

## **CRM 340-898 Research Methods Spring 2017**

**Instructor:** Caryn Saxon

**Office:** Strong Hall 234

**Office Phone:** (417) 836-5898

**Email:** CSaxon@MissouriState.edu

**Fax:** (417) 836-3200

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. Also by appointment.

**Welcome** to our course! This syllabus will provide you with important information concerning our course, university & classroom policies, required materials, my expectations of you, and what you can expect from me. Please take the time to read our syllabus thoroughly and let me know if you have any questions.

**Course Description:** As stated in the course catalog, CRM 340 is “an overview of research design as applied to research on crime and justice. Topics include hypothesis formulation, sampling techniques, reliability and validity, survey construction, field observation, and evaluation research.”

**Required Course Texts:** We have one required textbook, cited below. Additional readings will be provided to you by your instructor.

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2017). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Below are my projected learning outcomes for you as a student in this course.

The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice is committed to six core learning outcomes for its students which you can read at:

[http://criminology.missouristate.edu/undergraduate/Learning\\_Outcomes.htm](http://criminology.missouristate.edu/undergraduate/Learning_Outcomes.htm)

As follows, this course addresses five of those six learning outcomes:

- *SLO2: Students will be able to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, using appropriate references and technologies.* This learning outcome will be assessed through both your analysis paper and research proposal project.
- *SLO3: Students will be able to assess the basic quality of research in criminology and criminal justice publications and other media.* This learning outcome will be assessed through the research proposal project.

- *SLO4: Students will be able to evaluate ethical issues related to the criminal justice system and criminology.* This learning outcome will be assessed through the analysis paper.
- *SLO5: Students will identify issues of diversity and human rights in relation to the workings of the criminal justice system and criminology.* This learning outcome will be assessed during our unit on research ethics.
- *SLO6: Students will employ critical thinking skills when evaluating issues in criminology and criminal justice.* This learning outcome will be assessed through the midterm analysis paper and various module assignments.

In addition to the student learning outcomes identified by our department, the following learning outcomes are specific to this course.

- *Students will understand basic concepts and terms related to research methods in the field of criminology.* This learning outcome will be assessed through quizzes, the analysis paper, and the research proposal project.
- *Students will be able to comprehend the research studies that they read.* This learning outcome will be assessed through the research proposal project.
- *Students will demonstrate their ability to write a literature review and design a research study.* This learning outcome will be assessed through the research proposal project.

### **Classroom & University Policies**

Below are important classroom and University policies. Please read carefully.

#### **Late Work**

Late work is not accepted in this class unless a specific hardship or emergency warrants an exception. Should an emergency occur that will impact your ability to submit an assignment on time, please let me know right away. If I deem that the situation warrants an extension, accommodations will be made. Please note that it is important to me as an instructor that all of my students are given equal opportunities. Extensions will not be given without careful consideration and appropriate verification.

#### **Final Grades**

It is important to me that all of my students are treated equally, fairly, and given the same opportunities to earn points and achieve the grade that reflects their ability and effort. I therefore do not adjust final grades by curving, rounding up or down, or offering certain students extra credit opportunities that are not offered to all students. Once your final grade is accurately calculated, it is final and will not be adjusted or changed. Appeals and requests due to hardship need to be communicated to me at the time of the disabling or distracting event, not after your final grade has been calculated.

## **Communication**

It is important to me that I have good communication with my students. Besides talking to me in person, email is the most efficient way to reach me. I work hard to respond to student emails within 48 business hours. If you do not hear back from me within two business days, please follow up with me.

## **Academic Integrity**

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the University's academic integrity policy plus additional more-specific policies for each class. The University policy, formally known as the "Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures" is available online at [http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3\\_01\\_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm) and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty (as defined by the university) will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy. Please note that any person plagiarizing will receive a "0" for the assignment and risks the possibility of an "F" or "XF" for the course. This means that you must turn in original work created by you specifically for this course, as well as cite authors that you paraphrase or quote in your papers, assignments, and in our online discussion forums. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty you need to ask me (your instructor) and/or refer to the University's policy. Please note that all of your written assignments will be run through Safe Assign in order to check for incidents of plagiarism and duplicate submission.

## **Statement of Nondiscrimination**

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at [www.missouristate.edu/equity/](http://www.missouristate.edu/equity/). It is personally important to me that we create a learning environment together where no student experiences discrimination due to sex, age, sexual and/or gender identity, race or ethnicity, religious affiliation, political affiliation, or economic status. Please work with me in cultivating and maintaining such an environment, and alert me quickly to any indication of discrimination in our class or campus.

## **Statement on Disability Accommodation**

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192 or 417-836-6792 (TTY), [www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm). Students are required to provide documentation of disability to the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodations. The Disability Resource Center refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for

learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 417-836-4787, <http://psychology.missouristate.edu/ldc>.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the university's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Emergency Response Statement**

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

### **Dropping a Class**

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520.

### **Audio and Video Recording Course Activity**

Students may make audio or video recordings of course activity. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings from the course to individuals who are not students in the class is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and any of the students who are recorded.

