34. Appreciate the various types of surveys, including interviewing.
35. Understand the purpose of ethnographic field research.
36. Learn techniques how to choose a research site.
37. Know how to build rapport with subjects and gatekeepers.
38. Know the three principles of participant observation.
39. Identify academic research databases
40. Maneuver through TCL LRC on the website
41. Obtain a public library card.
42. Apply American Psychological Association rules for writing assignments.
43. Cite resources according to American Psychological Association rules.

Student Contributions

Each student will spend at least 6 hours per week preparing for class. Attendance is critical in this class. There will be 4 quizzes, a midterm examination, and a final examination. The syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be discussed and students will be accountable for such changes.

Course Evaluation

Your performance objective and exams will be translated to points and the points to grades.

There are 100 possible points and grades will be earned as follows:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69

Tests and Quizzes

The midterm examination is a comprehensive examination from the chapters 1-7 and consists of 50 multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in the blank, and essay questions. It is valued at 20% of the final grade.

The final examination is a comprehensive examination from chapters 8-13 and consists of 50 multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in the blank, and essay questions. It is valued at 20% of the final grade.

Citing Sources

Each student will cite 25 research sources according to APA rules. Giving a topic, students must cite books, peer review journals, government documents, and Dissertations/Theses. Citing sources are valued at 10% of final grade.

Activities

Each student will complete five (10) activities as part of a group. Activities will be published later. Activities are valued at 50% of final grade.

ADA STATEMENT

The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at (843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student's responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification.

The College adheres to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the *TCL Student Handbook*, the Division Office, and the Learning Resources Center.

ATTENDANCE

The College's statement of policy indicates that students must attend ninety percent of total class hours or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.

- Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Students taking an online/internet class must sign in **and** communicate with the instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate attendance in the class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.

In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops attending class, it is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork. Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.

When a student exceeds the allowed absences, the student is in violation of the attendance policy. The instructor MUST withdraw the student with a grade of "W", "WP", or "WF" depending on the date the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student's progress up to the last date of attendance
or

under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class, allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.

Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.

- A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.

A copy of TCL's **STATEMENT OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL)** is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER

In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGZO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWVW 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGZR 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLVH 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WAEV 97.3, WTOC TV, WTGS TV, WJWJ TV, and WSAV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

Emergency Text Message Alert

Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. Participants receive immediate notification of emergency events and weather cancelations via text messaging on their cell phones. Participants can also opt in to receive non-emergency news and announcements. Go to www.tcl.edu. On the homepage, click on “emergency TextAlert at TCL” and fill out the form or go to www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

Developed/Revised: January 7, 2012