



Research Methods Fall 2017

SOCI 4501, Section 02, 3.0 credit hours
TR 2:10pm-3:25pm
Clayton Hall T222

Instructor: **Dr. Elizabeth Bonomo**
Email: elizabethbonomo@clayton.edu
Phone: 678-466-4801
Office: Clayton Hall, T-103D
Office hrs: TR 10:00am-11:00am; 12:35pm-2:05pm; T 4:00pm—5:00pm or by appointment

REQUIRED READINGS:

Textbooks

http://repository.out.ac.tz/504/1/Social_Science_Research-Principles_Methods_and_Practices.pdf

--See D2L for specific pages

<http://portal.tpu.ru:7777/SHARED/k/KITAEVA/statistics/book/Tab3/damnedstatistics.pdf>

--See D2L for specific pages

Articles

--See D2L for specific articles

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the practice of social science research and how it is used in the field of criminal justice. Students will learn how to evaluate and conduct research in the study of crime and criminal justice problems. This course introduces students to the tools and vocabulary of the scientific method. This course will cover various aspects of the research process including research ethics, causal relationships, measurement, sampling, and research design. Students will learn how to critically evaluate the quality of research products and their contribution to the fields of criminal justice and criminology.



COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should know

1. Identify strengths and weaknesses of different methodological approaches
2. Identify methods most appropriate for answering different research questions
3. Understand issues of conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND CO-REQUISITES

CRJU 1150 OR SOCI 1101 OR POLS 2401 with a minimum grade of D

COMPUTER REQUIREMENT

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to <http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy>.

COMPUTER SKILL PREREQUISITES:

- Able to use the Windows™ operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word™ word processing
- Able to send and receive e-mail using Outlook™
- Only use your CSU e-mail account to communicate academic information to your instructor.
- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a Web browser.

IN-CLASS USE OF STUDENT NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS

Occasionally, a computer will be necessary in-class when working on group assignments. Prior notice will be given to students.

USE OF STUDENT NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS

Students **MUST** have access to a functioning computer with sound. Computers will be required outside of class to access course materials, complete assignments, and to communicate with your instructor. Students are responsible for knowing how to access and use D2L. Any student needing help with D2L should see the appropriate campus service immediately so that assignments may be completed in a timely manner. Failure of computer equipment or **lack of knowledge about D2L will not be acceptable excuses for missing assignments.**



Desire2Learn

On-line activity will take place in Desire2Learn and Office 365 Teams. Posting of your work in D2L and Office 365 Teams is a course requirement. Assignments will *not* be accepted through email. Any assignments received via email will be given a zero.

You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting: "D2L" on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name. You can gain access to Office 365 Teams from your email login page. More information for Office 365 Teams is provided in D2L.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course supports learning outcomes 4 and 5 of the criminal justice major.

Outcome 4: Demonstrate the ability to summarize and discuss in written and oral form academic journal articles.

Outcome 5: Analyze and interpret the kinds of data commonly found in the criminal justice field.

MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT:

The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued by September 30, reflects approximately 30% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar, by mid-term, which occurs on October 6. [Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link.](#)

The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is October 6, 2017.

COURSE POLICIES:

General Policy

Students must abide by policies in the Clayton State University Student Handbook, and the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#). The Student Handbook is part of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

University Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the



students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

Course Attendance/Late Arrival Policy:

Attendance is expected for all class periods. Attendance is required for examination periods. Beyond that:

If you do miss a class, you will **NOT** be permitted to make up any assignments, quizzes, or exams due that particular class period. The only exception is when a valid excuse is provided (see missed/late work policy).

Absences will be excused only if the student provides appropriate documentation from a doctor or other competent professional immediately upon return.

Whether or not you attend class, you are responsible for all material and assignments, including any that may be added or altered during the semester.

Missed Work

Without a valid excuse, a grade of **zero points** will be assigned for any missed work including in-class assignments, papers, exams, and quizzes. **If a valid, written excuse from a doctor or other competent authority is provided:**

- Every attempt should be made to submit a missed assignment electronically on the date it is due. If this is not possible the assignment must be submitted no more than one week after the original due date.
- Missed quizzes must be made up prior to the next class period.
- Missed exams must be taken within one week of the original exam administration date. If exams have been returned to students prior to the scheduled make-up exam an alternative version of the exam will be given.
- Be aware that **D2L performs regularly scheduled maintenance which might conflict with due dates.** This information is clearly posted in D2L so you can plan accordingly. It will be your responsibility to turn assignments in on time regardless of technical problems. Technical problems will not constitute an excuse for late work. Without a valid excuse, a grade of zero points will be assigned for the missed work.



Email Correspondence

Email will be the primary mode of correspondence with the instructor. Please use my Clayton State email address ElizabethBonomo@clayton.edu. **DO NOT SEND MESSAGES VIA D2L AS I DO NOT CHECK THOSE MESSAGES REGULARLY. I WILL NOT RESPOND TO MESSAGES SENT TO D2L.**

Please allow a 24 hour response time for all email correspondence. For example, if I receive an email on Monday morning at 9am I will respond by Tuesday morning at 9am. In addition, I will respond to any emails received on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or a holiday by the following business day. Please proofread and spell-check all emails before sending them. Additionally, consider the tone and level of formality of the email before sending it. All email communication should begin with an appropriate greeting. Acceptable greetings include, but are not limited to: Dear _____, Good Morning / Afternoon / Evening, and Hello. Corresponding with faculty is different from texting with your peers. Please refrain from using text-like abbreviations and other forms of shorthand in such correspondence. **Email correspondence must originate from a Clayton State University email address.**

Testing Policy

Anyone found to have unauthorized materials on their person during an exam will be considered in violation of the academic dishonesty guidelines below and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

If you arrive after the first exam has been turned in you will receive an automatic 25% grade decrease on the exam. Please plan to arrive on time.