### **Religious Accommodation**

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The

accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a *Request for Religious Accommodation Form* to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

**Course Assignments & Grading:** The following are brief descriptions of our major course assignments.

**Participation:** Fourteen of our modules will include 1-3 Blackboard discussion forums devoted to specific questions relevant to the topics covered in the module. Modules may also include short written assignments in place of discussion. Participation in discussion forums, as well as completion of these short assignments, are worth 10 points for each of the modules. Please note, discussion posts may not be completed after the close of the module.

**Module Quizzes:** There will be 12 short quizzes in this course. Each will correspond with the assigned reading and lectures for the week in which is it administered. You are allowed to utilize your notes and textbook while taking these quizzes; however, you will only have a limited amount of time to complete each quiz. Please note, quizzes may not be completed after their original deadline unless you have my permission ahead of time.

**APA Quiz:** In this class we will discuss the importance of adhering to APA formatting, as well as formatting's role in the research process. As an exercise in learning and practicing APA formatting rules, you will take quiz over common formatting rules.

**Analysis Paper:** Towards the middle of the semester I will give you detailed instructions as to the parameters and expectations of this assignment. In this assignment, you will be asked create a 5-7 paged written analysis of a research proposal (which I will provide for you), using concepts you have learned in class. This is the equivalent of a midterm exam and may therefore not be turned in after the original deadline.

**Research Proposal Project:** At the beginning of the semester I will give you detailed instructions as to the parameters and expectations of this assignment. This assignment will be broken down throughout the semester and will be a culmination of many of the concepts and skills we explore in class. This is the equivalent of a final exam and may therefore not be turned in after the original deadline.

## Grading Structure

A= 90%-100%

B= 80%-89.99%

C= 70%-79.99%

D= 60%-69.99%

F= Below 60%

## Points Breakdown

Participation: 14 modules @ 10 points per module 140 Points

Quizzes: 12 quizzes @ 5 points per quiz 60 Points

APA Quiz 10 Points

Analysis Paper 100 Points

Phase I 5 Points

Phase II 25 Points

Phase IV 10 Points

Research Proposal Project 150 Points

**Total 500 Points**

## Course Schedule

Below is a projected schedule for our course together; however, we may make adjustments as needed throughout the semester. **Please note that in each module I may assign additional supplemental reading not listed on this schedule.** Please note that participation requirements (such as discussion forums) are not listed here as assignments. You will need to log on to our blackboard course site regularly to find weekly participation requirements.

Module	Dates	Topic	Readings	Major Assignments Due
<b>Module 1</b>	Tuesday January 17 – Sunday January 22	Introductions	(none)	<b>Student Profile Sheet</b> due Sunday January 22

<b>Module 2</b>	Monday January 23 – Sunday January 29	Knowledge Production & The Research Process	chapters one & two	<b>Phase I &amp; M2 Quiz</b> due Sunday January 29
<b>Module 3</b>	Monday January 30 – Sunday February 5	Research Ethics in Criminology & Criminal Justice	chapter three	<b>M3 Quiz &amp; APA Quiz</b> due Sunday February 5
<b>Module 4</b>	Monday February 6 – Sunday February 12	Conceptualization & Measurement	chapter four	<b>M4 Quiz</b> due Sunday February 12
<b>Module 5</b>	Monday February 13 – Sunday February 19	Sampling	chapter five	<b>M5 Quiz</b> due Sunday February 19
<b>Module 6</b>	Monday February 20 – Sunday February 26	Causation	chapter six	<b>Phase II &amp; M6 Quiz</b> due Sunday February 26
<b>Module 7</b>	Monday February 27 – Sunday March 5	Midterm Assessment	(none)	<b>Analysis Paper</b> due Sunday March 5
<b>Module 8</b>	Monday March 6 – Friday March 10	Experimental Research Designs	chapter seven	<b>M8 Quiz</b> due Friday March 10
	Saturday March 11 – Sunday March 19	Spring Break		

<b>Module 9</b>	Monday March 20 – Sunday March 26	Survey Research	chapter eight	<b>Phase III &amp; M9 Quiz</b> due Sunday March 26
<b>Module 10</b>	Monday March 27 – Sunday April 2	Qualitative Methods	chapter nine	<b>M10 Quiz</b> due Sunday April 2
<b>Module 11</b>	Monday April 3 – Sunday April 9	Existing Content & Secondary Data	chapter ten	<b>M11 Quiz</b> due Sunday April 9
<b>Module 12</b>	Monday April 10 – Wednesday April 12	Evaluative Research	chapter eleven	<b>Phase IV &amp; M12 Quiz</b> due Wednesday April 12
	Thursday April 13 – Sunday April 16	Spring Holiday		
<b>Module 13</b>	Monday April 17 – Sunday April 23	Mixing Methods	chapter twelve	<b>M13 Quiz</b> due Sunday April 23
<b>Module 14</b>	Monday April 24 – Sunday April 30	Analyzing Data	chapters thirteen & fourteen	<b>M14 Quiz</b> due Sunday April 30
<b>Module 15</b>	Monday May 1 – Sunday May 7	Paper Work Week	(none)	<b>Research Proposal Project</b> due Sunday May 7

**Module  
16**

Monday May 8 –  
Thursday May 11

Reporting Research  
Results & Indigenous/  
Alternative Research  
Models

chapter 15