



## **CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS**

**CRIM 2090**

**Prerequisites: 1 FCE in CRIM**

*Winter 2020*

Instructor name: Dr. Alana Saulnier	Time and date: Mon and Wed 8:30-10am
Office location: OA 3018	Classroom location: OA 2018
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### **Course Description and Learning Outcomes**

In this course you will learn about how meaningful knowledge on topics relevant to the field of criminology is created. This begins with learning the foundation of scientific inquiry and the research process, but will ultimately include learning about a range of specific research methods used by criminologists to *collect* data. Our objective is for you to come to be able to identify key goals, limitations, and data collection procedures associated with these various methods. In a practical sense, this course will provide you with the ability to:

- (1) Understand how high quality research is conducted and how practitioners benefit from such research.
- (2) Evaluate the quality of empirical research that you are exposed to in all areas of your life.
- (3) Identify when and why a specific research method is most appropriate for specific research questions you are interested in testing.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### **Required Text**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition*. Cengage Learning.

*Older editions or the digital version of the text can be purchased for a reduced price.*

## GRADING AND EVALUATION

### Course Evaluation and Assessment Weighting

Evaluation	Due Date	Value
Online quizzes	Fluctuating (see Assessment Details section)	25% (5% x 5)
In-class assignments	Fluctuating (see Assessment Details section)	15%
Midterm	February 12	20%
AWARE Certificate	February 23	Required
Research proposal	April 01	15%
Final exam	TBD (April 06 – 19)	25%

### Assessment Details

#### *Online Quizzes (5% x 5 = 25%)*

There will be SIX online quizzes held throughout the semester BUT only the FIVE that you perform best on will count towards your final grade. These quizzes are designed to keep you up-to-date on course readings and will focus on content covered in the course readings. The quizzes will be open book and available for you to take at your leisure from the time they are made available until the time each is due (see schedule below). Quizzes will not open until the due date for the preceding quiz has passed (e.g., Quiz 2 will not open until the due date for Quiz 1 has passed). Quizzes will NOT be cumulative. Each quiz will ONLY focus on the content covered since the last quiz. **All quizzes will consist of 20 multiple choice questions which you will have 40 minutes to complete from the time you begin the quiz. Quizzes are expected to be completed INDIVIDUALLY.** The due date schedule for the online quizzes is...

Quiz 1: Jan 19, 11:59pm  
Quiz 2: Jan 26, 11:59pm  
Quiz 3: Feb 09, 11:59pm  
Quiz 4: Mar 01, 11:59pm  
Quiz 5: Mar 15, 11:59pm  
Quiz 6: Mar 29, 11:59pm

Late quizzes will be deducted 5% per day and will not be accepted more than (7) days after the deadline. Quizzes submitted more than (7) days after the deadline will result in a mark of 0.

#### *In-Class Assignments (15%)*

This course will adopt an interactive approach to applying basic research concepts and practices that will have you complete in-class activities as a portion of your grade. In-class assignments will take place on a regular basis in class and will be evaluated on a participation basis. Are you thoroughly reading this syllabus? Good for you! Send me an email with the name of a song that you like and I will award you one point extra credit toward your final grade in this category.

#### *AWARE Certificate and Research proposal (15%)*

You will prepare a mini research proposal (5-6 typed written pages, double spaced) on one of three topics provided by myself that most interests you. **Further instruction on the expectations and evaluation criteria for the research proposal is posted on D2L and will be discussed in class.** Preparing the research proposal will involve producing an annotated bibliography. That annotated bibliography is bound by rules of academic writing that require you to use proper methods of citing the information you are presenting. AWARE is an online course that reviews the key rules necessary for your academic writing (e.g., learning what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid doing it). **You must complete the AWARE course and submit your AWARE Certificate through D2L by 11:59pm on Feb 23.** This is a required – not graded – component, but if your AWARE Certificate is submitted late it will accrue late marks that will be applied to your research proposal. Instructions on how to complete the AWARE course can be found here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre/skills-for-success-seminars/thunder-bay/node/45182>.

Key criteria associated with the research proposal include identifying a research question that you would like to test empirically through an experiment (though this is just an imaginary exercise, you will not actually be collecting data), developing informed predictions that answer the research question by drawing on existing, relevant literature, and clearly articulating the procedure for administering the experiment and the method you would use to collect the data necessary for answering your research question. **This assignment must be submitted through D2L by 11:59pm on Apr 01.**

### ***Midterm (20%) and Final (25%) Exams***

Both the midterm and final exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The midterm will be held in class on Feb 12 and will draw from all lecture and reading materials covered to that point. The final exam will take place during the formal exam period (Apr 06-19; date TBA – *note that no exams will be held between Apr 10-13 for the Easter holidays*) and will only cover lecture and reading materials covered after the midterm. Review material will be provided for each examination. **You are strongly advised not to plan any commitments, such as travel or work, during this period of time. Students will not be permitted to write the final exam on any date other than the alternative exam date without a valid reason for missing the original exam date.** It is your responsibility to check the final exam schedule and arrive at the designated date, time, and location to avoid a grade of zero. There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE, READINGS AND KEY DATES**

