

COURSE OUTLINE
CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS
CR 306:003, 005
WRITING INTENSIVE

Session: Fall, 1996

Credit: 3 credits

Prerequisite: CR 102 or permission of instructor

Time/days: Section 003 = 10:30 - 11:30am mwf
Section 005 = 11:45 - 12:45pm mwf

Place: Wilson B2

Professor: Dr. Timothy Austin

Office location: 209 Walsh {phone 357 2720};

Office hours: 8 - 10 mwf, or by appointment

Course description: {from catalog}: An introduction to the basic criminological research methods designed to prepare the student to understand and participate in qualitative and quantitative research.

Textbook: {required}: (1) Lofland, ANALYZING SOCIAL SETTINGS, 1995
(2) Hagan, Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology, 1993

Papers on Library Reserve: Occasionally, copies of articles may be placed on reserve in the basement of the library.

Examinations: There will be 3 tests given at approximately equal intervals throughout the semester. The tests will be equally weighted with the 3rd test being considered the final exam. Details about the nature of the tests will be discussed in class.

Grade evaluation: A student's final grade will be determined by averaging the 3 test grades which will be combined with other in-class and out-of-class projects.

Other Projects:

1. In-class impromptu essays: Following brief class discussion of crime related issues, students will write (while in class) an impromptu essay in response to a provocative question. The essay will be limited to several pages and handwritten with minimal emphasis upon grammatical style and structure. Each essay (about 6 throughout the semester) will be turned in at the end of class to be reviewed and returned at a later date with written comments by professor. About one such essay will be planned at least every 2 weeks. Each student must choose 3 of the essays to be revised,

grammatically polished, and typed before submitting for grading the last week of class. The final typed essay will be a single page in length.

2. Research proposal: Each student will select a topic from a list of topics either provided by the professor or gleaned from the local newspaper and will write a 15 page research proposal. Papers will be due the last day of class. Details of the style of the proposals will be discussed in class.

3. Notes: Double-entry or two notebooks will be required of students. The notebooks {or entries} should reflect both clear and accurate class notes as well as information extracted from required reading. Class notes will be briefly reviewed by the professor.

Determination of Final Grades: Final grades will be determined by assessing the following categories:

1. test one:	15%
2. test two:	15%
3. test three:	15%
4. impromptu essays:	15%
5. proposal:	30%
6. notes:	10%
total:	100%

{Note: In borderline cases, class attendance and/or participation may influence a final grade}

Selected Course Objectives:

1. To introduce the student to the various terms and concepts used by the social and behavioral scientist (and other researchers) in conducting research.
2. To understand the critical relationship between theory & research.
3. To understand the relationship between basic and applied research.
4. To gain experience in problem formulation (to include the construction of written research questions and hypotheses).
5. To examine the definitions and interrelationships of the components of research design.
6. To expose the student to data analysis and graphic presentation
7. To understand the complexities of research methods in an interdisciplinary subject area such as criminology.

8. To appreciate the distinctions between quantitative and qualitative research.
9. To alleviate some of the anxieties often held by students toward criminology.
10. To encourage the use of, stimulate interest in, and provide opportunity for writing as an essential skill in criminology.

COURSE CALENDAR/Required Readings
CR 306

Week 1 Aug 28-30	orientation
Week 2 Sep 2-6	Labor day (Sep. 2, Monday, no class) Hagan, Chapter 1 {Theory & Method}
Week 3 Sep 9-13	Hagan, Chapter 2 {Ethics}
Week 4 Sep 16-20	Hagan, Chapter 3 {Research Design/The Experimental Model}
Week 5 Sep 23-27	Hagan, Chap. 4 {Alternative Data Gathering Strategies} Test # 1 {Friday, Sep. 27}
Week 6 Sep 30-Oct 4	Hagan, Chap. 5 {Sampling and Survey Research}
Week 7 Oct 7-11	Hagan, Chap. 6 {Interviews and Telephone Surveys}
Week 8 Oct 14-18	Hagan, Chap. 7 {Participant Observation & Case Studies}
Week 9 Oct 21-25	Hagan, Chap. 8 {Unobtrusive Measures/Secondary Analysis}
Week 10 Oct 28-Nov 1	(Nov. 1 withdrawal deadline) Hagan, Chap. 9 {Validity, Reliability, Triangulation}
Week 11 Nov 4-8	Lofland, Part One {chap. 1-5..pages 1 - 98} Gathering Data Test # 2 {Friday}

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Week 12
Nov 11-15

Lofland, Part Two {Chapters 6,7 8} Focusing Data

Week 13
Nov 18-22

Nov 20-22 (Wed & Fri) American Society of Criminology conference. No class..but writing assignment planned.

Week 14
Nov 25-29

Thanksgiving (no class on Nov 27 - 29)

Week 15
Dec 2-6

Lofland, Part 3 {Analyzing data}

Week 16
Dec 9

Monday (review); Wednesday (reading day).
All outside assignments due on Dec. 9.

Test # 3

{During Exam Week..tba}

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11 October 1996

MEMORANDUM

To: Darlene Richardson, Director
Liberal Studies Office
352 Sutton Hall

From: Timothy Austin, Professor 

Subject: Type I Writing Approval

Attached is a course outline which has been adjusted to reflect about 20 pages of writing. I increased the size of the required written research proposal.

Also, this is a course which I am teaching this semester (Fall) rather than during a Summer session.

I will be sure to forward you a copy of any future syllabi.

Many thanks.

Copies: Mark McNabb, Chair/Criminology
Brenda Carter, Dean/College of Humanities & Social Sciences

