CCJ 4700 (#6260) Research Design in Criminal Justice (3 credit hours)
Summer 2010 Term A (online)
Syllabus

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Allow 24 hours for response

LiveRoom Chat: Throughout the semester, I will hold four (4) sessions of online LiveRoom Chat via eLearning on Wednesdays between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The exact dates are 05/19, 06/16, 07/07, and 07/28. The attendance is NOT required but recommended. Read the class materials and bring a question!!!

TEXTBOOK

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Research Design focuses on the various research designs and methods used in criminal justice and criminology research projects. Students will be guided to understand fundamentals of research designs and methods and to analyze and interpret research outcomes (i.e. agency reports and journal articles). This course fulfills a Gordon Rule writing requirement. It is also a core course for the Bachelors degree in criminal justice. A grade of "C" is required to fulfill the criminal justice core.

TOPICS COVERED
1. Criminal justice research and social science inquiry
2. Ethical issues in criminal justice research
3. General issues in research design
4. Concepts, operationalization, and measurement
5. Experimental and quasi-experimental design
6. Sampling
7. Survey research
8. Field Research
9. Agency records and secondary data
10. Problem analysis
11. Interpreting data

EDUCATIONAL GOAL
This course is designed to address the needs of both the criminal justice practitioner and the student who intends to pursue education beyond a Bachelor’s degree. The general goal of this course is to make students better informed and more capable consumers of the research process. More specifically, the primary intent of this course is to familiarize students with the ways in which criminal justice research is conceived, planned, carried out, analyzed and reported. In pursuing this goal, students will be exposed to the methodologies of criminal justice research and will study how to implement various methodologies. A second goal of the course is to sharpen students’ skills of critical analysis. By studying and working with the methodologies of criminal justice research, students will sharpen their analytical skills. At the conclusion of the course, students will be skilled at designing, conducting and evaluating criminal justice research. Understanding the research process will allow practitioners to be better able to make use of the results of research as it is associated with their work-related duties. It will also provide an adequate foundation for future study of more advanced research methodologies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, students will:
1. Explain the process of research as a rational and systematically organized sequence of events.
2. Describe and explain the different purposes of research.
3. Identify the basic concepts and techniques necessary to understand the research process.
4. Prepare basic approaches to data collection methods.
5. Describe the principles of analyzing data.
6. Critically assess research reports and use research in criminal justice practice.
7. Justify and use various research designs and outline the different purposes of research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
Requirements:
A. Online Assignments (11): Students are asked to submit an online assignment for each chapter by specified due dates. The answered should be prepared by students’ own words. I strongly encourage you to respond using reason and logic as well as factual material/empirical evidence contained in the reading and/or other reliable sources. You may integrate materials you have learned from other courses you have taken. You should respond in complete sentences with complete answers. Each assignment is worth 10 points toward the final grade. Copy of the textbook or another student’s work will not count and will result in the failure of this course.

B. Exams (2): The mid-term exam will be administered in the week 7. The exam will include 50 multiple choice and/or T/F questions, which will cover the materials for chs. one thru six. During the last week of this course, the final exam will be administered. Two essay questions will be provided, and students must answer to both of them. An example of the questions will be available on eLearning before the exam. Each exam is worth 50 points.

Requirements:       Online Assignment (11*10)       110 points
Grading:
In order to obtain a grade of "C" or better, the student must satisfactorily complete all stated objectives with a minimum of 73% out of a possible 100% on all assignments.

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<td>A</td>
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STUDENT ASSIGNMENT POLICIES AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST
1. All assignments are due as stated on the course schedule.
2. There will be NO make-up assignments, and it is the students’ responsibility to manage their time so as to complete all projects by the stated deadline.
3. Please note that electronic excuses (e.g., my printer is broken or out of ink, modem problems, hard drive crashed, computer lab closed, dog ate my disk, etc.) will NOT be accepted.
4. Late assignments are NOT accepted. A score of “0” will be earned for any assignment that is received after the deadline. Please DO NOT ask for an extension.
5. The professor does not issue incompletes (except as defined in the Catalog). You must complete all of the work during the course of this semester.
6. If you email me with a question, comment, or concern about the class, you can expect a response within 24 hours (unless I have indicated in advance that I will not be available).
7. If you are suspicious about the submission of the assignment in the dropbox on eLearning, you may email the copy of the assignment to yourself as an evidence of your submission.

*All due dates for the assignments are based on the Central Standard Time.
*The professor reserves the right to submit students’ work to “Turnitin.com” for originality. If a student plagiarizes for any of his/her works, he/she will fail on this course.

THE WITHDRAW POLICY
The withdraw deadline for this course is 07/09/2010. Please discuss any academic concerns with me prior to withdrawing. Withdraws after the deadline will not be approved except for:
1. A death in the immediate family.
2. Serious illness of the student or an immediate family member.
3. A situation deemed similar to categories 1 and 2 by all in the approval process.
4. Withdrawal due to Military Service (Florida Statute 1004.07)
5. National Guard Troops Ordered into Active Service (Florida Statute 250.482)

Students who do not officially withdraw will be assigned a standard letter grade. Late withdraws must be approved by the students advisor, instructor of the course, department chairperson, and finally, the University Academic Appeals Committee. Students who withdraw are not enrolled as of the date the withdrawal is processed.
FOR YOUR PROTECTION
For those of you in working in the CJ system in some capacity, it is understood that your statements, comments, and replies do not necessarily reflect your personal or professional beliefs and practices or reflect your agency. All statements, comments, and replies in this course are for educational purposes only and are to further and to enhance the quality of the educational experience.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ACADEMIC CONDUCT/PLAGIARISM POLICY
As future professionals in the criminal justice field, the faculty in the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies believe you should be held to the highest standards. Please note that your reputation is extremely important for future employment. It is expected that you will act appropriately and demonstrate mutual respect for everyone in the class. Of particular importance is that you do not represent another person’s work as your own (plagiarism). You are encouraged to complete the tutorial found on the library’s web site at http://library.uwf.edu/Tutorials/module_plagiarism/default.htm

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
The Student Code of Conduct sets forth the rules, regulations and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the students’ responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and conduct themselves accordingly. You may access the current Student Code of Conduct at http://www.uwf.edu/judicialaffairs.

ASSISTANCE
Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) http://uwf.edu/sdrc/ (850) 474-2387. SDRC will provide the student with a letter for the professor that will specify any recommended accommodations.

COMMUNICATIONS
All UWF students have access to a free UWF email address and must use that e-mail address throughout the course to receive all correspondence. Any necessary changes to the syllabus, assignments, etc. will be distributed electronically through GroupMail and posted in the NEWS section of the course. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure he/she gets this information