Academic Dishonesty

Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#). Judicial procedures are described in the section of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#) titled, Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions. If a plagiarism allegation is substantiated, the student will receive an F in the course. Students who submit assignments alleged to include plagiarized material close to the end of the semester will receive a grade of 'I' pending the adjudication of the case. If you have ANY questions about plagiarism, air on the side of caution and see the instructor for further clarification.

Plagiarism Detection Software

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.



Disruption of the Learning Environment

Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF.

More detailed descriptions of examples of disruptive behavior are provided in the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures sections of the Clayton State University [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

Professionalism

I ask that each of you be respectful and tolerant of others' viewpoints and to communicate with each other, as well as myself, in a courteous manner. We will engage in discussion in this course and I expect everyone to act professionally.

Center for Academic Success

The Center for Academic Success (CAS) provides personalized one-on-one peer and professional staff tutoring in over 100 core subjects. The Center is located in Edgewater Hall Suite 276. The CAS also offers moderated study groups, informal study sessions, a comfortable study environment, a student study lounge, *and it's all free!* Use the CAS if you need help; become a tutor if you don't. For more information you can e-mail the center at thecas@clayton.edu

Writing Assistance

The goal of the Writers' Studio is to give rise to better writers, not just to better writing. People who love to write, people who struggle mightily with it, and people who fall anywhere else on the spectrum can find a place at The Writers' Studio—a place for students to come for writing guidance and feedback.

Each student may receive up to 90 minutes of assistance per day and 3 hours per week. Furthermore, both appointments and walk-ins are welcome. Here's The Writers' Studio's contact information:

Location: Arts & Sciences Building, Room G-224

Phone: 678.466.4728

Email: ws224@clayton.edu

Website: <http://clayton.edu/writersstudio>



Visit The Writers' Studio at <http://clayton.edu/writersstudio> or schedule your appointment online at <http://clayton.mywconline.com> (Note: first-time users need to complete a one-time registration prior to using the online appointment website).

Weapons on Campus

Clayton State University is committed to providing a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Information on laws and policies regulating weapons on campus are available at

<http://www.clayton.edu/public-safety/Safety-Security/Weapons>

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Readings

Readings will be provided in D2L modules. You are expected to complete the readings to prepare you for quizzes, assignments, and exams.

Exams

There will be **four** exams throughout the semester. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer. Please see schedule below for exam dates.

Quizzes

There will be 4 quizzes this semester. I will give prior notice in class.

Team Assignments

There will be six group assignments required this semester. These assignments will cover various topics related to research methods. The due dates for the assignments are listed in the schedule. I will be assigning each of you to a group or "team" for the semester. Teams will be assigned after the add/drop period. Each team will consist of 3 students and you will be using the Office 365 Teams application. Please see D2L for the introductory material on Office 365 Teams. Class time will be provided to work on team assignments but some work outside of class will be required. Detailed instruction regarding assignments will be provided in class.



Grade Breakdown:

| Item | Percent of overall grade | Point value |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Team Assignments (TA)</u> TA #1 worth 10 points TA #2 worth 20 points TA #3 worth 20 points TA #4 worth 20 points TA #5 worth 30 points TA #6 worth 20 points | 30% | 120 points total |
| <u>Quizzes</u> Quiz #1 worth 10 points Quiz #2 worth 10 points Quiz #3 worth 10 points Quiz #4 worth 10 points | 10% | 40 points total |
| <u>Exams</u> Exam #1 worth 60 points Exam #2 worth 60 points Exam #3 worth 60 points Exam #4 worth 60 points | 60% | 240 points total |
| Total | 100% | 400 |

COURSE OUTLINE

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus, the dates, and assignments any time, as this is only a tentative outline for this class

| Date | Topic |
|---|---|
| Tuesday August 15 th | Welcome and Syllabus |
| Thursday August 17 th | Science, Society, and Research |
| Tuesday August 22 nd | Science, Society, and Research |
| Thursday August 24 th NO SHOW DEADLINE | The Process and Problems of Research Team Assignment #1 due |
| Tuesday August 29 th | Research Ethics |
| Thursday August 31 st | Research Ethics |
| Tuesday September 5 th | Conceptualization and Measurement Team Assignment #2 due |
| Thursday September 7 th | Conceptualization and Measurement |
| Tuesday September 12 th | Review Team Assignment #3 due |
| Thursday September 14 th | Exam #1 |



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| Tuesday September 19 th | Sampling |
| Thursday September 21 st | Sampling |
| Tuesday September 26 th | Research Design |
| Thursday September 28 th | Experimental Design |
| Tuesday October 3 rd | Experimental Design |
| Thursday October 5 th | Review Team Assignment #4 due |
| OCT 6 th Last day to withdraw with a W | |
| Tuesday October 10th | NO CLASS Fall Break |
| Thursday October 12th | Exam #2 |
| Tuesday October 17 th | Survey Research |
| Thursday October 19 th | Survey Research |
| Tuesday October 24 th | Survey Research |
| Thursday October 26 th | Qualitative Methods |
| Tuesday October 31 st | Qualitative Methods |
| Thursday November 2 nd | Qualitative Data Analysis |
| Tuesday November 7 th | Review Team Assignment #5 due |
| Thursday November 9th | Exam #3 |
| Tuesday November 14 th | Analyzing Content |
| Thursday November 16th | Analyzing Content NO FORMAL CLASS MEETING: Class held online because teacher at conference. Detailed information will be provided prior to the online class. |
| Tuesday November 21 st | Evaluation Research |
| Thursday November 23rd | NO CLASS UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY |
| Tuesday November 28 th | Evaluation Research Team Assignment #6 due |
| Thursday November 30th | Exam #4 |