### **Week 1: Introduction**

Jan 06: Course Introduction

**Reading: None**

Jan 08: Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 1: Crime, Criminal Justice and Scientific Inquiry.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Week 2: Criminal Justice Inquiry**

Jan 13: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 2: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Jan 15: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research II

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 3: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Week 3: Structuring Criminal Justice Inquiry**

Jan 20: General Issues in Research Design

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 4: General Issues in Research Design.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Jan 22: Concepts, Operationalization and Measurement

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 5: Concepts, Operationalization and Measurement.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Week 4: Measuring Crime and Criminology Topics**

Jan 27: Measuring Crime and Criminology I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 6: Measuring Crime.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Jan 29: Measuring Crime and Criminology II

**Reading: None**

**Week 5: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs**

Feb 03: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 7: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Feb 05: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs I

**Reading: None**

**Week 6: MIDTERM**

Feb 10: Developing a Research Proposal Workshop I

**Reading: None**

**Feb 12: MIDTERM**

**Reading: None**

**WINTER STUDY BREAK: FEB 17-21**

**Week 7: Survey Research**

Feb 24: Survey Research

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 9: Survey Research.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Feb 26: Sampling

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 8: Sampling.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

## **Week 8: Field Observation**

Mar 02: Field Observation

### **Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 11: Field Observation.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Mar 04: Class Cancelled**

### **Reading: None**

## **Week 9: Qualitative Interviewing**

Mar 09: Qualitative Interviewing I

### **Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 10: Qualitative Interviewing.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Mar 11: Qualitative Interviewing II

### **Reading: None**

## **Week 10: Content Analysis and Secondary Data**

Mar 16: Content Analysis and Secondary Data I

### **Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 12: Agency Records, Content Analysis and Secondary Data.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Mar 18: Content Analysis and Secondary Data II

### **Reading: None**

## **Week 11: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis**

Mar 23: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis I

### **Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 13: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Mar 25: Interpreting Statistical Data

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 14: Interpreting data.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Week 12: Developing a Research Proposal**

Mar 30: Developing a Research Proposal Workshop II

**Reading: None**

Apr 01: Values and Research

**Reading:**

Becker, H. S. (1966). Whose side are we on? *Social Problems*, 14, 239.

Lakehead University Grading Scale	
A+	90-100%
A	80-89%
B	70-79%
C	60-69%
D	50-59%
E Fail	40-49%
F Fail	1-39%
F Academic Dishonesty	0%

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Course Drop Deadline**

Please be aware that the deadline to drop this course is **March 06, 2020.**

**Student Courtesy**

I expect all students to be respectful in their interactions with any person involved with the course, both in the class and online. Engaging in side conversations while your instructor or other students are talking is rude and distracting; doing so will result in you being asked to leave the classroom. You are welcome to use laptops during the class.

**Tests, Exams and Term Work**

If you are going to miss a test, it is very important that you email me as soon as you know that you will be missing the test. Missed tests will be accommodated only in extraordinary

circumstances that are supported by written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/examination/medical-notes/node/10641>

Midterm examinations for full courses and final examination for all courses are scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Students are strongly urged NOT to make any commitments (i.e., vacation, job related, or other travel plans) during either the term as a whole or the final examination period. Students are required to be available for all examinations during the periods for which they are scheduled (as published in course syllabus). It is your responsibility to check the final exam schedule and arrive at the scheduled date/time/location to avoid a grade of zero. There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate holiday travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

Extensions of deadlines for completion of assignments or writing of midterms/final examinations may be granted to students on the basis of illness, accident, or other extreme and legitimate circumstances beyond their control. Consideration for deferrals will not normally be granted on the basis of vacation/travel plans or job-related obligations.

### **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism, cheating and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Being caught engaging in any such activities will result in disciplinary action either within the course or at the university level. A listing of University Regulations can be found at: <http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=21&chapterid=3506&loaduserredits=False>. The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures can be found at: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of students who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly:

- (a) The minimum penalty for a student found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- (b) A student found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

### **Disability Accommodation**

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, I strongly encourage you to make use of those accommodations. I am here to assist you, but need your help in ensuring I accommodate you properly. More generally, Lakehead is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities. Student Accessibility Services (SAS) coordinate services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability. Additional information is available at the following campus website: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>



## LAKEHEAD RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

**The Student Success Centre** has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, co-operative opportunities and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

**The Lakehead Library** provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online via chat and in person with more details available here <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

**Public Computer Labs** are available on campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For more details go to <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.

**Student Life and Services** offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

**Office of Human Rights and Equity.** You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.